Definition: Prefabrication is the practice of assembling components of a structure in a factory or other manufacturing site, and transporting complete assemblies or sub-assemblies to the construction site where the structure is to be located. The term is used to distinguish this process from the more conventional construction practice of transporting the basic materials to the construction site where all assembly is carried out.

Objectives: The class will provide students an opportunity to learn about the history, current practices, and potential of prefabrication methods employed to address the issues of designing and building affordable housing.

Method: The course will be structured so as to include faculty directed lecture/seminar sessions as well as case studies researched and presented by the students. The following set of issues will be presented and will constitute the dialogue along with accompanying class exercises resulting in a case study document reviewing contemporary examples of affordable housing projects from stick built to modular/prefabrication.

- Brief historical survey of prefabricated affordable housing in the U.S.
- Contemporary initiatives of prefabrication/modular construction practices including kit homes, panelized systems and volumetric modules.
- Potential for prefabricated assemblies and transport of Solar Decathlon entry.

Project: The major course requirement will be in the identifying, researching and development of a case study related to issues of prefabrication, transportation and assembly. The case study research will address contemporary issues from modular home manufacturing to prefabricated/component building systems.

Arieff, Allison & Burkhart, Bryan, Prefab, (Salt Lake City: Gibbs Smith, 2002).