

**GD101**  
**Creative Studio**  
**Methods**

Spring  
2021  
Wednesday  
10:00—1:15 pm

Barbara Raidl  
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## Description

Creative Studio Methods is an interdisciplinary foundation level design course. Lab activities are designed to immerse new design students in a range of experiences while introducing methods for approaching creative work. Students will engage themes of research, materials, and systems.

Visual and conceptual artifacts are generated through process and considered through documentation, self reflection, sharing, and group discussion. Short excursions, conversations, screenings, reading, introduce models, contexts, and inspiration for creative and critical design practices and provide students with courage by example.

## Goals

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- > Experience uncertainty.
- > Generate ideas, mistakes, and surprises through prompts, process, and constraints.
- > Identify and describe design decisions, and make and describe design decisions.
- > Discover intrinsic motivations.
- > Engage divergent thinking to push boundaries or initiate creative directions.
- > Adapt or transform creative studio methods to meet needs.

## Prerequisites

NONE

## Course management

[d2l.depaul.edu](http://d2l.depaul.edu)

Detailed assignments, video/reading links, and updates to course materials will be posted online every week.

## Textbook

No required book.

## Culture

As a group, we will engage in uncertainty and unknowns during which time we will remain completely open, refrain from doubt, and cease judgment. Questions, suggestions, and interruptions are always welcome and encouraged. Mistakes and errors are portals to discovery and useful surprises. Awkward is weird and wonderful. Why not?

## Course structure

This course will consist of three concept units, each with its own creative assignment and weekly journaling activities.

## Zoom Activities and Required Supplies

You will always need a sketchbook and a camera/mobile device with camera in class. For some activities, you may be required to bring craft or other materials. Required materials for each lab will be posted on **D2L** before class.

## Attendance

You are expected to show up to class prepared and on time. While the university has policies regarding excused absences (see below), there's no substitute for being present in class. If you miss class, you (and only you) are responsible for the content you miss when you're absent—make friends with someone early if you anticipate being absent later in the

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quarter. Failure to attend will result in a lack of participation, a lesser quality of work, and consequently a reduced grade.

### **Late work**

Work is due at the beginning of class. Late work will not be accepted. However I do accept revisions of work for a potentially improved grade. So please turn in your work on time, even if incomplete, and revise it as necessary after it's due. The importance of these two skills cannot be over-stated.

### **Classroom conduct**

Given the nature of our work, we'll be having discussions and lectures during class. You are expected to participate in these exchanges in a frank and honest yet also respectful manner. Participation in critiques and reviews is not optional. You are expected to both comment on your peers' work as well as offer your work for feedback.

When you're discussing someone else's work, treat them with respect. When someone else is critical of your work, don't take it personally. Our discussions should be challenging while never disregarding the dignity of each one of us.

### **Devices**

The use of personal and portable electronic devices is not allowed during class. These include cell phones, gaming devices, and media players. The use of larger devices such as laptops and tablets is prohibited during lectures and critiques. Improper use of such devices during in class will result in a lowered grade.

### **Grading policies**

Final grades will be based on your projects, homework, as well as class participation.

- > Participation [25%]. Includes contributing to discussions in class; participating in critiques and design reviews; asking your peers for help during lab time, and offering help if you're able. Participation can only happen when you're in class. Failure to be an active member of the class will result in a lower grade.
- > Projects [45%]. Will be evaluated based on craft (how well something is made), process (the path you took while making it), and concept (does it communicate an idea effectively). Take risks. Attempt things that seem beyond your reach. I'd rather you try and fail than not try at all. Working 'outside your comfort zone' is essential to growing as a designer and will have a positive impact on your grade.
- > Journals [30%] In this course, the creative process is just as important—if not more so!—than the product. Each unit, you will keep a journal documenting and reflecting on your work. Add each entry to a single document every week that includes your notes, reflections, sketches, and/or photographs.

### **Grading scale**

A	100–93	B–	82–80	D+	69–68
A–	92–90	C+	79–78	D	67–63
B+	89–88	C	77–73	D–	62–60
B	87–83	C–	72–70	F	59–0

### **Other resources**

Please sign up for the DePaul Graphic Design Mail List: [mailman.depaul.edu/mailman/listinfo/design](mailto:mailman.depaul.edu/mailman/listinfo/design).

And be aware that DePaul has recently acquired an institution-wide license for lynda.com, which is a wonderful resource for all kinds of technical training. You'll need to sign in with your DePaul user and password using the link found at [software.depaul.edu/training](http://software.depaul.edu/training).

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### **Computer labs**

Computer labs are available for your use outside of class. For schedule information, please check here: [www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Labs.aspx](http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Labs.aspx). You'll need to swipe into the rooms with your DePaul ID, so please be sure it's activated.

### **My schedule**

I'll be available on-campus outside of class during the week. I don't have an office, and my office hours are listed on the cdm website and on this syllabus. It's important to realize that I encourage you to make use of my office hours. It's easy to get overwhelmed—don't let this happen to you! Ask for help early, ask for help often. If you're not free during my scheduled office hours, email me and we can probably set up another time.

### **Communication**

I make every effort to reply to email in a timely fashion. If you don't get a reply within 24 hours, email again. You're also welcome to text me if you prefer. However, if you have questions about your work, it's always best to schedule a time to meet *in person* during my office hours.

### **Online Course Evaluations**

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Please see [resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/Pages/online-teaching-evaluations.aspx](http://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/Pages/online-teaching-evaluations.aspx) for additional information.

### **Academic integrity**

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at [academicintegrity.depaul.edu](http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu). If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

### **Academic policies**

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the University Academic Calendar. Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at: [www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx](http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx)

### **Academic integrity and plagiarism**

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at [offices.depaul.edu/oaa/faculty-resources/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx](http://offices.depaul.edu/oaa/faculty-resources/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx).

### **Incomplete Grades**

An incomplete grade is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the term and when otherwise the student had a record of satisfactory progress in the course. All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval.

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Information about the Incomplete Grades policy can be found at [www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx](http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx)

### **Students with Disabilities**

DePaul University is committed to ensuring equal access to its educational and extracurricular opportunities for students with disabilities. The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) offers reasonable academic accommodations and services to support our students. We also serve as a resource to the many university departments that have a responsibility to accommodate students. Please see [offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/csd.aspx](http://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/csd.aspx) for services and contact information.

*This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L and sent via email.*

### **Course Schedule**

- Week 1 – Mar 31 *Project:* Design in your origin country.  
*Discuss:* Brainstorming. Work with your group.  
*Homework:* Journal.
- Week 2 – Apr 7 *Project:* Design in your origin country.  
*Discuss:* Research. Work with your group.  
*Homework:* Journal and take a walk in your neighborhood for photos.
- Week 3 – Apr 14 *Project:* Design in your origin country.  
*Discuss:* Research. Work on presentation. Work with your group.  
*Homework:* Journal and work on presentation.
- Week 4 – Apr 21 *Due:* Presentation for Design in your origin country.  
*Discuss:* Look at and critique projects.  
*Homework:* Journal
- Week 5 – Apr 28 *Project:* Materials.  
*Discuss:* Museum visit.  
*Homework:* Journal and sketches for materials project.
- Week 6 – May 5 *Project:* Materials.  
*Discuss:* Collage and remix.  
*Homework:* Journal and Materials project.
- Week 7 – May 12 *Due:* Materials project.  
*Discuss:* Critique of Materials project.  
*Homework:* Journal.
- Week 8 – May 19 *Project:* Systems.  
*Discuss:* TBD.  
*Homework:* Journal and Systems project.
- Week 9 – May 26 *Project:* Systems.  
*Discuss:* TBD.  
*Homework:* Journal and Systems project.
- Week 10 – June 2 *Project:* Systems.  
*Discuss:* TBD.  
*Homework:* Journal and Systems project.
- Week 11 – June 9 Final presentations for Systems project, 8:20—10:45.