

# **ARCH4601/5605.....Fall 2008**

MaryAlice Torres-MacDonald, Assoc. Prof.

Comprehensive Design Studio

## ***E-STUDIO COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **Course Website:**

MaryAlice Torres-MacDonald, Associate Professor

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Email: [ma.torres-macdonald@ttu.edu](mailto:ma.torres-macdonald@ttu.edu)

Office Hours: *Monday, via internet 5-7pm*

*(Other times available - Student call for individual appoint that meets needs.  
via email or phone)*

## **CATALOG DESCRIPTION ARCH5604**

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This studio course focuses on urban design as it relates to the built form. The course is held in Houston as part of the Houston Practicum + Studio Program and allows the student to gain work experience while taking a studio course. This studio involves the student in the theory of city form by taking a particular project and focusing on the problem statement within the context of the urban environment. The interface between culture and architecture is critical in this studio. Reading and discussion on urban design issues is required, in addition to in studio discussions with instructor. Guest lectures may also be integrated into the learning environment. The studio learning environment is active and interactive. It involves participation in a team environment as well as individual work. Participation points are required as a portion of the grading criteria.

## **COURSE ORGANIZATION**

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WEDNESDAY: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

*-In studio and via internet*

FRIDAY: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

**LOCATION:** *Wilson Architectural Group  
5051 Westheimer, Ste 1800  
Houston, TX 77056*

*Firm Phone: 713-621-8714*

Wednesday night class is from 6:00 – 9:00PM. The professor will conduct studio via internet in addition to in-class studio time. See "Skype" requirement below.

Friday class is from 9:00am – 6:00pm. The students from Houston and professor will meet at the host firm unless otherwise notified. Make a note of the studio address. All other students will attend studio through online access and must be in attendance throughout the day.

SKYPE: All students are required to obtain a 'skype' account. You may do this by going to: [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com)  
From here, you will open a new account. You must then email your account information (user name) to:  
[ma.torres-macdonald@ttu.edu](mailto:ma.torres-macdonald@ttu.edu) DO NOT FORGET TO DO THIS

In addition, you must purchase a headset with a microphone. These can be obtained for \$20 - \$25 at Radio Shack, Best Buy or any office supply store.

You will also be using GoTo Meeting. When this is used, your instructor will establish the meeting time, phone each student via skype and send an email to invite student to GoTo Meeting. Students will then enter the meeting using instructions provided by email or directly through conversation with instructor via Skype. This will enable distance interaction electronically between with instructor and students.

WEB POSTING:

<http://www.arch.ttu.edu/courses/2008/fall/5604/>

On the website, there will be access to student folders. You will have a folder with your name. Click the Front Page icon in Internet Explorer, enter your credentials, and start editing the page. If you need directions for posting, go to the website and open the document "How to Post in FrontPage".

Students have the ability to obtain access for library cards to a number of state supported libraries. If you do not have access to an architectural library, please contact your instructor immediately to receive a library card which will enable you to use these facilities. Students in Houston will have access to the Rice University School of Architecture library.

NOTE: ALL STUDENTS MUST RETURN ALL BOOKS AND CLEAR ANY FINES IN ORDER TO RECEIVE COURSE GRADE.

TWO site visits are required to Houston this semester. These are a requirement of your participation in this studio as the semester project site is located in Houston. If you are unable to attend the site visit on September 12, you will not be able to participate in this studio. Additional site visit will be set and all efforts will be made to coordinate with student's schedule. Remember, Friday is a studio course and site visits to Houston take place on Fridays.

### **PEDAGOGIC OBJECTIVES**

- *To become familiar with the range of attributes entailed in achieving high-quality building design within an urban environment while comprehensively addressing contextual issues.*
- *To establish a complete and comprehensive design solution through a single building and urban site condition.*
- *To become familiar with instrumental professional process of architecture within the context of professional experience and studio work;*
- *To learn the nature, strength and relevance of these and to seek to relate behavioral and organizational outcomes to them;*
- *To build abilities in both freehand and digital environments including the production of graphic and written evidence in a timely fashion, and in lucid and publishable form.*

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

*Students will be assessed based on the following learning outcomes. Those completing the course successfully should be able:*

- *to achieve a high-quality building design within an urban environment while comprehensively addressing contextual issues.*
- *to demonstrate the behavioral and organizational outcomes of professional practice as it relates to comprehensive building and comprehensive urban design.*
- *to demonstrate comprehensive abilities in hand and computer drawing and rendering.*

### **NAAB CRITERIA**

ARCH 5604 Comprehensive Urban Studio:

This course meets the following NAAB Criteria for Comprehensive Studio:

"Ability to produce a comprehensive architectural project based on a building program and site that includes development of programmed spaces demonstrating an understanding of structural and environmental systems, building envelope systems, life-safety provisions, wall sections and building assemblies and the principles of sustainability."

From NAAB Guide to the Student Performance Criteria found under 3.13 at:

[http://www.naab.org/accreditation/2004\\_Conditions\\_2.aspx](http://www.naab.org/accreditation/2004_Conditions_2.aspx)

### **ABSENCES**

The College of Architecture follows the class attendance policy set out in the Undergraduate Catalog and the Graduate Catalog. The College supports the definition of four absences as being excessive, and constituted cause for having the student drop the class with instructor approval or receive a grade of "F". Since this studio conducts class on an alternate schedule from

the typical studio course held in Lubbock, **attendance on Fridays is considered two class periods**. Therefore, the absence from one online Friday class period will constitute two absences and the absence of two online Friday class periods will constitute grounds for "F" in the course. We essentially have thirteen Fridays in which to work this semester as we will wrap up the projects and final review will be immediately after Thanksgiving break. An absence from an online Wednesday class period constitutes one absence. Two tardies exceeding one hour constitutes one absence. Any tardy less than this is counted as a single tardy. Four single tardies constitutes one absence unless the total of any number of tardies exceeds the two hour limit which constitutes one absence.

The Texas Tech University Catalog states that a student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. Student must notify instructor at least two weeks prior to observance by email.

The Texas Tech University Catalog states that the person responsible for a student missing class due to a trip should notify the instructors of the departure and return schedule in advance of the trip. The student may not be penalized and is responsible for the missed material. For the planning purposes of this studio, at least two weeks notification via email is required.

## **PROJECT REQUIREMENTS**

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Requirements of the design projects are mandatory. Any deviations or omissions from the program will be reflected in the evaluation and grade. Requirements of the design program will be announced by the studio professor. Please see Grading Criteria section.

### **FINAL REVIEW: Wednesday, December 3, 2008 in LUBBOCK.**

Final submission of work requires that all work be electronically posted in addition to providing the specific requirements of the final project assignment. All students must attend the final review **in Lubbock on December 3, 2008** in order to be eligible for credit for this class. This final review can be seen as your 'final exam' in which a comprehensive presentation of your work is displayed by you to be reviewed and critiqued. Additionally, students will submit all semester work on a cd with images at 300dpi, print quality.

### **Project Submittal Requirements:**

Each assignment that is submitted must be submitted to the student's folder in the following format:

Electronic submittal posted to folder with file name as follows: Student's First Initial, Last Name, Assignment Title, Due Date separated by underscore key. (Ex. APeterson\_Assn1\_Mapping\_060608).

Students will be expected to present work in three formats throughout the course.

Electronic Presentation on LCD Screen – Intended to enable student to work on presentation skills through the verbal expression of their work – in many cases, this will take place through GoToMeeting.

8 ½ x 11 – print out presentation – Intended to enable student to present work in a small format typical of publishing requirements.

Large Format print out – sheets or boards (depending upon particular assignment). Intended to enable student to express the comprehensive nature of the assignment within physical constraints defined by an area no greater than 18 square feet.

## **EVALUATION & GRADING CRITERIA**

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Key Criteria:

Comprehensiveness:

- Is the work completed as required?
- Did the student work to develop the solution **fully**? The key here is fully. Sometimes we develop a solution, but we stop short to save time. You should be asking yourself to look past your solutions and see the larger possibilities. Project solutions should be thorough in every aspect of the design process. Students making an "A" in this course will be expected to express a high level of curiosity about comprehensive design including the building programming, systems, structures, codes, organizational relationships, detailing, and relationship to site and context. This includes multiple iterations which express an excellent level of process critical to an "A" design project. You will be able to express your ideas and solutions in an articulate, thorough, and comprehensive manner to your peers, client and instructor. All assignments are posted on time.
- Does the work contribute to the benefit of society? Part of the mission statement of the college addresses the fact that we work to benefit society. This will tie directly to the cultural issues in our studio project. Your

solution should reflect this. Particular consideration of client needs is important, but should not exceed the level of importance required in intentional and thorough exploration indicative of the design process.

- Presentation:
  - Does the student produce drawings clearly and in a professional manner? An "A" student will complete ALL required drawings, be able to determine additional drawings needed to express fully the design solution, produce drawings of a high quality and exceeding a normal standard of expectation.
  - Does the student use knowledge previously obtained through coursework? Neatness counts. Providing pdf's that are fuzzy and hard to read is not acceptable.
  - Verbal presentation skills. Is the student professional in their presentation of work? Does the student clearly express their ideas and intentions?
- Participation:
  - Student completes reading assignments by due date
  - Student engages peers in design discussion through online class crits
  - Student participates actively in discussions / lectures online and in studio (when applicable)

**No late submissions are allowed in this studio course.** If for any reason student is unable to attend an online studio meeting time, student is expected to post work to the course website under their student folder to be viewed by the instructor. In this case, student will receive an automatic penalty of one letter grade for their inability to attend their review online and for their lack of verbal presentation to the class resulting from this absence.

The grades are as follows:

A – Excellent – Student exhibits excellent performance which strongly exceeds the requirements of the course. This includes a clear and excelling expression of academic excellence, initiative and independent resourcefulness.

B – Good – Student performs work above average and excels in most key areas of evaluation. Students work is accurate, complete and goes beyond the minimum requirements of the course. Student demonstrates consistent progress and initiative throughout the semester.

C – Average - Performs average level work and complies at an average level with key areas of evaluation. Work is considered to be satisfactory or adequate. Student demonstrates limited investigation of the studio problem and requires consistent persistence from the instructor to move forward in studio progress. Work displays limited improvement.

D – Inferior/Poor - Does not perform to basic standards. Student does not reach basic level in key areas of evaluation. Work is considered unsatisfactory. Meets only minimum requirements and demonstrates these with minimum comprehension and effort. Improvement is extremely limited or shows no progress throughout the semester.

F – Failing - Student is producing unacceptable work that does not meet requirements of the course. Student fails to adequately demonstrate comprehension or communication skills.

NOTE - Graduate Students: Any grade below a B is considered not passing at the graduate level. Students must keep an overall 3.0 gpa to prevent probationary standing.

#### ***GRADING BREAKDOWN:***

70% of the studio focus will be placed on studio progress. 20% will be placed on the lecture unit which will be evaluated through an exam given the last week of classes. This exam will cover the student's ability to understand comprehensive building design integrated within a city context as it relates to the studio design problem. The remaining 10% will constitute studio participation noted above.

Studio work will be broken down into assignments. Three main assignments will be required. Each assignment will carry equal weight with the exception of the final project which carries 60% of the studio focus portion of the grade. The final project carries the greatest weight because it reflects the student's ability to demonstrate the full expectations of the course requirements.

NOTE: Attendance can alter the outcome of your grade structure as noted under "Attendance" section of syllabus.

### **READING REFERENCES AND REQUIRED TEXTS**

Various readings which support the design studio efforts will be posted on the studio website. No required text.

## **PROJECTS**

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While the semester will break down into smaller assignments, they ultimately will all be associated with one primary project. You will have readings that will relate to the studio. The semester project will be broken into an introductory period and then a comprehensive segment. The introductory period will involve research and site work.

This comprehensive design studio will engage in the redevelopment of the Houston Astrodome. Client partners, The Greater Houston Preservation Alliance, are seeking student ideas for addressing potential uses for the facility that once housed Houston's professional baseball and football teams. There is potential for this structure to be converted into a convention hotel. Students will investigate the possibilities of this through a comprehensive design solution which includes design research, project programming, and complete design studies. The project solution will represent the student's ability to produce a comprehensive architectural project based on: design research, building programming, site design, structural, environmental, and building envelope systems, in addition to life-safety provisions. This knowledge will be expressed through representative drawings including wall and building sections, details, plans (site and floor), perspectives, along with other descriptive forms of graphic representation. Existing autocad drawings of the current structure will be provided as a starting point for schematic design studies. Further, contextual urban issues will be reflected through studies and urban design solutions.

## **IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY AND STUDIO DATES**

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**August 25, Monday** – Classes begin at TTU

**August 27, Wednesday** – Course begins online.

**August 28, Thursday** - Last day to add a course.

**September 1, Monday** – Labor Day – University Holiday

**September 5, Friday** – Grad students must file with grad school their intent to graduate.

**September 10, Wednesday** – last day to drop and receive a refund

**September 12, Friday** – Site Visit in Houston – **REQUIRED**

**October 28, Tuesday** – Last day to drop with a W

**November 6 – 21** – Spring semester advance registration for currently enrolled students

**November 24-25, Thursday/Friday** - Thanksgiving Holiday

**December 3, Wednesday** – Last day of university classes. Final Review in Lubbock.

**December 12, Friday** – Graduate Commencement

**December 13, Saturday** – Undergraduate Commencement

## **SUPPLIES NEEDED**

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- Laptop - All students must provide a laptop for use during studio hours. This is critical to this studio as you will work on your laptop from the studio class. The host firm is providing us with a conference room which provides internet connections for those in Houston. Internet connect via high speed internet should be on your laptop and is required for this studio.

If you do not know which laptop you need and are purchasing one, please see the CoA website which provide specifications for what is needed. Denny can help you with internet issues via email or phone: His email address is: [denny.mingus@ttu.edu](mailto:denny.mingus@ttu.edu).

Phone: 806-742-3169 Ext 274

You will need the ability to:

- Convert your files to pdf format
- Store large drawing files on your laptop, a separate portable hard drive, or memory key
- Scan some images to be used in presentations and for design development work

Also needed:

- Trace Paper
- Model Supplies - You will be required to build a model to meet the comprehensive studio requirement. Students should establish funds in their e-raider account at TTU so that money can be drawn to pay model expenses within the CoA model shop. Students should plan to send files to the college. Laser cutter rates (unless unannounced change occurs) are: \$1.50 for initial use of cutter and 10cents per minute for time taken on project (by laser cutter). Students will need to coordinate supply purchase through Michael Martin or Mike Farmer. Email addresses are available on the college website under staff and faculty links.

- Notebook / Sketchbook for note taking and sketching on field trips
- A digital camera is useful, but not required.
- Headset with microphone for use during distance meeting with instructors.

## **STUDIO BEHAVIOR**

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Student is expected to comply with the current student handbook. In addition, on-site studio in the offices of Wilson Architectural Group apply as follows:

1. *Observe proper dress codes---casual and clean, no tee shirts, shoes- no flip-flops.*
2. *Do not loiter in employees work space –stay in your assigned area at all times*
3. *Be punctual, if you are late call your instructor's cell phone.*
4. *Keep the work-space clean at all times.*

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

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The Texas Tech University Catalog states, "It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work that they have not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension." Texas Tech University has been and will continue to be strongly committed to high ethical standards for administration, faculty, staff and students.

**Cheating** is defined as: Dishonest on examinations and quizzes or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination or quiz, obtaining information during an examination from the examination paper or otherwise from another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry to or unauthorized presence in an office are instances of cheating.

**Plagiarism** is defined as: Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism: therefore any student who fails to give credit for quotations or an essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from the themes, report or other writings of a fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.

As defined in the Student Affairs Handbook, Part IX, Section C, a plagiarism violation includes, but is not limited to:

1. The use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment:
2. The unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.
3. Sources of information must be acknowledged in an appropriate manner. Plagiarizing work (design, drawings, etc.) or submitting work which is not your own will result in an "F" grade for the semester. See Part IX, Section E of the Student Affairs Handbook.

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

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*Any student who, because of a disability, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, you may contact the Student Disability Services office at 335 West Hall or 806-742-2405.*

## **OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN**

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*The Office of the Ombudsman is available to assist students with any conflict or problem that has to do with being a student at Texas Tech University. You may visit the Ombudsman in 202 Student Union Building or call 806-742-4791.*