ARCH 4050, 6050-005 – Show Me, Tell me
Credit Hours: 3
Thursday 2:00–4:30
Pre-requisite: 3rd year standing, or 2nd year Graduate standing

Catalog description:
The class intends to explore research and presentation methods consistent with preparing for a comprehensive thesis project.

Premise:
An architectural research project at the thesis level requires a firm grasp of both design and verbal discrimination. Materials used in the presentation of the project should make clear the overall intent as design process and intellectual argument.

Objectives:
The objective of this course is to explore the intersection of intention and practice. It intends to raise critical awareness of the nature of articulating and presenting an architectural problem, its exploration and the summation of that process.

Students will develop the ability to recognize and develop a problem set within a relevant and substantial set of self-imposed restraints. This will include the skills necessary to identify, describe and present there ongoing interest and its practical, philosophical and historic contexts.

Content:
The content of the course will focus on the following goals:
• Identifying clear architectural concepts as ideas;
• Evaluation of extra-architectural issues – physical, visual, argumentative – important to those ideas;
• Distinguishing the differences between partisanship, and open inquiry;
• Exploring design research methods using analysis, abstraction and transformation;
• Selecting among conventions of representing spatial form as a matter of testing;
• Taking adequate notes -visual and verbal – and organizing them into appropriate presentation form.
• Electing methods of organization – bibliographies, sketchbooks, journals and portfolios – that clarify your purpose.
Method:

Good design research requires students to investigate the range of architecture and design-related subjects. Course work focuses identifying particular and competing interests and synthesizing them into a clear outlook. Extensive self-governed exploration, disciplined creative thinking and broad peer interaction should supplement class time.

All research methods are iterative. The researcher/designer will engage a critical process that both fosters non-linear thinking, and highly focused categorical thought. Synthesis, therefore evolves as an ongoing iterative process, and requires a strong work ethic.

The course will weave instructor presentations, in-class discussion and critiques including work-related evaluations with other students in the class. In the beginning, the class meets formally once a week. Outside smaller groups, organized by the students will augment discussions about particular questions as they arise.

Each class will end with a question and or task aimed at fostering an adequate work flow. Most classes will begin with a succinct presentation by each student of their evolving position. A general discussion and summary will follow. This will be the responsibility of the instructor.

Students will collect all material into a well maintained journal and portfolio. As part of this activity, notes, thoughts, sketches and formal presentations will be present in your journal.

Please note that this is a new course. Some of the methods may shift over the semester to reflect shifts in tactics.

Required texts:

Texts and visual materials will arise for each student as they identify their particular interest. These may be augmented by suggestion by the instructor.

Evaluation:

There are two formal evaluations for the journal. This will occur near review week. The first evaluation occurs at the midterm. The final evaluation occurs at the end of the semester. All of the individual activities and related artifacts contribute to the overall grade. We will have an ongoing discussion about the efficacy of using electronic media for any and all activities.

Evaluation and grading

The general criteria for evaluating cumulative performance takes into account:

• The quality and intent of each artifact – written or otherwise;
• Self-motivation and attitude – levels of interest;
• Craftsmanship, where relevant;
• On time delivery;
• Attendance
• Class participation
• Risk-taking
• Development & progress
Grading criteria:

- **A** = Overall & continual exemplary achievement in all of the above criteria.
  - The ‘A’ project sustains the quality of the best possible, publishable example in all aspects.
- **B** = General excellence and sustained improvement with occasional superior achievement.
  - The ‘B’ project will exhibit some superior aspects while meeting all other requirements at a high level as well.
- **C** = All work completed competently and on time, all classes attended, and a general improvement in performance.
  - The ‘C’ project is complete and meets all requirements competently and on time.
- **D** = Lack of reasonable craft or quality, or inattention to the work, or unresponsiveness to advice, or a lack of development.
  - The ‘D’ project meets only some requirements competently and on time.
- **F** = Consistent inattention to deadlines or the development of the project, late or incomplete work, poor attitude, or insufficient improvement.
  - Tardy, poorly attended or underdeveloped projects risk failure at the discretion of the instructor.
- Other grades used comply with UNC-Charlotte University Catalog policies.

Requirements:

This course strictly follows the requirements and standards set forth in the current edition of the UNCC Code of Student Academic Integrity. All creative work must be the original work of the student – or students, for a group project.

Any non-excused absence affects your evaluation and grade. More than three non-excused absences constitute grounds for automatic failure of this course.

Be on time to class. Three late arrivals count as one non-excused absence. You must submit excused absences – medical notes, deaths or family emergencies – to your instructor in writing and include evidence of the specific hardship.

Students may schedule an appointment to discuss coursework outside of class time by sending an e-mail request to their instructor.

Courtesy requirements:

The following standards of conduct apply to all class times. While they should be familiar, I repeat them for clarity.

- **Do not** listen to music, make Cellphone calls, text, visit Facebook, email, Hulu, Youtube or engage in any other forms of electronic distraction during class hours.
- Please be considerate of the importance of respect. The purpose of the course is to openly discuss work. Idle conversation is a waste of time.