School of Architecture  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Spring 2017  

ARCHITECTURE 563  
SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH IN DESIGNED ENVIRONMENTS  
CRN 60417  
4 hours  

Professor: Kathryn H. Anthony, Ph.D., ACSA Distinguished Professor  
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DESCRIPTION  

Introduction to methods and techniques of systematically generating social and behavioral information relevant to the programming, design, and evaluation of physical environments. Same as LA 563. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in architecture, landscape architecture, or urban and regional planning. Course open to students pursuing the Ph.D. in Architecture, Landscape Architecture or Regional Planning and to students pursuing the MS in Architectural Studies. Other students must get instructor approval to enroll.  

PURPOSE  

Research is fundamental every academic discipline. As future architects, landscape architects, planners, and scholars you need to be informed about how to conduct and evaluate research in order to provide new knowledge to advance the field and to better inform your designs.  

Research in academic design studio typically focuses on descriptions and visual analyses of design precedents, analyses of site conditions and other factors specific to each project. Our focus in this course is on acquiring tools to learn how people perceive and use the types of places and spaces that we design.  

Conducting original social and behavioral research in designed environments and disseminating your research findings provides you with a unique, potentially powerful voice, supplementing what you communicate through your design projects. One of the most important steps is identifying significant topics for research that have potential to impact the profession or the public at large.
Several UIUC architecture alumni who have excelled in using social and behavioral design research methods have presented their work at the annual conference of the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) [http://www.edra.org/] and gone on to hold leadership positions in this organization. Some have won national awards and recognition. Many have engaged in successful careers both in design practice and in academic positions in the US and abroad.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you should be able to:
- identify critical research issues in design that interest you
- prepare a preliminary research proposal
- design a small-scale research project
- conduct a comprehensive literature review
- critically analyze social and behavioral research methods used in prior masters theses, doctoral dissertations, and scholarly publications
- understand comparative advantages and disadvantages of various social and behavioral science research methods such as archives, behavioral observations, physical traces, interviews, questionnaires and surveys
- gain some hands-on experience using a variety of social science research methods
- collect and analyze original information relevant to the programming, design, and evaluation of physical environments
- present and illustrate your research findings in a way that communicates effectively for different audiences
- learn how to disseminate and maximize the impact of your research

FACULTY

Professor Anthony has earned four national awards:

- Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Creative Achievement Award (1992)
- Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) Achievement Award (2005)
- Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Distinguished Professor Award (2009-10) and lifetime title

She has authored several books and over 100 publications relating to social and behavioral research in designed environments. She recently returned from a lecture tour in China where she served as invited speaker at Tongji University in Shanghai and as keynote speaker at the 12th International Symposium on Environment-Behavior Research at Chongqing University.