Syllabus

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Art 470 is an advanced studio course requiring students to identify a problem or idea that can be investigated by design, experiment with form, and arrive at a final proposed solution. You will be expected to develop ideas in both written and visual forms, and to articulate your central ideas, research, and methodology. This includes the development of leadership and collaborative skills in creating presentations of work (both in progress and final) that encourage engagement and faciliate open discussion.

Your goal: To identify, research, and address an issue, dilemma, problem, etc that you find compelling.

Assignment weighting

Participation: 50%

Part of your grade in this class is dependent on your participation, investment, and engagement. Design is requires thoughtful commitment and dedicated contributions: to the work, to the crit, and to each other. Do you contribute in a positive and constructive manner? Are you prepared for discussions, presentations, and critiques? This includes participation in class, on Slack, and on Tumblr.

Quality: 50%

The other half of your grade is determined by the quality of your work. But this grade reflects more than the final artifact. It's a measurement of your process, from conceptualization through research, experimentation, refinement, and production. You are expected to pursue complex ideas, and to investigate them thoroughly, without resorting to conceptual or formal clichés.

Grading Scale

A 93% >

A- 90–92%

B+ 87–89%

B 83–86%

B- 80–82%

C+ 77–79%

C 73–76%

C- 70–73%

D+ 67–69%

D 63–66%

D- 60–62%

F < 59%

Attendance

Arriving late and/or leaving early will result in a 'half-absence' for the class session. Attendance points may not be made up. Students are allotted 2 absences per term without consequence. Each absence above the two will lower the final grade by a 3%.

Late Submissions

Missing deadlines in your professional practice will lose you clients and credibility. For each class meeting a project is late, 10% (a full letter grade) will be docked from your score.

Slack

We'll use Slack as our class-away-from-class. It's a place for conversation, recommendations, updates, and more. It's how I'll communicate with you, and I expect the same in return. It's also where I'll post assignments, important documents, and reading. Use is mandatory. The channel can be found at **art470.slack.com**

Tumblr

Each student is to set up a Tumblr (**www.tumblr.com**). You'll use it to post reading responses, along with any other material that's not appropriate to share via Slack, such as long texts or collections of images. It's also how you'll demonstrate your writing, research, and presentation skills with a larger community. If you already have a Tumblr account, please start a new blog inside your existing account. We'll then automatically pull in updates from your tumblogs into a #tumblr channel within Slack, so we can all be notified when updates are made.

Turning in work & preparing for critiques

Please come with work printed out, unless you are working on something that will live on a screen. Work should be professionally prepared for presentation: project should be cropped, dummies assembled, etc. An attention to craft is necessary and graded as part of the "quality" category noted above.

Critiques

Critiques are very important, not only for the development of your project, but for gaining practice in discussing your intentions and helping others see what's working or not for their projects. The better you can talk about your work, the better you can understand it and defend it. Critiques are worth 10% of your overall grade—and will be marked out of 10 points each time. I will look for:

- Depth of work — Did you go past the expected? Did you try many options? Were your options dramatically different from one another, or were they merely minor variations? ("Move things a mile, not an inch")
- Level of thought — Did you think through your approach thoroughly? Did you push past clichés and initial assumptions?
- Progress made — Did you build on prior crits? Are you on track to finish with a polished end product?

A note on research

Research can consist of many things, and you should treat your Tumblr and Slack as a good place to share things you find — texts, videos, images, photographs you take, etc. But note that for the purpose of this class, I ask that you not produce mood boards consisting of

existing design examples. All design work, but especially your thesis, must be driven by originality and integrity in service of the subject matter and context alone, and not by the recreation of prior design ideas.

Student Resources

Students with disabilities who require special accommodations, those who have any emergency medical information that I should know about, and anyone who may need other special arrangements should discuss these with me no later than the end of the first week of the term. Students with disabilities should register with the PSU Disability Resource Center (503-725-4150) to document their need for accommodations and to obtain support services. Veterans might consider registering with the Veteran's Resource Center's Vet-2-Vet peer mentoring program (http://www.pdx.edu/veterans/vrc/class). If any personal issues arise during the term that affect your ability to successfully complete the course requirements, please notify me as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made.