

COURSE TITLE BLACKBOARD SITE	ARC 5012 Research Methods Fall 2009
	Virginia North, D.Arch. Assistant Dean, Graduate Studies College of Architecture and Design vnorth@ltu.edu Business phone: 248-204-2848 Office hours by appointment – Office A129
SCHEDULE	Optional on-ground orientation: Date and Time TBA See http://www.ltu.edu/registrars_office/calendar_final_exam.index.asp for LTU academic calendar information.
LEVEL / HOURS PREREQUISITE	Undergraduate Degree Accepted into the M.Arch. professional degree program or Master's in Interior Design.
REQUIRED TEXT (See Blackboard for additional resources)	Groat, L., Wang, D., <u>Architectural Research Methods</u> , New York, NY: John Wiley and Sons. 2002. Available at Amazon.com – new and used. Available for online purchase through LTU Bookstore at: http://lawrence-tech1.bkstore.com/bkstore/TextbookSelection.do?st=489
ADDENDA	LTU Online student resources http://www.ltu.edu/ltuonline/currentonline.asp Course-specific information is provided in the “Course Information” area
TECHNICAL SUPPORT	Technical support for using Blackboard is provided by the LTU Help Desk, 248-204-2330 or vitr@ltu.edu
NAAB PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	PRIMARY FOCUS:: 2. Critical Thinking 4. Research Skills SECONDARY FOCUS: 1. Speaking & Writing Skills 7. Collaborative Skills 8. Western Traditions 9. Non-Western Traditions 10. National & Regional Traditions 11. Use of Precedents 12. Human Behavior 13. Human Diversity 16. Program Preparation 17. Site Conditions 26. Technical Documentation 30 Architectural Practice 31. Professional Development

Educational Goals

Intensive study of research methodologies to familiarize students with a variety of research methods.

Recent and ongoing research in environmental design and behavioral sciences, and methods being used in contemporary design issues.

Utilizes computer applications in design research.

Sources of research include educational, governmental, professional, and legal environments; and the private sector.

Objectives

Examination of how research is used in the architectural field.

Development of research concepts

Understand research proposals

Examine methods typically applied in architectural research

Read and evaluate architectural research

Systematically search the relevant literature to support a research or thesis topic

Disseminate research results in written, verbal and multi-media formats.

Prerequisite Skills

Students need to be able to use Power Point or similar software to produce a lecture/presentation.

Instructional Methods and Course Organization

A variety of instructional methodologies are used in this course. The specific methods may include but are not limited to:

Blackboard learning environment – Blackboard at my.ltu.edu contains the syllabus, all assignments, reading materials, streaming videos, narrated Powerpoint mini-lectures, podcasts, written lecture notes, chapter quizzes, links to Web resources, and discussion forums. Please take time to familiarize yourself with the organization of the Blackboard site. You will want to check the site frequently for announcements reminding you of new resources and upcoming assignments.

Student/Instructor Conversations – Students keep in touch with the instructor via e-mail messages, telephone conference calls, and in class discussions.

Self-assessments – Pre- and post- self-assessment tools will help students measure their entering skills and progress during the course.

Required readings – Textbook chapters should be read according to the schedule outlined in the syllabus. Chapters will be discussed online and in class.

Assignments – There are two major assignments. The first is a literature review that is presented with a Power Point (or similar software) presentation. The second is a poster that presents the results from a small research project. Other assignments include participation in discussion sessions and short summaries of guest lecture/presentations.

Class Policies and Expectations

I plan to offer you a valuable learning experience, and expect us to work together to achieve this goal. Here are some general expectations regarding this course:

Each student has an LTU e-mail account. If you wish to use a different e-mail address for this course, please change your e-mail address in Blackboard under “Student Tools” and send an e-mail to me so I can store your address in my e-mail directory.

Readings, discussion forum participation, and written assignments must be completed according to the class schedule. If business travel will take you away from regular participation, please clear these dates with me in advance.

It is essential that all students actively contribute to the course objectives.

All assignments must be submitted on schedule. If you need to submit an assignment via e-mail, contact the instructor in advance. Late work will be reduced in value.

Assignments must be completed to an adequate standard to obtain a passing grade.

Requirements for each assignment are detailed in this syllabus.

Please focus your on-line correspondence within the appropriate Blackboard discussion forums so that your colleagues can learn from you.

At the end of the course, you will be invited to participate in a University evaluation of this course. Your feedback is important and I encourage you to participate in the evaluation process.

It is important for you as students to know what to expect from me as your instructor:

I will be available to you via e-mail and will promptly reply to your messages.

I will be available to you for face-to-face appointments. You may schedule these with me through e-mail or through my assistant, Alice McHard, at 248-204-2834.

I will maintain the Blackboard web site with current materials, and will resolve any content-related problems promptly as they are reported to me.

I will send out a weekly e-mail update to all class members to guide upcoming work and remind you of assignment due dates.

I will return all assignments to you promptly, and will include individualized comments and suggestions with each assignment.

I will hold our personal written or verbal communications in confidence.

I will do my best to accommodate individual learning styles and special needs. Please notify me prior to the start of the semester if you need accommodation and we can work with the University to accomplish that.

If any of these points need clarification, or when special circumstances arise that require my assistance, please contact me so that we can discuss the matter personally.

Course Schedule

This fully online course begins with a one-week online course orientation period to familiarize yourself with the online learning environment and to meet online or via phone with your instructor. Each week starts on a Monday and ends on a Sunday.

Dates	Modules	Topics / Readings	Assignments Due
Prior to Start of Semester and Week of Aug 24– Aug 30	Module 0	Video Introduction Online Learning Orientation Course Orientation	Class Discussion Session. Who are you? What are your expectations?
Week of Aug 31 – Sept 6	Module 1	Define Research	Bb Forums 1
Week of Sept 7 – Sept 13	Module 2	LTU Library – Online Library Orientation and Research Tools	Summary of Library Orientation Due Sept 13
Week of Sept 14 – Sept 20	Module 3	Concept Paper and Literature Review Read: Arch Research Methods Ch 1 -2	Bb Forums 2
Week of Sept 21 – Sept 27	Module 4	Concept Paper Discussion & Review Literature Review Strategy Read: Arch Research Methods Ch 3	Bb Forums 3 Concept Paper Due September 27, 2009
Week of Sept 28 – Oct 4	Module 5	Theory & Design in Relation to Research & Method Read: Arch Research Methods Ch 4 & 5	Bb Forums 4
Week of Oct 5 – Oct 11	Module 6	Historical Research Read: Arch Research Methods Ch 6 Guest Lecture – Dr. Dale Gyure	Mid-Term Evaluation Bb Forums 4 Lecture Summary Due Oct 11, 2009
Week of Oct 12 – Oct 18	Module 7	Work on Literature Reviews Resubmit Concept Paper	Concept Paper 2 Due Oct 18, 2009
Week of Oct 19 – Oct 25	Module 8	Work on Literature Reviews	Literature Reviews Due Oct 25, 2009
Week of Oct 26 – Nov 1	Module 9	View and Evaluation Literature Reviews	Evaluations Due Nov 1, 2009
Week of Nov 2 – Nov 8	Module 10	Correlational Research Method Read: Arch Research Methods Ch 8 Guest Lecture – Dr. Joonsub Kim	Bb Forums 5 Lecture Summary Due Nov 8, 2009
Week of Nov 9– Nov 15	Module 11	Assign Poster Project	
Week of Nov 16 – 22	Module 12	Qualitative Research Read: Arch Research Methods Ch 7 Guest Lecture – Dr. Jin Feng	Bb Forums 6 Lecture Summary Due Nov 22, 2009
Week of Nov 23 – Nov 29	Module 13	Planning the Poster – Content, Graphics, and Other Media	
Week of Nov 30 – Dec 6	/Module 14	Experimental & Quasi-experimental Research and Statistical Analysis of Data Read: Arch Research Methods Ch 9 Selection of Appropriate Research Method Discussion of Poster and Research	Bb Forums 7 Lecture Summary Due Draft of Research Method Due Dec 6, 2009

Dates	Modules	Topics / Readings	Assignments Due
		Project	
Week of Dec 7 – Dec 13	Module 15	Work on Poster	Posters Due Dec 13, 2009
Week of Dec 14 – Dec 20	Module 16	View Posters	Poster Review Evaluations Due Dec 20, 2009
		End of Fall Semester	

Student Evaluation

The course has five assignments totaling 100 points (left column). Letter grades are awarded based on the total number of points achieved (right column). Points are deducted for late assignments.

Assignments	Points
Blackboard Forums	140
Lecture Evaluations	100
Concept Paper Literature Review	60 150
Poster	150
Total Points	600

Class Points	Letter Grade
96 and above	A
90 – 95	A-
87 – 89	B+
83 – 86	B
80 – 82	B-
77 – 79	C+
73 – 76	C
70 – 72	C-
69 - 0	F

Note: Grades lower than "C-" fall below the LTU graduate grade standard.

Practical Guidelines for Class Load Expectations

A three-credit graduate course generally requires at least nine hours per week of time commitment. Here are some practical guidelines to help schedule your time commitments for this online course:

A 14-week semester (the Summer “E” semester is compressed into 11 weeks) would require at least 126 hours of time commitment to successfully complete all readings, activities, assignments, and texts as described in this syllabus.

You should reserve at least 6 hours per week to read the required textbook chapters and resources, participate in online discussions, review presentation materials, and work through online quizzes. This effort will total at least 84 hours over the course of the semester.

You should organize your remaining time to roughly correspond with the point value of each major assignment. This means that you should plan to spend at least:

2 hours per week in the Blackboard Forum; 1 hour per Lecture Summary, 3 hours on your Concept Paper, 4 hours viewing and reviewing Literature Reviews, 4 hours viewing and reviewing Posters

24-40 hours working on the two major projects – Literature Review and Poster;

These guidelines may not reflect the actual amount of outside time that you – as a unique individual with your own learning style – will need to complete the course requirements. The number of hours each week will vary based on assignment due dates, so please plan ahead to insure that you schedule your academic, work, and personal time effectively.

Assignment Details

Course assignments and evaluation criteria are detailed below. Please review these requirements carefully. See the section Academic Resources / Assessment Guidelines for information about assessment of written and oral presentations.

Details for all assignments are shown below. Please note that you should submit all assignments to the Blackboard "Digital Drop Box." Some assignments are also posted to the Blackboard Discussion Forum for student comments.

Concept Paper (60 Points)

Overview – Students must develop a 1 page Concept Statement that will be the basis for the Literature Review and Poster. The Concept Paper may be revised several times during the semester.

Deliverables and Evaluation – Concept Paper must be submitted in the Digital Drop Box as well as in the Discussion Forum so you can discuss it with your group. The Concept Paper will not be evaluated until it is finished. Make sure citations are used when appropriate. The content of the Concept Paper will be evaluated as well as the writing quality.

Lecture Evaluations (20 Points each)

Overview – Students must write a one page summary of selected lecture/presentations.

Deliverables and Evaluation – The summaries must be submitted in the Digital Drop Box.

Quality of content covering the lecture/presentation is important. Writing quality will also be evaluated.

Online Participation (140 points)

Each student is expected to actively participate in online activities. Class participation is evaluated to a maximum of 140 points based on:

Up to 20 points for each Blackboard Forum Assignment – Reading the required text chapters and developing questions for your group and responding to group questions.

Literature Review (150 Points)

Overview – The Literature Review will be presented in a Power Point (or similar software) format with narration. A microphone and headphones must be attached to the computer to record voice. Download Imaptica Software (free) to compress your presentation before uploading it into the Digital Drop Box.

Deliverables and Evaluation – The Literature Reviews must be submitted in the Digital Drop Box as well as the Forum area so that other students in the class may view them.

Quality of content and thoroughness of the literature search is important. Writing quality will be evaluated. Citations and a Bibliography are required and will be evaluated. Students should use Ref Works through the LTU Library.

Poster (150 Points)

Overview – Students must conduct a small research study based on the research question developed in the Concept Paper and the Literature Review. A Research Method(s) must be selected to answer the question(s) and justification for the choice of the method(s) in this situation is required. Limitations of the study must also be included on the Poster.

Deliverables and Evaluation – The Poster must be submitted in the Digital Drop Box well as the Forum so that other students in the class can view them.

Quality of the application of the Research Method is important. Writing quality and use of citations will be evaluated.

Syllabus Addenda

Please see the LTU Online “Current Students” web site

<http://www.ltu.edu/ltuonline/currentonline.asp> for comprehensive information about Lawrence Tech’s academic services, library services, student services, and academic integrity standards. The contents of this web site is explicitly included as syllabus requirements.

The LTU Online “Current Students” web site also includes grading rubrics used by your instructor to evaluate written assignments, discussion forum participation, and group assignments. Please note that the SafeAssignment anti-plagiarism product will be used for written assignments submitted for this course. Please see the instructions included on the LTU Online web site regarding the use of the SafeAssignment product.