

This course has several coincident agendas. We will complete the Master's Thesis for the Building Science program, which each student has developed in preceding 596 and 692a classes. But in the process, we will address a broad range of ancillary topics. We will create or continue a "culture of learning" as part of the course. Although it is a studio course, there will be guest lecturers, lectures of assigned topics and periodic reviews, as well as normal studio time.

We will review the scientific method in general and as it applies to each thesis topic. We will consider the value and impact of investigative tools in the process and product of Architecture. We will write abstracts and papers which could be submitted to conferences or journals as a prototype of technology transfer (and a measure of the value and validity of the material.) Those of you who have had abstracts accepted will use the abstracts as topics for these papers. We will do several interim presentations to the first year students and to outside consultants and to committee members, prior to the final presentation. We will examine topics in Building Science which are of current interest, whether or not one of the current theses addresses these topics. We will write the thesis in several stages, so that there is opportunity to modify and improve both the research and the writing prior to the thesis due date. Prior to the due date (**currently April 1**) each student will produce a thesis in the format acceptable to the University and with content acceptable to all committee members. Finally, each student will produce a shorter version of the thesis material in a format consistent with publication. In the process, each student will learn something about the content area of each other student's thesis.

For additional information on the thesis, itself, visit the Graduate School Websites at:

For an overview of the submission process and a review of the University's requirements go to: http://www.usc.edu/schools/GraduateSchool/current_thesis_dissert_02.html and http://www.usc.edu/schools/GraduateSchool/current_thesis_dissert_03.html (as of 1/6/2016).

For formatting, go to:

http://www.usc.edu/schools/GraduateSchool/current_thesis_dissert_05.html (1/6/2016.)

Go to the actual link for submitting the thesis electronically, *when the thesis is nearly ready*. Do not attempt to open multiple profiles. It is suggested that you read all of the above materials, but do not open anything until you are ready. Only one profile is allowed. If you forget your profile, password or anything else, you will cause yourself great distress.

For materials that do not fit into the normal pdf format, you may consider putting them on file as supplemental materials.

The course has several overlapping agendas:

- I. Experimentation (data collection or computer simulation, analysis and theorizing, or tool creation, testing and prototypical results.) Note: This should be mostly completed from Arch 692a.

- II. Scholarly research (writing about the precedents in the field.) Note: This should be mostly completed from Arch 692a.
- III. Completion of a coherent and accurate thesis.
- IV. Translation and condensation of the thesis to create a reasonable *understanding* of the work accomplished and its implications.

Class sessions will consist of an opening segment for announcements, reminders and updates to scheduling, followed by a short lecture or presentation. Presentations will be by the instructor, guests and/or students. Following the presentation, the class will take the normal studio format, with individual “desk” critiques either at the student workstation or in the faculty office. Students are expected to attend the lecture portion of the class and be present for interaction with the faculty and *with each other*, throughout the class time. Please bring your work with you to studio in order to facilitate that interaction. Remember, you should learn as much from each other as from the faculty. Hopefully you will end your thesis in a position to be able to teach others about the topic.

Students will set their own individual schedules with the faculty, defining the milestones and deadlines they agree to meet at the appropriate dates in the progress towards their thesis. Students should keep a physical or electronic record of the items on a “**to do list**” or “**action item list**” *which they will bring with them to each class session and each meeting with the instructor.*

Please note the following critical dates.

Tentative Final Thesis Presentations:

Monday, March 21 and Wednesday, March 24, 2016 for a May graduation.

Monday, May 12*, 2015 for an August graduation. This date may be re-arranged to match the assigned EXPO presentation date. Warning: Faculty may not be available after that date.

Spring Semester 2016 Graduation

Conferral Date: May 13, 2016

Deadline to submit signed and completed thesis/dissertation paperwork to The Graduate School

Friday, March 25, 2016, 12:00 pm noon PST

Deadline to upload thesis or dissertation

Friday, April 1, 2016, by 12:00 pm noon PST

Summer Semester 2016 Graduation

Conferral Date: August 6, 2016

Deadline to submit signed and completed thesis/dissertation paperwork to The Graduate School

Friday, June 24, 2016, 12:00 pm noon PST

Deadline to upload thesis or dissertation

Friday, July 1, 2016, by 12:00 pm noon PST

Please note that Building Science and Historic Preservation degrees go through the graduate school, whereas Architecture and Landscape Architecture do not. That means that MBS and MHP dates are established by the graduate school and they *are different* than the dates for MArch and MArch.

Initial Schedule of Due Dates and Special Events. - Please note that there will be changes and other field trips and guest lecturers as the opportunities arise.

Date	Scheduled / Due
1/11	Intro lecture, logistics, individual meetings, Use of MS Outline, page break
1/13	Lecture: Publications, Abstracts, Conferences; individual meetings
1/15	Final of Chapters 1-3, Verify Thesis Committee, (studio)
1/18	MLK day.
1/20	4:00 pm studio and 6:00 pm lecture – Dr. Joon-Ho Choi, H101
1/22	(studio)
1/25	Draft of Chapter 4 – data (studio)
1/27	(lecture and studio)
1/29	(studio)
2/1	Draft of Chapters 5- x (studio)
2/3	(lecture and studio)
2/5	(studio)
2/8	Draft of Conclusions (studio)
2/10	(lecture and studio)
2/12	(studio)
2/15	Presidents' Day
2/17	(lecture and studio)
2/19	(studio)
2/22	Final of Chapter 4 - data (studio)
2/24	(lecture and studio)
2/26	(studio)
2/29	Final of Chapter 5 - x (studio)
3/2	(lecture and studio)
3/4	(studio)
3/7	Final of Conclusions, attend BMW Group Designworks
3/9	Prepare Final Presentation

3/11	Assemble and Submit Final Draft to Committee for May Graduation, studio
3/14	Spring Break
3/16	Spring Break
3/18	Spring Break
3/21	Final Presentations and Signoffs
3/23	Corrections
3/25	Signoffs by noon
3/28	Final Modifications
3/30	attend Frei Otto screening, 6:00 pm
4/1	Upload Theses for May Graduation by noon Good Friday
4/4	(studio for incompletes)
4/6	lecture / studio / jobs
4/8	(studio for incompletes)
4/11	(studio for incompletes)
4/13	(lecture and studio)
4/15	Thesis Final to Committees for April 29 Presentation, August graduation
4/18	(studio for incompletes)
4/20	(lecture and studio)
4/22	(studio for incompletes)
4/25	(studio for incompletes)
4/27	Dry run Conference Presentations
4/29	Final Presentation and EXPO (entire class will mount work, August graduation will present)
5/2-6	(optional consultation)
5/9	
5/11	
5/13	Commencement Day

Statement for Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to my TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30AM-5PM, Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.”

Statement on Academic Integrity

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles.

Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code.

<http://web-app.usc.edu/scampus/university-student-conduct-code/>

Unacceptable actions and appropriate sanctions are listed in:

<http://web-app.usc.edu/scampus/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>

The review procedures (you do not want to need this information) are listed in:

<http://web-app.usc.edu/scampus/1200-conduct-review-system/>

Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at:

http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/pages/students/academic_integrity.html

In Building Science experience, the most common reason for referral of graduate students to Judicial Affairs is plagiarism. Here is a website link for assistance in avoiding plagiarism, in general:

http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct/ug_plag.htm

Specifically talking to grad students:

http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct/grad_ai.htm

School of Architecture Policy on Attendance

Attending classes is a basic responsibility of every USC student who is enrolled in courses at the School of Architecture. Regular and punctual class attendance is considered an essential part of satisfying the NAAB accreditation requirements therefore attendance will be taken at every class session. A student may miss up to two class sessions without directly affecting their grade and ability to complete the course if they provide an excused absence for any confirmed personal illness/family emergency/religious observance. Students may be excused for other reasons, as well. Please contact the faculty in advance, if possible. Any student not in class within the first 10 minutes is considered tardy, and any student absent for more than 1/3 of the class time can be considered fully absent. If arriving late, a student must be respectful of a class in session and do everything possible to minimize the disruption caused by a late arrival. It is always the student’s responsibility to seek means to make up work missed due to absences.

The 2010 Imperative Statement

As the Architecture Faculty have voted to accept the 2010 Imperative-- to improvement of ecological literacy among the students and faculty and to achieve a carbon-neutral design school campus by 2010. The following statement should be added to all design studio syllabi where appropriate:

“The design should engage the environment in a way that dramatically reduces or eliminates the need for fossil fuel.”