ARCH 7101
BUILDING DESIGN TOPICAL STUDIO

Fall 2014 Syllabus Overview
University of North Carolina at Charlotte, School of Architecture

PREMISE
This studio synthesizes formal, technological, and social variables and asks students to resolve a complex program on a complex site in a manner that articulates a mature design sensibility and demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of design. The building design topical requires students to manage multiple objectives in the same project and to instill a design impulse with systems-thinking.

The balance of priorities within each section may vary according to the objectives of the instructors, and students may interpret the given priorities in varying ways; however, all projects in all sections will meet specified standards of program, site, and design complexity. In addition, coordinated outcomes (or graphic materials) will serve as evidence of students’ understanding of integrated building design.

METHOD
As this is a topical studio, instructors will define programs, sites, themes, and methods specific to their sections and reflective of their interests in practice and research. Faculty can decide to what extent to coordinate schematic and design development phases of their sections as well as midterm and final reviews.

NAAB
ARCH 7101 includes content related to the following NAAB Student Performance Criteria:

A.1 Professional Communication Skills: Ability to write and speak effectively and use representational media appropriate for both within the profession and with the general public.

A.2 Design Thinking Skills: Ability to raise clear and precise questions, use abstract ideas to interpret information, consider diverse points of view, reach well-reasoned conclusions, and test alternative outcomes against relevant criteria and standards.

A.4 Architectural Design Skills: Ability to effectively use basic formal, organizational and environmental principles and the capacity of each to inform two- and three-dimensional design.

A.5 Ordering Systems: Ability to apply the fundamentals of both natural and formal ordering systems and the capacity of each to inform two- and three-dimensional design.

B.1 Pre-Design: Ability to prepare a comprehensive program for an architectural project that includes an assessment of client and user needs; an inventory of spaces and their requirements; an analysis of site conditions (including existing buildings); a review of the relevant building codes and standards, including relevant sustainability requirements, and an assessment of their implications for the project; and a definition of site selection and design assessment criteria.

B.2 Site Design: Ability to respond to site characteristics, including urban context and developmental patterning, historical fabric, soil, topography, ecology, climate, and building orientation, in the development of a project design.