

design studio v

Research + Design

LSA 700

Fall 2014 / 4 Credits

Course meeting time: Tu-Thurs 12:30 pm-3:20 pm

Course meeting place: Marshall 410 (eastern half), and other locations as announced via email

Assistant Professor Susan Dieterlen, RLA, MLA, PhD

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Course website: www.dieterlen.weebly.com/courses

It sounds straightforward: that design can be based in research, or research can be conducted using design as a method.

But the cloud of murky language used to label this idea – research-based design, design as research, even “research” as a casual synonym for design – signals that this is a site of controversy.

*Leaving aside the motivations and causes of this controversy, how do we do it?
How do we connect research with design, without shortchanging either one?*

To begin with, let's define the key terms. From Merriam-Webster:

de-sign

verb \dī- 'zīn\

: to plan and make decisions about (something that is being built or created) : to create the plans, drawings, etc., that show how (something) will be made

: to plan and make (something) for a specific use or purpose

: to think of (something, such as a plan) : to plan (something) in your mind

re-search

noun \rī- 'sərch, 'rē- \

*: careful study that is done to find and report **new knowledge** about something*

: the activity of getting information about a subject

As a third-year MLA student, you are in the early portion of the intellectual journey called a capstone. In this class we use the capstone – your capstones – as the focus for linking research and design in meaningful, authentic, and useful ways.

Studio projects will focus on honing these skills essential to successful completion of the typical MLA capstone:

- Critical review of literature and precedents, often from outside landscape architecture
- Synthesis of directives for design from literature and precedent review
- Rapid generation of conceptual designs
- Project management, including setting and working to a schedule and breaking complex tasks down into smaller ones.

We will also continue to polish various skills essential to the working landscape architect, including:

- Development of peer-to-peer learning, in preparation for post-grad careers and independent capstone work.
- Cultivation of professional decorum in keeping with the standards of landscape architecture practice.
- Refinement of various communication and presentation styles, including informal one-to-one presentations.
- Ability to work independently within a community of scholars.

Elements Of Course Evaluation

This semester will be divided into three projects, each progressively longer and more complex. All projects involve outside parties as surrogate clients, none of whom are landscape architects or designers by training. Throughout the course of the semester we will work in tandem with independent progress on your individual capstones and with the presentations scheduled in LSA 799.

More information about all projects will be forthcoming via individual project briefs and handouts.

Calculation of Final Grade

Final grades in the class will be determined as follows.

Featured Researcher "One Health" project	15%
Mysterious project 2	30%
Mysterious project 3	45%
Participation and civility	10%
Total	100%

Grading scale: Final grades will be determined using the standard scale (ie 90%+ = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, <70% = F (ESF does not allow D grades for graduate students).

Course policies

Late work: Turn your work in on time.

Late work will be penalized 10% for each 24-hour day that it is overdue.

When both digital and hardcopy submissions are required, I use the time of the digital submission to the ftp site to determine whether work is on time. If extraordinary circumstances arise, I may be able to grant extensions, but do not ask for such an extension within 24 hours of the deadline.

Attendance:

Attendance at class meetings is not explicitly required; HOWEVER it is impossible to participate in class if you are not there, so excessive absences will impact your final grade indirectly. I may be able to make alternative arrangements for missed work, etc. if there is an excellent reason and if you tell me about it. Please note that "excellent reasons" do not include things such as leaving for Thanksgiving early, and recreational or social activities.

Please endeavor to arrive on time. Excessive tardiness will also impact your final grade.

Use of assignments: I keep hardcopy or digital copies of all assignments students complete for this class. I may use these assignments in future presentations or portfolios, and will credit the creator or author except where anonymity is required or desirable.

Academic Integrity Statement

SUNY-ESF is committed to the highest standards of integrity as an essential pillar of scholarship in all academic disciplines. Violations of academic integrity may result in academic penalties. All matters pertaining to the College of Environmental Science and Forestry Academic Integrity Code of Student Conduct are under the purview of the Office of the Provost and are administered by the Coordinator of Judicial Affairs (or designee). Details about the judicial process, sanctions and the rights of students and faculty with respect to academic integrity can be found in the Academic Integrity Handbook. (Academic Integrity Handbook can be found at www.esf.edu/students/handbook/integrity.pdf)

Accommodations Of Disabilities Statement

SUNY-ESF works closely with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at Syracuse University in assisting students with learning and physical disabilities. If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, you may contact the ESF Office of Student Affairs, 110 Bray Hall, 315-470-6660, for assistance with the process. You may also contact ODS directly, Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, 315-443-4498, to schedule an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented Disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible. To learn more about ODS, visit <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>

Course Outline And Schedule (Subject to change)

Studio schedules are always somewhat improvisational due to the experiential nature of the instruction and the involvement of community members and others from outside academia. However, this schedule provides an idea of what the course will involve and when. More detailed schedules will be provided in the individual project briefs.

**** NOTE: Project presentations outside of regular class meeting time!!!**
 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm (exact 2-hour block TBD), Thursday, October 9, location TBA.
 Please let me know ASAP if you have a conflict with this time!!

<i>Week</i>	<i>Tu</i>	<i>Th</i>	<i>F</i>
1: 8.26-8.28	Class intro; FR lecture 1		
2: 9.2-9.4	Featured researcher "One Health" project		
3: 9.9-9.11	FR1 mini-poster session, 1:30-3:30, in Gateway?	FR1 project due in pdf	
4: 9.16-9.18	Project 2 kickoff (off campus)		<i>(approx. capstone topic presentations)</i>
5: 9.23-9.25		No class	
6: 9.30-10.2			
7: 10.7-10.9		Project 2 presentations (off campus): 12:30-3:30 or TBA	
8: 10.14-10.16	Project 3 kickoff at Warehouse		<i>(approx. interim proposal presentations)</i>
9: 10.21-10.23			
10: 10.28-10.30			
11: 11.4-11.6			
12: 11.11-11.13			
13: 11.18-11.20			
14: 11.25-11.27 - Thanksgiving - No Class			
15: 12.2-12.4	Mysterious project 3		<i>Fri. 12.5: All projects due in pdf.</i>
16: 12.9-12.11			<i>Fri. 12.12: final poster session (off campus), 3:00-5:00</i>