

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE



COURSE : CARC 601-600
Spring 2010

INSTRUCTOR : Valerian Miranda, Ph.D
Rm. 006 Williams Ph:845-3033
Office Hours: 9:00-10:00am T,Tr
e-mail: v-miranda@tamu.edu

I. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

Foundations of Research in Planning and Design (3-0). Credit 3. Introduction to the research process and its application to problems in planning and design; presentation of philosophy and logic underlying the scientific method; critical analysis of planning and design literature according to each step of the research process: problem definition, hypothesis development, study design, analysis and interpretation of the findings.

II. **INTRODUCTION**

Though architecture is an ancient discipline, formalized architectural research is in its infancy. By its nature, architectural research encompasses various subject areas and no single research method can accommodate all these areas. This course is meant to expose beginning architectural research students to a variety of research methods that are appropriate to architectural research.

III. **OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the semester, the student will be expected to:

- Develop an awareness and understanding of a variety of strategies and tactics appropriate to architectural research.
- Develop the ability to seek, identify, frame and express an architectural research problem.
- Develop the ability to discuss and develop a research design as well as choose appropriate tools and techniques.

IV. **COURSE SCHEDULE**

See attached course schedule.

V. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Letter grades will be based on the evaluation of each assignment, attendance and class participation as follows:

Discussion presentation	: 40%
Poster Presentation	: 40%
Written assignments	: 10%
Attendance/participation	: 10%

Letter grades are based on the following standard:

A ... excellent performance in all work, clearly superior work well beyond stated requirements and expectations.

B ... good performance in all work, satisfying all stated requirements and expectations.

C ... satisfactory completion of all work.

D ... below average, unsatisfactory performance.

F ... failure: substandard work throughout.

VI. REFERENCES

The required text for this class is : *Architectural Research Methods* by Linda Groat and David Wang. John Wiley & Sons, New York. 2002.

VII. COSTS

In addition to the required text, each student is expected to keep a notebook for this class. Additional costs involve printing costs for a research poster.

VIII. POLICIES

Statement on Disability

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) : The Americans with Disabilities Act is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities in RM. 126, Koldus Bldg., or call 845-1637.

Scholastic Dishonesty :

Access to information is becoming easier by the day. Plagiarism does not benefit anybody in the long term. Credit the work of others just as you would like your work to be recognized. Any form of scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

“ An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal nor tolerates those who do.”

Access to information is becoming easier by the day. Plagiarism does not benefit anybody in the long term. Credit the work of others just as you would like your work to be recognized. Any form of scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated. For more information on Scholastic Dishonesty and its consequences please refer to Texas A&M University Student Rules and <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 18 Jan	19 Tue: Introduction 21 Thu: Architecture and Research	Homework #1 (due 21 Jan.)
WEEK 2 25 Jan	26 Tue: Framing your research 28 Thu: Systematic Inquiry Read Chap. 2	Homework #2 (due 2 Feb.)
WEEK 3 1 Feb	2 Tue: Theory and Method Read Chap. 4 4 Thu: Research design (Methods, Strategies, Tactics)	
WEEK 4 8 Feb	9 Tue: Literature Review Read Chap. 3 11 Thu: Library Tour ****	Homework #3 (due 16 Feb.)
WEEK 5 15 Feb	16 Tue: Interpretive-Historical Research Read Chap. 6 18 Thu: Student presentation	
WEEK 6 22 Feb	23 Tue: Guest Speaker **** 25 Thu: Guest speaker **** Student Research Week Registration	
WEEK 7 1 Mar	2 Tue: Guest Speaker **** 4 Thu: Guest Speaker ****	
WEEK 8 8 Mar	9 Tue: Qualitative Research (Chap. 7) 11 Thu: Student presentation	
WEEK 9 15 Mar	SPRING BREAK	
WEEK 10 22 Mar	Student Research Week 23 Tue: Correlation Research (Chap. 8) 25 Thu: Student presentation	
WEEK 11 29 Mar	30 Tue: Experimental Research (Chap. 9) 1 Thu: Student presentation	
WEEK 12 5 Apr	6 Tue: Logical Argumentation (Chap. 11) 8 Thu: Student presentation	
WEEK 13 12 Apr	13 Tue: Case Studies (Chap. 12) 15 Thu: Student presentation	Homework #4 (due 20 Apr.)
WEEK 14 19 Apr	20 Tue: Combined Strategies (Chap. 12) 22 Thu: Methods review Friday, 23 April, Rowlett Lecture	
WEEK 15 26 Apr	27 Tue: Research Poster presentations 29 Thu: Research Poster presentations	
WEEK 16 3 May	4 Tue: Redefined day (Friday classes)	

TO BE RETURNED TO THE INSTRUCTOR

NOTE: After you have read the entire syllabus handed out in class, please clarify with the instructor any of your questions regarding the syllabus, workload, what is expected of you, grading criteria, etc.. Then sign and date the declaration below, detach this sheet and hand it back to the instructor.

DECLARATION

I have read and understood the syllabus for CARC 601-600, Spring 2010, handed to me in class.

NAME (capitals): _____

SIGNATURE : _____

UIN : _____

e-MAIL : _____

DATE : _____