Course Description:
This course will involve many architects who will serve as your instructors. The architects will present their professional practice and the diverse operations that are required to design and construct architecture. Students enrolled in this course will each week visit a different architecture office and/or meet an architect at a building they designed. The architects will present their firm’s aesthetic philosophy and role in the building enterprise. This will consist of presentations on design process, legal aspects of the architectural practice and building construction industry, and an introduction of business management, marketing, and operational procedures. Each student must ascertain the ideals and methods used by the architecture firms as the firm fulfills their commitment to their clients and the general public. Students will also have an individual (determined by participating firms), to assist the student with their immersion into the Chicago architecture community.

Deliverables:
Students are to attend each firm’s office tour and presentation and record their observations and write a single page paper on the ideals communicated by the firms and their methods for delivering these ideals to their clients and to the public. These weekly assignments are to be typed on 8.5x11 paper and turned in on the following Wednesdays by 1 PM. The final assignment is to compile all these writings and write an introduction and conclusion based upon the semester endeavors. This will be the research paper for the course (most of the research will be first hand and primary source research). Students will also write a one page synopsis on their mentorship opportunity as an addenda item.

Students are to keep a sketchbook (moleskine 8"x5" horizontal format watercolor paper required) that documents the time spent within the Chicago architecture firms. Quality AND quantity of sketches and notes will be important. Students will be asked to demonstrate an understanding of the role of the architecture firms represented and their role in making Chicago the built environment we experience today.

Components of final grade:
Attendance: Meetings will occur at various office locations and you are responsible for attending (10%)
Student Discussion: Students will be required to participate in discussions (10%)
Documentation: Moleskine Sketchbook with sketches and notes (30%)
Research Paper: Include a typed synopsis of the firm’s presentation, firm’s philosophy, the services they provide, and the main building types they design with a description of their aesthetic emphasis (40%)