EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
YORK/SHERIDAN DESIGN
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Design Department
FA / YSDN 3102 3.0 SECTION M
CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS IN DESIGN
FALL 2019 / WINTER 2020

Last Modified Date: 01/08/2020

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Offers an identification and examination of the various roles that design and designers play in the solving of visual and cultural problems in today’s rapidly changing society. Note: For students not in the BDes program, compulsory and voluntary supplementary fees apply.

An identification and examination of the various roles that design and designers play in the solving of visual and cultural problems in today's rapidly changing society. Prerequisite: FA/YSDN 2103 3.0 or permission of the Department of Design. Note: For students not in the BDes program, compulsory and voluntary supplementary fees apply.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hadlaw, Jan</td>
<td>Sec. M / LECT / W</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Department of Design | York University
Design Studies | YSDN Elective | 3 Credits
Winter Semester 2020

YSDN 3102 Contemporary Problems in Design
Wednesdays 8:30 to 11:30 in WC 118
Dr. Jan Hadlaw (jhadlaw@yorku.ca)
Design Studies, Department of Design
Office: 106 Winters College
Office hours: (most weeks) Wednesdays 11:30-12:30; and by appointment (preferred)

Course description
This course identifies and examines the various roles that design and designers play in solving (and creating) visual and cultural problems in today’s rapidly changing society.

Topics and concepts
Design and designers have long been represented as being uniquely capable of addressing human needs and solving social problems. Increasingly, they are also being recognized as complicit in creating many of the challenging situations society finds itself in today—including over-consumption, environmental degradation, loss of privacy, and heightened surveillance. This course introduces a more nuanced understanding of design’s roles and its potentials in contemporary society by locating the practices and products of design and designers in historical, economic, and social contexts.

Course texts
Organization of the course

In this course, students learn by actively participating in discussion, research, and reflection on the topics under study. A wide range of media—texts, lectures, discussions, and visual materials—are used to expand on each week’s key themes and issues. Assignments are designed to allow students to formulate and express their responses in an equally broad range of modalities: written, visual, and spoken.

Completing weekly readings prior to class, active participation in class discussion—and therefore regular attendance—as well as participation in weekly forum discussions, and timely submission of assignments are fundamental components of student success in this course.

Course learning objectives

Course assignments and activities are designed to allow students to:
• critically examine design’s social, cultural, and economic roles in historical and contemporary contexts
• understand key concepts in cultural and political economy and their relevance to the practice and the study of design
• work individually and collaboratively in researching design’s social roles
• demonstrate the ability to make clear, well-supported arguments in verbal, written, and visual forms about specific topics in design studies
• apply critical thinking skills learned in the course in course assignments
• apply key concepts and vocabulary learned in the course in course assignments

Last date to drop course

13 March 2020 is the last day that a student can drop this course without receiving a grade.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Assignment submission dates

20% Panel discussion of week’s readings variable
20% Key concepts response paper 05 Feb
15% Deconstructing the design of branded leisure project—field notes 04 Mar
20% Deconstructing the design of branded leisure project—analysis paper 03 April
10% Attendance & participation on-going
100%

Information regarding assignment submission

Check assignment descriptions for submission information and be sure to follow all instructions carefully. Make sure that your name, student number, course name and number, and assignment title are prominently indicated on each submission, and that all pages are numbered.

Lateness penalties

Assignments received after the due date will be penalized 5% per day. Assignments submitted 7 days after the due date will not be graded. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the professor with supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter).
Attendance and lateness
Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class. Students are responsible for letting the professor know ahead of time if they are going to be not attending or late for class.
Be advised that according to the program regulations, being late twice equals one absence. Lateness of more than thirty minutes equals one absence. Students absent from four classes during the term, will receive an “F” for the course. Exceptions for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter). Students are responsible for all academic, financial penalties and consequences resulting from their non-attendance.
Grading scheme
The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York. (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)
For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar.
Students may take a limited number of courses for degree credit on an ungraded (pass/fail) basis. For full information on this option see Alternative Grading Option in the School of Art, Media, Performance, & Design section of the Undergraduate Calendar.
Program grading system
GRADE GRADE POINT PERCENT RANGE DESCRIPTION
A+ 9 90 –100% RARE AND EXCEPTIONAL WORK Thorough knowledge of concepts and techniques and exceptional skill and/or great originality in the use of those concepts /techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment/course.
A 8 80 – 89% EXCELLENT WORK Thorough knowledge of concepts and techniques together with a high degree of skill and /or some elements of originality.
B+ 7 75 – 79% VERY GOOD WORK Thorough knowledge of concepts and techniques together with a fairly high degree of skill in the use of those concepts /techniques.
B 6 70 – 74% GOOD WORK Good level of knowledge of concepts and techniques together with considerable skill.
C+ 5 65 – 69% COMPETENT WORK Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and techniques together with considerable skill representing the student’s competence to continue and the department’s wish to have the student continue.
C 4 60 – 64% FAIRLY COMPETENT WORK Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and techniques together with some skill.
D+ 3 55 – 59% PASSING WORK Slightly better than minimal knowledge of required concepts and techniques together with limited skill.
D 2 50 – 54% POOR WORK Representing a lack of effort or minimum knowledge of concepts and techniques, despite completion of required exercises.
E 1 31 – 49% VERY POOR WORK
F 0 0 – 30% INADEQUATE WORK
All courses grades, including failures, are included in grade point average calculations. To calculate your Grade
Point Average please visit: http://www.yorku.ca/finearts/sas/gpa.htm
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IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Academic Honesty and Integrity
YSDN students are required to maintain high standards of academic integrity and are subject to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty at https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/
There is an academic integrity website with complete information about academic honesty. Students are expected to review the materials on the Academic Integrity website at http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity.

Occupational Health & Safety
Students must be aware of ergonomic factors related to the course work and should practice recommended exercise to prevent developing occupational related health problems. Please refer to the following web page for details: http://www.yorku.ca/dohs/ergonomics/ergonomics.htm

Accessibility/Disability Services
Both York and Sheridan provide services for students with disabilities (including learning, mental health, physical, sensory and medical disabilities) needing accommodation related to teaching and evaluation methods/materials. These services are made available to students in all Faculties and programs at York University and Sheridan College.
Students in need of these services are asked to register with disability services in Counselling & Disability Services as early as possible to ensure sufficient advance notice so that appropriate academic accommodation can be provided. You are encouraged to schedule a time early in the term to meet with each professor to discuss your accommodation needs. Please note that registering with disabilities services and discussing your needs with your professors is necessary to avoid any impediment to receiving the necessary academic accommodations to meet your needs.
At York University:
Additional information is available at www.yorku.ca/cds or by contacting the offices of the disability service providers:
At Sheridan College:
Accessible Learning Services is located in Room B103, Trafalgar Campus. 905-845-9430 x2530
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Ethics Review Process

YSDN students are subject to the York University Policy for the Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants at http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=94. In particular, students proposing to undertake research involving human participants (e.g., interviewing the director of a company or government agency, having students complete a questionnaire, etc.) are required to submit an Application for Ethical Approval of Research Involving Human Participants at least one month before you plan to begin the research. If you are in doubt as to whether this requirement applies to you, contact your Course Director immediately.

Religious Observance Accommodation

York and Sheridan are committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for an in-class test or examination pose such a conflict for you, contact the Course Director within the first three weeks of class. Similarly, should an assignment to be completed in a lab, practicum placement, workshop, etc., scheduled later in the term pose such a conflict, contact the Course Director immediately. Please note that to arrange an alternative date or time for an examination scheduled in the formal examination periods (December and April/May), students must complete an Examination Accommodation Form, which can be obtained from Student Client Services, Student Services Centre or online at http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/exam_accommodation.pdf. Further information on religious observance is available at https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/wa/regobs.

Student Conduct

Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect and to refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain an appropriate academic atmosphere in the classroom, and the responsibility of the student to cooperate in that endeavour. Further, the instructor is the best person to decide, in the first instance, whether such an atmosphere is present in the class. A statement of the policy and procedures involving disruptive and/or harassing behaviour by students in academic situations is available on the York website http://www.yorku.ca/univsec/policies/document.php?document=82.

Entering external design award shows and competitions

In an effort to encourage more students to enter external award shows and competitions, the York/Sheridan Program in Design will reimburse the entry fee for winning entries at outside award shows and competitions, up to $35 (CAD) per piece entered. To take advantage of this, students must: Enter the competition, pay entry fees and postage and arrange for delivery; Provide written proof that they have received an award/prize, and Provide the original receipts for the entry fee in Canadian Dollars. (If the entry fee was paid in another currency, we require a receipt indicating the exact amount you paid in Canadian funds).

Note: Students are responsible for any other fees that may be associated with the prize. Please contact Barb Batke (email: bbatke@yorku.ca) for reimbursement after you receive the award.
Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University