NYU GALLATIN SCHOOL OF INDIVIDUALIZED STUDY

Designing for New Climates: Histories of Adaptation

IDSEM-UG 1905
Spring 2017
Mondays, 3:30-6:10pm.
Room 527

Instructor: Prof. Peder Anker
E-mail: peder.anker@nyu.edu
Office: 1 Washington pl. room 425
Office hours: Mondays, 9am-1pm

Instructor: Prof. Mitchell Joachim
E-mail: mitchell.joachim@nyu.edu
Office: 1 Washington pl. room 617
Office hours: Mondays, 12-3:30pm (By Appointment Only)

Course Description
The course explores how designers have responded to environmental problems and climate change. It starts with turn of the century admirations for primitivism and ends with the cyber punks designing new environments online. Following the work of architects, artists, urban planners, graphic designers and fashionista, the course will review the historical evolution of attempts to "save the world" from our environmental crisis. Who were the key figures that first ignited the green design revolution and its ensuing agenda? The class will unpack texts and works by thinkers such as Patrick Geddes, Ebenezer Howard, Buckminster Fuller, Jane Goodall, Annie Leonard, Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins, Walter Gropius, Herbert Beyer, Ian McHarg, and many more. The class will focus on various modernist/ anti-modernist design schemes for adapting to new warmer climates, and why these attempts often failed. We will also devote time to discuss topics such as building closed ecological systems, counterculture designs, cyber environments, sick building syndrome, biomimetics, eco-fashion, earth art, and other attempts to design within the realm nature. The overall objective is twofold; to survey the lager historical context of ecological design and define specific contributions to the climate change debate. The students will be asked to design, develop, and participate in a future smart street and ecological tall building project.

Course Objectives/Learning Goals
The intention of this seminar is for the student to develop an understanding of the history and theory that encompass the environmental debate. A significant weight will be on the critical analysis of key ecological project solutions in various explicit settings. The general aim is to review the various methodologies of ecological design and create a site-specific design project that supports its assertions.
Assignments and Grading:
For the final project you will be asked to write a substantial paper or produce a design-driven work that offers a reflection on or solution to how we should adapt to global warming. You will be given short weekly assignments and projects designed to help reflect on the readings. Grades are based on combined projects, participation and attendance. In order to receive a grade, students must complete all specified assignments, participate in class discussions and produce a final project or paper.

Attendance Policy:
Department and Class Policies Attendance are mandatory. There is no substitute for working and participating in class. If a student fails a class due to attendance, he/she is no longer permitted to attend the class. Absence will impact final grade. Undo tardiness following a given break will result in an absence. Leaving before the class is over is considered an absence. Three absences are grounds for failure. Tardiness: Two tardies will be counted as one absence. Ten minutes late considered tardy. Over 20 minutes late is considered absence.

Academic Warning:
Students who do not complete and submit assignments on time and to a satisfactory standard will fail the class. It is the student responsibility to obtain missed assignments from other classmates and make up work in time for the next class.

Electronic devices:
We encourage you to use laptops, tablets, mobile phones, etc. in the classroom.

Academic integrity:
“As a Gallatin student you belong to an interdisciplinary community of artists and scholars who value honest and open intellectual inquiry. This relationship depends on mutual respect, responsibility, and integrity. Failure to uphold these values will be subject to severe sanction, which may include dismissal from the University. Examples of behaviors that compromise the academic integrity of the Gallatin School include plagiarism, illicit collaboration, doubling or recycling coursework, and cheating. Please consult the Gallatin Bulletin or Gallatin website.”

Materials:
There will be supplementary modeling materials to be used based on individual preferences. Students are responsible to purchase some of these materials within a reasonable budget TBA. The final project will be a large scale model of museum quality materials for display in NYU.

1 www.gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/policy/integrity.html
**Required Texts:**


Session-by-Session Details

01) Monday Jan. 23: Introduction

No readings

02) Monday Feb. 6: Bauhaus of Nature

Readings:
Anker, From Bauhaus to Ecohouse, 1-67.

Maps:
Herbert Bayer, World Geo-Graphic Atlas (1953)

Assignments Due:
Design a trademark for climate change. (Bring it to class)

03) Monday Feb. 13: Green Architecture and Tall Buildings

Readings:

Assignment Due:
(1) Repeated pattern structure and collage. Take a simple utilitarian object and replicate in a systematic sequence of 50-100 iterations.

04) Monday Feb. 20: President’s Day! No classes

05) Monday Feb. 27: Landscape Design

Readings:
Anker, From Bauhaus to Ecohouse, 96-112.

Assignments Due:
(1) Using McHarg’s technique of mapping with plastic sheets, make a plan for a climate friendly future for Washington place, New York. (Bring a printout of the map and the sheets to class).
(2) Transfer your plan to visionmaker.nyc.
06) Monday March 6: Green Guardians - Ebenezer Howard to William McDonough

Readings:

Assignments Due:
(1) Before and After Sequence: Draw/collage a comparison of a future smart city street (Washington Place) in graphical section and outline the major changes from existing conditions.

07) Monday March 13: Spring recess! No classes

08) Monday March 20: Final Project Launch Session

09) Monday March 27: Utopias and Dystopia

Readings

Assignments Due:
VISIT: The Skyscraper Museum, 39 Battery Place, NYC. Open WED.- SUN.
Write 200 words that reflect on elements of ecological skyscraper design.

10) Monday April 3: Richard Buckminster Fuller

Readings:


Anker, From Bauhaus to Ecohouse, 68-82.

Assignments Due:
TBA

11) Monday April 10: PROJECT WORKSHOP I – Design Build Session

12) Monday April 17: FINAL PROJECT WORKSHOP II – Design Build Session
13) Monday April 24: FINAL PROJECT WORKSHOP III – Design Build Session

14) Monday May 8: Last day of class!