ARCHITECTURE 563
SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH IN DESIGNED ENVIRONMENTS
4 hours

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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 social science research methods, tools to learn how people perceive and use the types of places and spaces that we design—so we can design spaces that better respond to people’s needs.

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 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 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.
Here is how course alumni describe this seminar:

“Now that I have completed this course, I realize that I like research even more than I thought! I have a (simple) understanding of the semi-complex nature of research in the ‘design world’, and am excited to continue learning more about research and apply what I have learned to my future studies.” – Rebecca Palmer

“I feel now I am equipped to add the touch of research in every project I do.” – Kirti Panwar

“…I realized collecting and interpreting data is a lot of hard work, but it is worth it.” – Junyoung Myung

“I was really curious to learn more about specific research methods, as I often felt like my studio designs were not giving justice to the complex human aspect tied to each project. The course taught me about qualitative and quantitative research methods, how they could be applied correctly, the importance of knowing your audience and how you phrase a good research question. Most importantly, the practical second part of the semester taught me how to apply everything that we had learned in the beginning to our own project. This was probably the most beneficial to me… From now on, I will be able to use some of these findings in my own designs, which I find really exciting… I have a totally different mindset when it comes to starting a project now. Instead of just going straight to AutoCad, I will look into cultural, emotional and environmental aspects of the surroundings before I make any design decisions.” – Nora Hilpert

“With this course, you will learn that using research methods is not something only some strange scientists and psychology students do, but that they are a good instrument anyone can use, sometimes even really quick, to find out more about questions or concerns in any architectural topic –even for any studio design.” – Lars Huehnken

ARCH/LA 563 2017 seminar students