2nd Year Graduate Studio

FALL 2019

Revelation Through Inquiry

Assistant Professor Nicholas Rock

Section A1 12:30–3:15 / 3:30–6:15, Tuesdays

Section B1 12:30–3:15 / 3:30–6:15, Thursdays

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Office Hours: By appointment— Mondays 11:30-2:30, Tuesdays + Thursdays 10:30-12:30

This semester will introduce opportunities to rigorously explore forms of inquiry and research, leading to broad experimentation with one's creative process while helping you get a hold of who you are, what you believe in, what you care about both in terms of content and formal issues . You are expected to build on former experiences and delve into unfamiliar territories Guided by me, your peers and outside critics, you will develop the foundation and framework for your thesis work.

This thesis development will be woven together with a number of challenging form-making assignments, culminating in a presentation of your semester of inquiry and final reviews.

Our main objective is to develop who you are as a designer while using inquiry and research as catalysts for your critical thinking and creative process as a designer.

Thesis Groups

For the purposes of this sequential project you will be organized into 4 groups of 4-6 students. The groups will intentionally bridge the two sections and you will be expected to meet with your group outside of class, as well as coordinating and conducting 4 meetings throughout the semester with an outside critic assigned to your group..

Group 01 —
Ana Benfield
Xiqiao Chen
Ibrahim Alazza
(Winnie) Wei Chen
Ying Lee

Group 02 —
Baylee Kimbar
(Sophie) Shuofei Li
(Kim) Jiaqin Lian
Julian Parikh
Mariana Ramirez

Group 03 —
Anissa Martinez
(EJ) Yizhen Wang
Farinaz Valamanesh
(Olivia) Wenqing Wang

Group 04 —
Ash Patil
Kelly Nolan
Krystyn Wypasek
Xiwen Xu
Weiqian Zhang
Yilin Zhang

The Work

01—Forms of Inquiry

We will work through five distinct but complementary forms of inquiry which intentionally overlap and build upon each other as we move through the semester.

Each phase requires a deliverable—a designed research document of sorts. You may choose what format this takes within some guidelines. You should see it as an asset for you to use and build upon, something you can refer back to as well as something that can inform someone who has no idea what you are doing.

Phase 1 + 2

How do you begin to align and organize yourselves in relation to the things that interest and influence you? You will develop a deeper sense of your own identity as a designer, and will be better able to frame questions and lines of inquiry on your own.

1. All That Matters —
   Develop a content specific cultural landscape;
   This is content, issues, points of view, values that are important to you, that you live by, that define your identity. Include reference points such as links to articles or videos for example. What is your reading list, your

bookmarks, your playlists? Determine and design the best format for cataloguing and presenting this cultural landscape.
2 Weeks _ Week 02–04
9/10–9/24

2. 50 Questions —
   For this project you will begin to develop a research methodology based in conceptual and formal questions as a design process. Research existing texts by creatives within and outside of design in order to develop internal and external questions as practicing designers.
   3 Weeks _ Week 03–06
   9/17–10/8

Phase 3 + 4
Here we will ask that you begin to fully develop a coherent perspective on visual and verbal languages you utilize as you work to discover and articulate your thesis, while constantly questioning design as it relates to your own personal perspective and values.

3. Filter of Perspective—
   Work, Influences and inspiration start by cataloguing analysing what you have made to date, collected save archived, what formal strategies appear, what formal strategies start to connect everything, try to extract 5 and define each of these in your own words. Your output should be a designed digital collection organized in some way according to the emergent formal strategies
   4 Weeks
   10/1–10/29

4. Thesis Taxonomy —
   How can you begin to define your thesis idea and frame its references in a language we understand? Using the first 3 phases as your guide, begin to develop a taxonomy of the language and terminology that have emerged from your first 3 phases (including your own annotation, description or definition of this terminology) as well language that may have surprised you that you plan to go into further. This taxonomy should be supported with references, such as links examples or case studies.

3 Weeks
10/15–11/5

Phase 5
Synthesize, connect the dots, draw connections, compile insights and begin to apply your thinking.

5. Design methods — Create a statement, or series of statements as formal strategies that can begin to link, connect or unify your findings. What patterns appear? What connections do you see across each form of inquiry. Once you have drafted your statement, generate a project or series of projects which serve to represent of this formal strategy or strategies.
   5 Weeks
   10/29 – 12/05

02—Forms of Making

This semester will include a number of projects running in parallel to the forms of inquiry project. These are designed to keep you making experimental form, and express ideas related to your thesis work (or not) that appear along the way.

Thesis Journal
As a sort of extension of the summer letter project post as google doc into the weekly folder include things you have found or looked at or thought of, things you want to do next, what inspired you , what did you hate
my thesis is _____ fill in the blank (a series of projects exploring x ; an exploration of space; rebranding gender â€¦. etc etc

Remix
TBA

Extreme Scale
TBA

03—Presenting Your Inquiry

Your semester will culminate in an evening of presentations in which you will formally deliver a presentation of your semester of inquiry. You will write a scripted and design a set of visuals to accompany the script. You will present this in front of your peers and mentors ....
Tentative dates Tuesday 12/3 530-8, Thursday 12/5 530-8

SCHEDULE

W1 Sep 02–06

All Graduate Studio Charette Tuesday + Thursday

W2 Sep 09–13

Introductions
Begin Forms of Inquiry Sequence Part 1 — What Matters?—[week 02–week04]
Begin Thesis Journal [All Semester]

W3 Sep 16–20

Continue Part 1 — All That Matters?—
    Share draft research / content
Begin Forms of Inquiry Sequence Part 2 — 50 Questions?—[week 03–week06]

W4 Sep 23–27

Finish–Part 1 — All That Matters?—
    Research Document project for Part 1 Due
Continue Part 2 — 50 Questions?
    Draft questions due for review in class
Virtual Critic Session 01

W5 Sep 30–Oct 04

Continue Part 2 — 50 Questions?
Begin Forms of Inquiry Sequence Part 3 — Filter of Perspective—[week 05–week09]

W6 Oct 07–11

Finish Part 2 — 50 Questions
Continue Part 3 — 50 Questions
Virtual Critic Session 02

W7 Oct 14–18

Continue Part 3 — 50 Questions
Begin Part 4 — Design Taxonomy

W8 Oct 21–25

Continue Part 3 — 50 Questions
Continue Part 4 — Design Taxonomy

W9 Oct 28–Nov 01

Finish Part 3 — 50 Questions
Continue Part 4 — Design Taxonomy
Begin Part 5 — Design Methods
Virtual Critic Session 03

W10 Nov 04–08

Finish Part 4 — Design Taxonomy
Continue Part 5 — Design Methods
Individual meetings w/ Nick Mon—Weds

W11 Nov 11–15

Continue Part 5 — Design Methods
Begin preparing Inquiry presentation

W12 Nov 18–22

Continue Part 5 — Design Methods
Virtual Critic Session 04

W13 Nov 25–29

Continue Part 5 — Design Methods
Thanksgiving week—individual meeting signups Mon, Tues

W14 Nov 25–29

Finish Part 5 — Design Methods
Inquiry Presentations
Prep for final reviews