

University of Houston | Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture

ARCH 3332/ARCH 6398 Advanced Digital Vocabularies

Instructors: Meg Jackson/Michael Gonzales

Class Meeting: Mondays 6 – 9pm

Additional project specific meetings may be held during the semester

Instructor Office_Rm.241

Course Description

Prerequisite – Intro to Rhino or Digital Vocabularies or previous related experience (knowledge of Rhino and Grasshopper) /Approval by Instructor

This seminar will be an intermediate to advanced digital lecture/lab. The course is open to students who want to explore, experiment and research advanced and emerging concepts in digital and interactive design. This seminar will be set up as a critical workshop. The students will explore 3D fabrication/production techniques (3D milling and printing) as well as develop interactive prototypes using Arduino, sensors, and advanced Grasshopper (Firefly). Students will be asked to realize each theme (or working method) by completing a problem solving exercise for critique. The class will include a discussion on research methods within the topics of digital design and craft, human factors, material systems, and interactive design. In addition to group and individual problem solving exercises, theoretical readings and precedent studies about emergent digital processes will be required. *(Students need their own laptop and will be responsible for software purchase/download for their personal machines.)*

This course meets the requirements for an Interdisciplinary Elective as well as Tech 7.

Course Content

The seminar will be composed of weekly, interrelated assignments and a final cumulative project. A schedule of projects will be presented at the beginning of the semester. Attendance, participation, understanding and documentation will be weighted heavily. The final semester grade will also take in to account the evolution of the student's skills and ability.

The criteria for the grade earned for each of the assigned projects will be as follows: 33.4% will be determined by the quality (technical/conceptual understanding) of the idea, 33.3% will be determined by the development of the idea (skill), and 33.3% will be determined by the presentation (craft) of the idea. The presentation will be evaluated according to two aspects, each weighted equally: the degree to which it is legible (technical quality) and the degree to which it is compelling (conceptual quality).

The semester is typically weighted as follows:

30% - Weekly Assignments

40% - Cumulative Project

30% - Attendance, Understanding, Participation, Documentation

Weekly Readings/Topics/Assignments and Course Schedule:

To be assigned in class.

General Rules

Attendance at all class meetings is required. Attendance for the *entire* class is required. If we have a work period, you are expected to work in the classroom during class hours. In the seminar environment, interaction with your classmates and instructors is essential to learning and a high degree of participation in discussions is required. Any days missed beyond three (3) will require an appraisal of abilities by the faculty to complete the required work successfully. Faculty will have the option to drop a student without notice on the fourth absence or any absence after.

- Meetings with faculty may occur during office hours or may be arranged with advance notification.
- Projects will not be accepted after their due date. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the

project is complete on the due date. All projects shall be completed by the beginning of the class.

- A complete digital project portfolio will be required to complete this course.
- Semester grades will not be changed because of additional student work submitted after the due date.
- Plagiarism and/or the submission of work performed by others are grounds for failing course and/or expulsion.

Performance, Evaluation and Grading

In the seminar environment, students are asked to participate in discussions and in individual research. Willingness to explore and experiment in class, in groups and individually both in and out of class is important to the evolution of the knowledge learned. Evaluation will be based on the student's work – quality of the idea and presentation and communication of the idea, his or her evolution during the course of the semester, and participation and understanding. Design exercises will be graded on the due date. No late work will be accepted. Archiving will be required from each student at the end of the semester. No final grade will be given until the documentation has been submitted.

Grading Criteria:

Instructor grading will be based on the following grade assumptions:

- A The student has performed exceptionally in all aspects of the work. He or she has gone well beyond the course requirements to achieve an outstanding result.
 - B The student has performed very well in most aspects of the work. He or she has achieved an above-average result that distinguishes the work from the average.
 - C The student has performed satisfactorily in most aspects of the work. Though the student may have tried hard and met the requirements, this alone is not a guarantee of success.
 - D The student's performance was inadequate, based on the requirements of the class.
 - F The student failed to meet one or all of the requirements of the class.
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Letter grade assignments are based on the following scoring:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
4.00	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.00	0.67	0.00

Academic Honesty

It is expected and understood that students will complete research, identify precedents and discuss their projects with classmates and others. It is understood that students will treat their classmates with respect. Individual or group projects turned in for grading shall reflect the sole effort of that individual or group in its understanding, concept, development, and presentation. Plagiarism and/or the submission of work performed by others are grounds for failing course and/or expulsion. See below for University of Houston Academic Honesty policy.

General Classroom Conduct

- Students must conduct themselves in a manner conducive to academic endeavors both during class and after hours. No cell phones or texting during class.
- When using laptops in class, screens should reflect the work being discussed in the seminar. Failure to adhere to this rule during class will result in dismissal from the class and an absence.
- Materials, equipment and supplies should be brought to class as needed.
- All work submitted during studios becomes the property of the College of Architecture and Design and may be retained permanently. Students are encouraged to photograph work before submitting it.

Physical and Digital File Collection:

At the end of the semester, work will be collected for archiving. In addition, in order to receive a grade for the semester, students are required to submit files of their work digitally.

Office Hours

By appointment only. If you would like to set up a time to meet outside of class, please send the instructor an email in order to schedule an appointment.

Deadlines

All deadlines are nonflexible and all requirements must be completed and submitted by the specified dates and times.

Title IX Statement

In accordance with the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. More information can be found on the UHS sexual misconduct prevention and awareness website, Salutations, at <http://uhsystem.edu/salutations/title-ix-contacts/>.

Preferred Name/Gender Pronouns

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let the instructor(s) know in person or by email. Please also correct the instructor(s) on your preferred gender pronouns if necessary. All communication with instructor(s) will remain confidential.

Religious Observances

Should the schedule for this course conflict with your mandated religious observance, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Students will not be penalized for absence from regularly scheduled class activities which conflict with mandated religious observances. Students are responsible for initiating discussion with the instructor to reach a mutually acceptable solution.

Notes Regarding Campus Carry Law

The rules regarding concealed carry will be strictly enforced in this class. Any incident involving a firearm may result in immediate removal from the class and may delay completion of the course for everyone. The campus carry policy and the campus carry FAQs are readily available to the campus community, including our students at the following links: <http://www.uh.edu/af/universityservices/policies/mapp/07/070105.pdf> <http://www.uh.edu/police/campus-carry/faq.html#sec3>

UH CAPS Statement

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to college, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let's Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html

UH Academic Honesty Policy

High ethical standards are critical to the integrity of any institution, and bear directly on the ultimate value of conferred degrees in the community. All UH students, regardless of their chosen discipline, are expected to contribute to an atmosphere of the highest possible ethical standards. Maintaining such an atmosphere requires that any instances of academic dishonesty be recognized and addressed. The UH Academic Honesty Policy is designed to handle those instances with fairness to all parties involved: the students, the instructors, and the University itself. All students and faculty of the University of Houston are responsible for being familiar with this policy.

The official University of Houston Academic Honesty Policy appears in the Undergraduate Catalog, and at

<http://www.uh.edu/provost/policies/honesty/>

In particular, plagiarism of any sort is considered a form of academic dishonesty. Any evidence of plagiarism on any assignment will be considered grounds for failing the course.

Section 3.02 of Academic Honesty Policy on plagiarism:

Academic Dishonesty Prohibited. "Academic dishonesty" means employing a method or technique or engaging in conduct in an academic endeavor that contravenes the standards of ethical integrity expected at the University of Houston or by a course instructor to fulfill any and all academic requirements. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

Plagiarism. Representing as one's own work the work of another without acknowledging the source (plagiarism). This would include submitting substantially identical writing assignments or

other materials in fulfillment of an assignment by two or more individuals, whether or not these used common data or other information, unless this has been specifically permitted by the instructor. Plagiarism includes copying verbatim text from the literature, whether printed or electronic, in written assignments, candidacy exams, and theses/dissertations.

The University of Houston Libraries website offers additional guidance on definitions and conventions of plagiarism:

<http://guides.lib.uh.edu/plagiarism>

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYLLABUS LANGUAGE: SPRING 2022

Face Covering Policy

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, the University strongly encourages everyone (vaccinated or not) to wear face coverings indoors on campus including classrooms for both faculty and students.

Presence in Class

Your presence in class each session means that you:

- Are NOT exhibiting any [Coronavirus Symptoms](#) that makes you think that you may have COVID-19
- Have NOT tested positive or been diagnosed for COVID-19
- Have NOT knowingly been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or suspected/presumed COVID-19

If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms that are not clearly related to a pre-existing medical condition, do not come to class. Please see [Student Protocols](#) for what to do if you experience symptoms and [Potential Exposure to Coronavirus](#) for what to do if you have potentially been exposed to COVID-19.

Consult the (select: [Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy](#) or [Graduate Excused Absence Policy](#)) for information regarding excused absences due to medical reasons.

COVID-19 Information

Students are encouraged to visit the University's [COVID-19](#) website for important information including on-campus testing, vaccines, diagnosis and symptom protocols, campus cleaning and safety practices, report forms, and positive cases on campus. Please check the website throughout the semester for updates.

Vaccinations

Data suggests that vaccination remains the best intervention for reliable protection against COVID-19. Students are asked to familiarize themselves with pertinent [vaccine information](#), consult with their health care provider. The University strongly encourages all students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated.

Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids

The University of Houston complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for disabled students. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, UH strives to provide reasonable

academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an academic adjustments/auxiliary aid, please contact [the Justin Dart Jr. Student Accessibility Center](#) (formerly the Justin Dart, Jr. Center for Students with DisABILITIES).

Excused Absence Policy

Regular class attendance, participation, and engagement in coursework are important contributors to student success. Absences may be excused as provided in the University of Houston [Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy](#) and [Graduate Excused Absence Policy](#) for reasons including: medical illness of student or close relative, death of a close family member, legal or government proceeding that a student is obligated to attend, recognized professional and educational activities where the student is presenting, and University-sponsored activity or athletic competition. Under these policies, students with excused absences will be provided with an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other work that contributes to the course grade or a satisfactory alternative. Please read the full policy for details regarding reasons for excused absences, the approval process, and extended absences. Additional policies address absences related to [military service](#), [religious holy days](#), [pregnancy and related conditions](#), and [disability](#).

Recording of Class

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the [Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center](#). If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the prior written approval of the instructor.

Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

Syllabus Changes

Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through *(specify how students will be notified of changes)*.

Resources for Online Learning

The University of Houston is committed to student success, and provides information to optimize the online learning experience through our [Power-On](#) website. Please visit this website for a comprehensive set of resources, tools, and tips including: obtaining access to the internet, AccessUH, and Blackboard; requesting a laptop through the Laptop Loaner Program; using your smartphone as a webcam; and downloading Microsoft Office 365 at no cost. For questions or assistance contact UHOnline@uh.edu.

UH Email and Teams

We will use Teams for communication in this class.

Webcams

Access to a webcam is required for students participating remotely in this course. Webcams must be turned on during hands on labs and presentations.