

CA6164: ARCHITECTURE THESIS STUDIO - PART 1

Effective Term

Semester B 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Architecture Thesis Studio - Part 1

Subject Code

CA - Civil and Architectural Engineering

Course Number

6164

Academic Unit

Architecture and Civil Engineering (CA)

College/School

College of Engineering (EG)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

6

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

CA5203 Research Methods and Thesis Development Seminar in Architecture

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This studio will provide foundational training in methods and techniques for design research, and support for developing an appropriate project scope and structure, as well as in executing the first stage of the project itself. Students are expected to build an argument that coherently relates research to design. This argument should be founded on theory or knowledge, usually grounded in an existing knowledge base. The Project's methodology should be explicit, and display a rigorous and systematic process of investigation and exploration.

The project will incorporate substantial elements of both research and design, developed around a topic of personal interest and in consultation with their dedicated project supervisor. Students will also be supported by a team of supervisors. They will also be expected to work independently, and to demonstrate that they have initiative, project management skills, intellectual maturity as well as a deep understanding of their chosen topic and design.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Conduct a critical literature review, including drawing on relevant theories, and relevant desktop research.	x	x	x
2	Conduct a context analysis of the design site(s).		x	x
3	Select a relevant research question(s) based on their understanding of the research topic and design site.		x	x
4	Apply a methodology to address the research question(s), including selecting and deploying appropriate methods and techniques for design research.		x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Thesis Studio	Students will engage in the studio to develop and create the research objectives, research methodology, data analysis methods, and result presentation	1, 2, 3, 4

Additional Information for LTAs

Semester Hours: 6 hours per week

Lecture/Tutorial/Laboratory Mix: Lecture (0); Tutorial (0); Laboratory (6*)

*Studio

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Thesis project	1, 2, 3, 4	100	-	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

40

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Thesis project (Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

CAPABILITY to IDENTIFY the research problem, knowledge gaps, and ESTABLISH research objectives;

CAPABILITY to APPLY research materials and advanced skills and methods;

CAPABILITY to CREATE ideas to ESTABLISH conceptual framework;

CAPABILITY to ANALYZE, CRITICIZE, and DEVELOP research methodology;

CAPABILITY to PROVE and PRESENT research results.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

(B+, B, B-) Significant

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

(D) Basic

Failure

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Thesis project (Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

CAPABILITY to IDENTIFY the research problem, knowledge gaps, and ESTABLISH research objectives;

CAPABILITY to APPLY research materials and advanced skills and methods;

CAPABILITY to CREATE ideas to ESTABLISH conceptual framework;

CAPABILITY to ANALYZE, CRITICIZE, and DEVELOP research methodology;

CAPABILITY to PROVE and PRESENT research results.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

(B+, B) Significant

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Basic

Failure

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Thesis studio, Thesis writing, Dissertation, Independent research, Architecture, History, Theory, Design, Technology

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Anderson, J and Millicent, P. (2001) Assignment and Thesis Writing, 4th Edition, Wiley.
2	Mauch, J. E. and Birch J. W. (1998) Guide to the Successful Thesis and Dissertation: A handbook for students and faculty, 4th Edition, New York: NY, Dekker
3	Creswell, J. W. (2009). Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches (3rd ed). Thousand Oaks: Sage.
4	Neuman, W. L. (2006). Social research methods: Qualitative and quantitative approaches (6th ed). Boston: Allyn and Bacon
5	Weber, J. A. (2000). Architecture everywhere: Investigating the built environment of your community. Tucson: Zephyr Press.
6	Sommer, R. and Sommer, B. (2002). A practical guide to behavioral research: Tools and techniques (5th ed). New York: Oxford University Press.