



DES 520: Individual Studies

Units: 2.0

Time: TBA

Contact Hours:

2 hrs 50 min contact hours per week

Average 6 hr outside of class per week. (For each unit of in-class contact time, the university expects two hours of out of class student work per week.)

Program: USC Roski MFA in Design

Location: @Mateo Complex, Corner of Palmetto St & Mateo St

Instructor: Laurie Burruss

Office: @Mateo or by appointment TBD

Office Hours: Friday, 1 – 2 pm

Contact Info: Email lburruss@usc.edu, cellphone (626-485-3325), Skype: cosmodog52, etc. Timeline for replying to emails/calls (24 hrs)

Course Description

DES 520 is a course for the investigation of creative problems through various design media.

Students are graded on the creation and presentation of 4 components:

1. Thesis Committee: formation & on-going Committee member meetings
2. Faculty Feedback & Communication: Mid Term and Final Reviews
3. Thesis proposal & Written Thesis
4. On-going thesis work (output, research, process, artifacts, etc)
5. Process book.

The breakdown of the course is as follows:

- 50% - Designing and creating a thesis proposal.
- 15% - Creating and forming a thesis committee (subject to approval by Dean).
- 15% - Process book.
- 20% - Investigation of creative problems through studio/design visits and dialogue.

Learning Objectives

Students in **Design 520: Individual Studies** will:

- **Enrich the field of design with an original contribution.** It may exist as a written document, designed artifact, multimedia presentation or any combination of the above
- **Cover a wide range of topics**
- **Reflect** both the interests of the student and the concerns of the program with forward-looking investigations into the *professional, technological and social questions* facing the discipline
- **Take advantage of the significant resources of the University** to further their interests
- **Extend the influence of design into the larger community**

Course Notes

Grading Type: Letter Grade

Blackboard URL: All copies of lecture slides and other class information will be posted on Blackboard.

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, Acrobat), Keynote/PowerPoint, Google Docs or MS Word, Google Spreadsheet or Excel, cellphone with web, camera, and video capabilities.

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

Required readings and supplementary materials: Posted as assigned.

Description and Assessment of Assignments

Class activities: Lecture/Discussion

Grading Breakdown

Including the above detailed assignments, how will students be graded overall? Participation should be no more than 15%, unless justified for a higher amount. All must total 100%.

Assignment	Points	% of Grade
Thesis Proposal	300	30
Thesis Committee	100	10
Process Book	250	25
Midterm & Final Studio Reviews	350	35
TOTAL	1000	100

Grading Scale (Example)

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

Assignment Rubrics

Project rubrics will be posted and handed out with projects and challenges as presented.

Assignment Submission Policy

All projects and challenges will have due dates. Material may be delivered electronically by email (including sending me a URL for Dropbox) or if an artifact delivered to the studio on the appropriate due date.

Grading Timeline

I grade and give feedback throughout the semester.

Additional Policies

Please inform me (email or text) regarding the following: late assignments, missed classes, attendance expectations, use of technology in the classroom, etc.

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar?cid=Y2ZjZzMyMGZrdTRwbWZqcmFtaHZycHR2N3NAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXluZ29vZ2xlLnNvbQ>

	Topics/Daily Activities	Lectures, Resources, & Projects	Deliverable/ Due Dates
Week 1 Jan 17	Course Overview Syllabus	Posted on shared Google Calendar	
Week 2 Jan 24	Group	Poster &/or Video submissions for LA Frieze Exhibition Specs: 280 DPI, RGB, 44" X Your Choice, PDF	Select an existing Thesis Proposal tp share (T2) Submit Poster to LA Frieze
Design Lecture Jan 28	Bill Barminski 7- 9 pm; At Mateo		Required for all Design Grads
Week 3 Jan 31 (need to change to week day)	Individual	Faculty Meetings 2 before Mid Term and 2 before Final for a total of 6 meetings	Schedule all faculty meetings; Thesis Committee Meeting Calendar
Week 4 Feb 07	Group		
Week 5 Feb 14	Individual		30 min sessions
Week 6 Feb 21	Mid Term Review	Formal Individual Presentations (T5 Excused)	Required - 9 am – 5 pm; 20 min session; 3/hour
Week 7 Mar13 (Need to change to week day)	Individual TBA		30 min sessions
Spring Break 3/15 – 3/22			No Classes
Week 8 Apr 03	Group		
Week 9 Apr 10	Individual		30 min sessions
Week 10 Apr 17	Group		
Week 11 Mar 27	Individual		
Design Lecture Mar 31	Lucile Tenazas 7- 9 pm; At Mateo		Required for all Design Grads
Week 12 Apr24	Final Review	Formal Individual Presentations (T5 Excused)	Required - 9 am – 5 pm; 20 min session; 3/hour
Week 13 May 01	Group	Draft Thesis Proposal presented to thesis committee for feedback	Committee & Chair selection due.
Week 14 May 08	Individual		30 min sessions
Week 15 - FINAL	Final Presentations Group	TBA Final Schedule	Final Thesis Proposal DUE; Playbook/Process Book DUE.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Support Systems:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: sarc.usc.edu

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. equity.usc.edu

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

Diversity at USC

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime.

Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu