Premise
Among the many foundations that the first year of a design education constructs is the potential to understand and experience wonderment in many different ways and in many different venues. This initial instigation of wonderment is sometimes sustained and grown through will and curiosity, but it is all too frequently neglected or overlooked, or in some instances negated in service of some odd interpretations of the pragmatic. This course will investigate the alignment between ideas and projects from the first year of design education and a set of themes that can frame the lives that you live as human beings.

Objectives
The primary objectives of the course are:
- To connect the practice of design to the practice of daily life
- To expand the set of references and discourses that can be brought to bear upon design thinking and design actions
- To understand the breadth of implications and potential that reside within the body of work that one does at the beginning of their design education, and the capacity for those beginnings to grow in a meaningful and strategic way

Method and Procedure
The class will be organized around a collection of twenty-two lectures with attendant readings, five films, three group meals, a design build project, a case study project, and a journal keeping expectation. The lectures will be delivered weekly and form the primary content of the course. The meals, the design build project, and the case study will be spread over the timeframe of the semester in order to align with the topics of the lectures. The design build project will culminate in a midterm exhibition and the case study will culminate in a final exhibition at the end of the semester. In two instances a Tuesday or Thursday class meeting will be exchanged for a Saturday or Sunday meeting time.

Content and Organization
The collection of lectures introduces themes that aggregate around the topic of wonderment and its relationship to design, making, and human experience. The readings that accompany the lecture are diverse, but that is an indication of the multivalency and complexity of the topics and themes that the course puts forward. In addition to the lectures and readings, there are four assignments that make up the coursework:

“Designing a Light for a Dream House” is a re-enactment of a first year studio project from the past. It is a design build project that will entail an analysis and assessment of a material palate, a site analysis, and the generation of a construction document in service of fabricating the actual object.

The “Dim Sum Diagram” is a brief graphic analysis assignment that will be generated in response to the collective experience of eating Dim sum together on Sunday February 28.

The “Case Study” is a research project that will focus on the design practice of a specific individual. The charge is to identify and nominate an individual whose body of work and ideas are so compelling that they might become a candidate for “Patron Saint of First Year for Life.” The objective is to develop and put forward a body of research, both graphic and text, that confirms and verifies the legitimacy of this nomination. The format for the Case Study will be a slipcased dossier.

The “Course Journal” will contain all notes and printed copies of the readings arranged chronologically. It will be the primary piece of evidence of what was learned from the lectures and the readings.

Texts
The collection of readings will be provided to in PDF format. Printed copies of all readings are a required part of your class journal.