Design Thesis Studio

COURSE INFO
7104-001/002 | Sp 2016 | MWF 2:00-5:30 | prereq. 7103, 7202 | P. Wong, TBA | Storrs 228 | 704.687.0134 | plwong@uncc.edu

PREMISE
The final year of the MArch degree is a period when master’s students bring closure to their professional program of study. This “thesis year” consists of a two-semester sequence of investigations that introduces students to the demands of architectural research, as well as prepares them for the rigors of professional practice and/or post-professional studies. The prerequisite for Thesis Studio (ARCH 7104) is Thesis Document (ARCH 7202). In Thesis Document, students construct a thesis proposal that articulates the research question they will explore in their final project. In Thesis Studio, students turn to testing their research questions by means of visual, material, qualitative and/or quantitative forms of analysis.

METHOD AND CONTENT
For those pursuing a Design Thesis, this course requires engaging in a series of visual and material design inquiries that expound upon the research question outlined in the thesis proposal. This includes the production of drawings, models, physical installations, and any other mode of material testing that advances an interrogation of the research question. In the case of Research Theses, students are required to produce empirical findings that have the potential of making original contributions to research and/or scholarship. Research methodologies for these types of projects may include collecting and reviewing information from historical archives, collecting and analyzing sample populations for interviews and qualitative analysis, or producing empirical data for quantitative analysis.

NAAB CRITERIA
This course satisfies criterion A.1: Professional Communication Skills as part of the National Architectural Accreditation Board requirements for an accredited degree.

EVALUATIONS / GRADING
UNCCCharlotte Graduate grading scale applies (A, B, C, U). External reviewers will assess the work produced in Thesis Design Studio at several points in the semester, including mid-semester and final reviews. Their comments will be integrated into the quarterly assessments prepared by the thesis coordinators. In addition, recognition for excellent work will be conveyed in the form of thesis awards and/or other special mentions offered throughout the course of the semester. At the conclusion of the course awards will be based on the judgment of an unbiased external committee’s review of semester materials, including the refinement of fall semester (ARCH 7202) claims.

* Research Thesis Students (after approval) shall enroll in a separate section of 7104 under an Advising Chair.