

Meeting: W 1:45-4:15 PM, Carmichael 230

Instructor: Brent Skidmore, Director, Craft Campus, Research Professor of Art
bskidmor@unca.edu and www.brentskidmore.com (needs update, beware)
Carmichael 118F
(828) 250-2390
Office hours, I am there quite often, please stop by or make an appointment.

Course Objective: This special topics class will be framed in the conceptual development of the UNC Asheville Craft Campus. The class will investigate the associated design process for the Craft Campus as it relates to green building, craft practices and theory, alternative energy use and place. Investigations will also focus on the Craft Campus future contemporary craft studies curriculum, programming and the campus' relationship to one of the largest concentrations of studio craftspeople in the United States by looking at the heritage, economic and technical aspects of the working craftspeople of Western North Carolina along with the changing landscape of Craft.

Students will be encouraged to develop research projects relating to craft, studio design, material culture, sustainability, alternative energy use and *green* building certifications. Readings in art, craft, *green* building and sustainable design combined with fieldtrips, lecture series and design charrette participation will aid students in their research for knowledge of WNC Craft and its associated impacts and relevance to the Craft Campus.

Course Goals and Objectives: By the end of this course students will:

- Have an understanding of basic contemporary craft history.
- Be able to articulate the meaning of craft and the handmade in their lives.
- Have a better understanding of the significance the processes involved in craft.
- Have an increased understanding of *green* building processes, materials and certification standards.
- Have an increased understanding of alternative energy uses and applications at UNC Asheville.
- Develop an understanding of the Craft Campus use, design and place.
- Be able to serve as an expert on the Craft Campus.

Note: Syllabus and Class schedule are subject to change at Instructor's discretion. Students will be notified prior to final evaluation if changes are needed.

Projects and Participation:

1) Discussions and Peer Evaluations: In-class discussions and or presentations will be held upon the completion of each project or class segment, essentially every class meeting will include discussion. These critiques/discussions **cannot happen effectively if we are reviewing unfinished work**. Please attend class and actively participate in discussions and peer evaluations as the class is designed to be one of collaboration. Again, due to the nature of the class and it including such few students, it will be increasingly necessary to be prepared for discussions and presentations. When preparing written responses or research, be prepared to give a brief oral presentation also. (25%)

2) Lecture Attendance/Seminar and Conferences/Presentations and Evaluation: You will also be responsible for attending **2 lectures/presentations other than those associated directly with this class and 3 that will be outside of class but related to the class topics.** After attending you will evaluate the overall quality and content of the presented material in a two-page response that will be turned in as you

complete them. **Don't delay attendance and assignments.** We are looking to evaluate and convey your understanding of said presentations, etc. (20%)

3) Notebooks/3 Ring Binder: Please note that supplied the recycled binders in which to keep all of the readings pertaining to our course. Handouts will be many and should be kept in the binder for reference. Also *notes on lectures* will be invaluable in preparing some of the projects due during the semester and should be kept here also. Quizzes will also be a part of the binders. The ideal binder experience allows one to have, on hand later in life (after graduation), materials that may prove to be beneficial and aid in your success. **These binders will all be turned in at the end of the semester for evaluation.** (10%)

4) Comparative research project, Green Building certifications: Students will choose (draw from a hat) from LEED, Cradle to Cradle or UB High Performance Guidelines and review, evaluate and compare the effectiveness and applicability to the Craft Campus and other UNC Asheville construction projects. (20%)

5) Group Collaborative: Description pending class approval and excitement level. Stay tuned and alerted for possibilities. (25%)

Evaluation: Late work will be accepted but graded accordingly.

Discussions and Peer Evaluations 25%

Lecture Attendance/Seminar and Conferences/Presentations and Evaluation 20%

Notebooks/3 Ring Binder 10%

Comparative research project 20%

Group Collaborative 25%

Total Grade 100%

Note on homework: Students must be aware that outside class work is expected and necessary for success.

Attendance Policy: Attendance of all class meetings is required. Attendance to class is important for the total learning process especially in a class that only meets once a week for a total of less than 15 times. Remember there are many more people (or in this case a couple of others) in the class who have a wealth of knowledge to share and in an ideal class we will all benefit from each other through collaboration and conversation. **Arrival to class late three times will result in an absence. STUDENTS WILL BE PENALIZED VIA GRADE REDUCTION FOR MORE THAN ONE ABSCENCE.**

The final grade will be reduced one grade for each additional unexcused absence over **one**. This policy accommodates standard illness and schedule conflicts during the semester. Check the schedule to know what is coming down the pike and be prepared. It is the **responsibility** of each student to obtain/read materials needed to complete class assignments **before** class begins.

Remember the nature of this class is one of **discussion and research**, which will require your attendance, preparation, and an amount of outside work and attention.

Required text: *Cradle to Cradle*, McDonnough and Braumgart, ISBN-13: 978-0-86547-587-8, of course unless everyone has read it. If so, then all readings will be supplied by the instructor.

Bibliography and additional resources:

The Craftsman, Richard Sennett, ISBN 978-0-300-11909

A Theory of Craft, Howard Risatti, ISBN 978-0-8078-3155-9

Green Architecture, James Wines, ISBN 3-8228-6303-3

Infrastructure and Community, Environmental Defense and Michael Singer Studio

Objects and Meaning: New Perspectives on Art and Design, Edited Anna Fariello & Paula Owen, ISBN 0-810-84844-9

Craft in America, Jo Lauria and Steve Fenton, ISBN 978-0-307-34647-6, ISBN 0-7936-9336-5 (video)

Thinking Through Craft, Glenn Adamson, ISBN -13: 978-1-84520-647-5

Craft and the Penland Experience, Lark Books, ISBN 1-57990-575-7

Focus on Materials, Furniture Society, ISBN 0-9671004-3-7

The Chair: Rethinking Culture, Body, and Design, Galen Cranz, ISBN 0-393-31955-5

Harvesting Urban Timber, Sam Sherrill, ISBN 0-941936-71-6

By Hand: The Use of Contemporary Art, Shuhung and Joseph Magliaro, ISBN -13:978-1-56898-610-4

The Maker's Hand: American Studio Furniture 1940-1990, Cooke, Ward, L'Ecuyer, ISBN 0-87846-663-0

American Craft Magazine, www.americancraftmag.org

UNC Asheville Craft Campus, www.unca.edu/craftcampus