



湖北工业大学
HUBEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Course Title	Interdisciplinary Creative Research Studio
Course Code	DESN 2311
Semester	Summer 2026
Course Length	4 Weeks, 60 Contact Hours
Credits	4
Instructor	TBA
Office	TBA
Email	TBA
Prerequisite	Completion of first-year foundation studio coursework

Course Description:

How can research become a creative act? In Interdisciplinary Creative Research Studio, students investigate ideas through making, observation, experimentation, collaboration, and reflective analysis. This studio-based course introduces students to integrative research practices that combine visual inquiry, written analysis, field investigation, and material experimentation. Students will develop independent and collaborative methods for exploring contemporary cultural, social, spatial, and aesthetic questions.

Across the semester, students will pursue a self-directed research theme while engaging with a range of analog and digital methodologies used in art and design disciplines. Studio projects encourage iterative processes involving prototyping, documentation, critique, revision, and presentation. Research approaches will draw from areas including visual communication, fashion systems, spatial design, material studies, social practice, and speculative design.

Particular emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary thinking, creative risk-taking, and the integration of reading, writing, and making as interconnected modes of inquiry. Students will strengthen their ability to communicate complex ideas visually and verbally while developing professional creative research practices applicable across contemporary art and design fields.

This course also supports multilingual and international students through guided vocabulary development, contextual discussion of cultural references, collaborative critique structures, and scaffolded academic communication practices within an international and interdisciplinary educational environment.

Course Goals:

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following general education core goals:

- **Critical Thinking Skills** – Students will engage in analytical thinking, demonstrating the ability to critically evaluate, synthesize, and apply knowledge to complex problems, and construct well-reasoned solutions and arguments.
- **Independent Research and Inquiry** – Students will conduct independent research, utilizing academic resources to explore relevant topics, formulating research questions, analyzing data, and presenting findings in a coherent, scholarly manner.
- **Problem-Solving and Application** – Students will apply theoretical concepts and methodologies learned in the course to real-world problems, demonstrating the ability to develop practical solutions informed by academic inquiry.
- **Global and Cultural Awareness** – Students will gain awareness of the global and cultural contexts relevant to the course, appreciating diverse perspectives and considering the implications of their studies in a broader, international context.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Conduct independent and collaborative creative research using multiple methodologies;
- Develop and refine self-generated research questions related to art and design practice;
- Apply observational, material, digital, and field-based research methods to studio projects;
- Integrate reading, writing, sketching, prototyping, and making into a cohesive research process;
- Analyze and interpret visual and cultural materials critically;
- Produce iterative creative outcomes through experimentation and revision;
- Present research findings and studio work professionally through visual, written, and oral formats;
- Participate constructively in critiques and collaborative discussions;
- Document process work using appropriate analog and digital tools;
- Demonstrate increased confidence in interdisciplinary creative inquiry.

Textbooks/Supplies/Materials/Equipment/ Technology or Technical Requirements:

Gray, Carma Gorman & Ellen Lupton. *Design Research: Methods and Perspectives*.

Laurel Richardson. *Writing Strategies: Reaching Diverse Audiences*.

Tim Ingold. *Making: Anthropology, Archaeology, Art and Architecture*.

Selected articles, exhibition catalogs, artist statements, and multimedia resources will be provided.

Course Requirements:

Research Journal and Studio Documentation (15%)

Students maintain an ongoing visual and written research journal documenting observations, sketches, reflections, material tests, fieldwork, and process development throughout the semester.

Studio Exercises and Experimental Assignments (20%)

Short-form studio activities introduce students to various research methodologies including mapping, interviewing, prototyping, archival exploration, material experimentation, and observational studies.

Collaborative Research Project (15%)

Students work in groups to investigate a shared topic and produce a collaborative visual or spatial outcome supported by research documentation and presentation.

Midterm Integrative Project (20%)

Students develop an intermediate studio project synthesizing research, conceptual development, and iterative experimentation. Assessment emphasizes process, conceptual clarity, and presentation quality.

Final Research-Based Studio Project (25%)

Students complete an independently developed final project demonstrating interdisciplinary research, creative experimentation, and professional presentation standards.

Participation and Critique Engagement (5%)

Students are expected to contribute actively to critiques, discussions, workshops, and collaborative studio activities.

Assessments: Activity	Percent Contribution
Research Journal and Studio Documentation	15%
Studio Exercises and Experimental Assignments	20%
Collaborative Research Project	15%
Midterm Integrative Project	20%
Final Research-Based Studio Project	25%
Participation and Critique Engagement	5%

Grading:

Final grades will be based on the sum of all possible course points as noted above.

Grade	Percentage of available points
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D	64-69
D-	60-63
F	0-59

Course Schedule:

The schedule of activities is subject to change at the reasonable discretion of the instructor. Minor changes will be announced in class, major ones provided in writing.

DESN 2311 Schedule		
Lecture	Topic	Readings
L1	Introduction to Integrative Creative Research	Course Reader; Lupton Ch.1
L2	Observation as Research Practice	Ingold Ch.1
L3	Visual Mapping and Documentation Methods	Design Research Ch.2
L4	Sketchbooks, Archives, and Process Journals	Selected Articles
L5	Research Through Material Experimentation	Ingold Ch.2
L6	Fieldwork and Site-Based Inquiry	Design Research Ch.4
L7	Interviewing and Participatory Research Methods	Supplemental Readings
L8	Photography and Visual Ethnography	Selected Multimedia Sources
L9	Diagramming Systems and Relationships	Design Research Ch.5
L10	Midterm Project Development Workshop	Studio Materials
L11	Midterm Critique Presentations	Review
L12	Collaboration and Collective Inquiry	Supplemental Readings
L13	Identity, Culture, and Context in Design Research	Selected Articles
L14	Narrative Structures and Storytelling in Creative Practice	Richardson Selections
L15	Speculative and Future-Oriented Design Methods	Design Research Ch.7
L16	Research Through Making and Iteration	Ingold Ch.4
L17	Space, Environment, and Spatial Observation	Supplemental Readings
L18	Fashion, Object, and Material Culture Studies	Selected Case Studies
L19	Digital Research Tools and Online Archives	Digital Platform Tutorials
L20	Experimental Prototyping Workshop	Studio Resources
L21	Critique Methodologies and Reflective Practice	Course Reader
L22	Developing Final Research Narratives	Richardson Selections
L23	Final Project Consultations	Independent Research
L24	Final Project Installation and Presentation Preparation	Review Materials
L25	Final Critique and Course Reflection	Final Review

Studio Expectations and Participation

Students are expected to attend all studio sessions prepared to participate fully in discussions, critiques, workshops, and collaborative activities. Because this is an experiential studio course, consistent attendance and active engagement are essential to successful completion.

Students should arrive with required materials, maintain organized process documentation, and contribute respectfully to the studio environment. Constructive peer feedback and thoughtful participation in critiques form a significant part of the learning experience.

Accommodation Statement:

Academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire.

Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow.

Academic Integrity Statement

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or outside the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

Other Items:

Attendance and Expectations

All students are required to attend every class, except in cases of illness, serious family concerns, or other major problems. We expect that students will arrive on time, be prepared to listen and participate as appropriate, and stay for the duration of a meeting rather than drift in or out casually. In short, we anticipate that students will show professors and fellow students maximum consideration by minimizing the disturbances that cause interruptions in the learning process. This means that punctuality is a must, that cellular phones be turned off, and that courtesy is the guiding principle in all exchanges among students and faculty. You will be responsible for the materials and ideas presented in the lecture.

Assignment Due Dates

All written assignments must be turned in at the time specified. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior information has been obtained from the instructor. If you believe you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Make-Up Work

The instructor will not provide students with class information or make-up assignments/quizzes/exams missed due to an unexcused absence. Absences will be excused and assignments/quizzes/exams may be made up only with written documentation of an authorized absence. Every effort should be made to avoid scheduling appointments during class. An excused student is responsible for requesting any missed information from the instructor and setting up any necessary appointments outside of class.

Access, Special Needs, and Disabilities

Please notify the instructor at the start of the semester if you have any documented disabilities, a medical issue, or any special circumstances that require attention, and the school will be happy to assist.