DSGN 130: DESIGN RESEARCH METHODS

In Workflow

1. DOD Committee Chair (wacker@csus.edu)
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Approval Path

1. 2026-09-15T16:10:08Z
   Emily Potts (emily.potts): Approved for DOD Committee Chair
2. 2026-09-15T16:30:50Z
   Richard Pratt (rpratt): Approved for DOD Chair
3. 2026-10-21T18:01:29Z
   Rebekkah Mulholland (rebekkah.mulholland): Approved for ALS College Committee Chair
4. 2026-10-22T00:34:10Z
   Matt Schmidtlein (schmidmc): Approved for ALS Dean

History

1. Apr 18, 2025 by PJ Carlino (pj.carlino)

New Course Proposal

Date Submitted: 2026-09-08T23:54:09Z

Viewing: DSGN 130 : Design Research Methods

Last approved: Fri, 18 Apr 2025 23:45:28 GMT

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Changes proposed by: PJ Carlino (223012504)

Contact(s):

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
PJ CARLINO	pj.carlino@csus.edu	617-396-1278

Catalog Title:
Design Research Methods

Class Schedule Title:
Design Research Methods

Academic Group: (College)
ALS - Arts & Letters

Academic Organization: (Department)
Design

Will this course be offered through the College of Continuing Education (CCE)?
No

Catalog Year Effective:
Fall 2027 (2027/2028 Catalog)

Subject Area: (prefix)
DSGN - Design Studies

Catalog Number: (course number)
130

Course ID: (For administrative use only.)
204087

Units:
3

Is the ONLY purpose of this change to update the term typically offered or the enforcement of existing requisites at registration?
No

In what term(s) will this course typically be offered?
Fall term only

Does this course require a room for its final exam?
No, final exam does not require a room

This course complies with the credit hour policy:
Yes

Justification for course proposal:
We are adding DSGN 4, DSGN 10, and DSGN 20 as prerequisites for DSGN 130 because their learning outcomes provide the cumulative foundation in critical thinking, design thinking, and research that students need to succeed in advanced design research. DSGN 4 develops elemental critical-thinking and research skills by teaching students to analyze written and visual arguments, evaluate facts and opinions as evidence, and construct defensible narratives using relevant sources. DSGN 10 develops foundational design-thinking skills through the application of design processes, iterative making, rapid visual representation, decision-making, critique, and reflection. DSGN 20 extends these abilities by requiring students to apply analytical frameworks to material culture, relate design to social and historical contexts, evaluate sources, and compose research-based arguments. Completion of all three courses with a grade of C- or better ensures that students are prepared to undertake the more advanced work of DSGN 130, including framing design research problems and questions, selecting appropriate research methods, constructing data-collection scenarios, evaluating ethical concerns, and communicating findings in verbal, written, and visual forms.

Addition of the prerequisites does not affect the curriculum roadmap for the degree.

Course Description: (Not to exceed 90 words and language should conform to catalog copy.)
This course provides an overview of key concepts in design research methods. The course is primarily theoretical and process-focused with a practical base. Topics in the course include identifying design research questions, methods and tools to answer research questions, design research using multiple methods, data collection and analysis, ethical concerns in conducting research, and research communication. The course is open to Design Studies majors or with instructor permission.

Are one or more field trips required with this course?
No

Fee Course?
No

Is this course designated as Service Learning?
No

Is this course designated as Curricular Community Engaged Learning?
No

Does this course require safety training?
No

Does this course require personal protective equipment (PPE)?
No

Course Note: (Note must be a single sentence; do not include field trip or fee course notations.)
The course is open to Design Studies majors or with instructor permission

Does this course have prerequisites?
Yes

Prerequisite:
DSGN 4, DSGN 10, and DSGN 20, each completed with a grade of C- or better.

Prerequisites Enforced at Registration?
Yes

Does this course have corequisites?
No

Graded:
Letter

Approval required for enrollment?
No Approval Required

Course Component(s) and Classification(s):
Seminar

Seminar Classification
CS#05 - Seminar (K-factor=1 WTU per unit)
Seminar Units
3

Is this a paired course?
No

Is this course crosslisted?
No

Can this course be repeated for credit?
No

Can the course be taken for credit more than once during the same term?
No

Description of the Expected Learning Outcomes and Assessment Strategies:

List the Expected Learning Outcomes and their accompanying Assessment Strategies (e.g., portfolios, examinations, performances, pre-and post-tests, conferences with students, student papers). Click the plus sign to add a new row.

	Expected Learning Outcome	Assessment Strategies
1	Identify design research problems and questions.	Weekly Discussion and class participation Research Journal Interim project presentations
2	Select appropriate methods and tools to answer design research questions.	Research Journal Interim project presentations
3	Construct data collection scenarios.	Research Journal Interim project presentations
4	Evaluate ethical concerns involved in conducting design research.	Weekly Discussion and class participation Research Journal Final Project and presentation
5	Present research in verbal, written, and visual form.	Weekly Discussion and class participation, Interim project presentations Final Project and presentation

Is this course required in a degree program (major, minor, graduate degree, certificate?)
Yes

Has a corresponding Program Change been submitted to Workflow?
Yes

Identify the program(s) in which this course is required:

Programs:
BA in Design Studies

Does the proposed change or addition cause a significant increase in the use of College or University resources (lab room, computer)?

No

Will there be any departments affected by this proposed course?

No

I/we as the author(s) of this course proposal agree to provide a new or updated accessibility checklist to the Dean's office prior to the semester when this course is taught utilizing the changes proposed here.

I/we agree

University Learning Goals

Undergraduate Learning Goals:

Competence in the disciplines
Knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world
Intellectual and practical skills
Personal and social responsibility
Integrative learning

Is this course required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?

No

Is this a General Education (GE) or Graduation Requirement (GR) course or is it being considered for GE/GR?

Is this a General Education (GE) course or is it being considered for GE?

No

Please attach any additional files not requested above:

DSGN 130 SYLLABUS.pdf

Key: 15116