Design Studies

Foundation Studies Program

Aims

Design studies aims to introduce students to fundamental concepts in design by developing students' understanding of basic design principles and processes to analyse and develop creative and innovative solutions in various design contexts. The course facilitates a deeper understanding and awareness of how and why design works, and how it may affect and influence both the designer and the end users, whilst understanding and meeting client needs. Students develop visualisation skills and learn how to effectively communicate ideas, intentions and purposes to specific audiences through various visual media forms. This subject aims to achieve these goals by exposing students to a variety of challenging design projects set in 'real world' contexts. Transferable skills and vocational competencies are developed through multi-modal forms of communication, problem solving, critical thinking skills, and analysis and evaluation of students' own work and that of other designers and architects.

The course specifically aims to equip students with a general understanding and awareness of the social, cultural and historical contexts that underpin architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design to facilitate student transition into the first year of the Bachelor of Architectural Design at the University of Adelaide. Bachelor of Media and other pathway students that are interested in design would also benefit taking this course to develop skills in visual and spatial communications. Opportunity to develop skills in graphic design and presentation are embedded throughout the course.

Learning outcomes

After successfully completing this subject students should be able to:

- Use specific design skills and processes to visualise and construct design creations in architecture and graphic presentation.
- Generate ideas and develop creative design solutions for specific users and clients.
- Communicate ideas and concepts through various modes of communication using the language of design.
- Understand the importance of sustainability within architecture and urban design.
- Research and present information to specific audiences through visual, oral and written communication.
- Appreciate that design has social implications and responsibilities that are underpinned by a community's values, beliefs and behaviours.

Subject content

WEEK	TOPIC & ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE
1	Orientation week
2	Introduction to Design Studies
3 - 10	Visual Diary Assessment
11 - 13	Research Project 1
14 - 19	Design Project 1
20	Activities and class discussions
21 - 27	Design Project 2
28 - 30	Research Project 2
31 - 39	Design Project 3
40	Graduation

Assessment

General weightings for each assessment item are outlined below.

ASSESSMENT ITEM	WEIGHTING
Visual Diary Assessment	20%
Research Project 1	5%
Design Project 1	20%
Homework & participation Semester 1	5%
Design Project 2	20%
Research Project 2	5%
Design Project 3	20%
Homework & participation Semester 2	5%

Prerequisites and assumed knowledge

Semester 1: there are no prerequisites or assumed knowledge for Semester 1.

Semester 2: there is an expectation that students have completed Semester 1 at a pass level or higher.

Further enquiries

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