



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 – 3 pm

Contact Info: Email lburruss@usc.edu, cellphone (626-485-3325), Skype: cosmogog52, 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)

The breakdown of the course is as follows:

- 50% - Design work for Thesis
- 25% - Oral & Visual Presentation
- 25% - Faculty Reviews

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 Design Work	500	50
Thesis Oral Presentations	250	25
Studio Reviews by Faculty	250	25
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:

- Join Zoom at this URL for group session: <https://usc.zoom.us/j/94377624647>
- Join Zoom at this URL for individual sessions: <https://usc.zoom.us/j/4936063690>

	Topics/Daily Activities	Lectures, Resources, & Projects	Deliverable/ Due Dates
Week 1 Jan 15	Course Overview Syllabus	See Blackboard	Introductions – 3 Goals
Week 2 Jan 22	Small Group (4-5 people) Individual Meeting	Posting weekly work-in-progress explained in Mural.co	Orally present thesis topic in 3 sentences
Week 3 Jan 29	Individual		30 min sessions
Week 4 Feb 05	Group		
Week 5 Feb 12	Individual		30 min sessions
Week 6 Feb 19	Group	LinkedIn Profile	
Week 7 Feb 26	Individual		30 min sessions
Week 8 Mar 05	Group	Portfolio Website	Present Portfolio Website in class
Week 9 Mar 12	Wellness	NO CLASS	Take care of yourself today!
Week 10 Mar 19	Group	Digital Postcard to Oral & Visual Presentation	Share digital postcard
Week 11 Mar 26	Individual		30 min sessions
Week 12 Apr 02	Group	Discussion of Oral & Visual Presentation	Checklist for Oral & Visual Presentation
Week 13 Apr 09	Individual		30 min sessions
Week 14 Apr 16	Oral Presentations Rehearsal		Review your personal Zoom recording
Week 15 Apr 16	Oral Presentations Rehearsal		Review your personal Zoom recording
FINAL REVIEWS Apr 30	Schedule TBA	REQUIRED for THESIS	Full committee, faculty & dean

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, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

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

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298
equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298
usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776
dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710

campussupport.usc.edu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.