

COGNIZANT DESIGN THEORY

TPA 6930

FALL 2025

CON 219

M – 10:40-12:35

Asynchronous via Canvas

INSTRUCTOR: *Jen Dasher*

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CON 221

OFFICE HOURS: M/T 1:00-3:00 or By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Focusing on the intersection of historical, social, and cultural awareness and design, students will investigate critical social movements in design while examining the impact design choice has on the individual and society. Cognizant Design Theory challenges conventional thinking regarding the nature of design and creativity, empowering meaningful representations of cultures and peoples in theatrical design practice.

COURSE GOALS AND/OR OBJECTIVES:

1. **COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:** After completing this course students will:
 - be able to have critical and nuanced conversations about history and current social issues.
 - understand the intersectionality of design and social environment.
 - be able to critically research both in text and visual evidence.
 - more fully understand their personal voice.

COURSE POLICIES:

EXPECTATIONS:

- This is a hybrid course. One meeting of this course happens asynchronously as does all homework. Each week that content is available through a canvas module. It is expected that you review all module material in advance of class so that material can be utilized in class. Modules may contain between 9-12 hours of content for review. Please manage your time accordingly.

- An important component of this course is in class discussion. Topics may be challenging. In order to handle these critical conversations, we will establish community agreements to follow and engage in a circular discussion structure.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Your success in this course relies on on-time attendance, completion of projects and effective participation in all class periods. No absences will be excused without prior notification unless under emergency circumstances. Absences that will automatically be excused are in alignment with UF policies:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

ASSIGNMENT POLICY : *All assignments will be turned in on canvas. It is expected that these are uploaded in advance of class so that they are accessible to be projected and reviewed during class. No late submissions will be accepted. Instructor is available to work through best practices in managing multiple projects to successful on-time completion.*

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION :

Students are invited to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semesters, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

UF POLICIES:

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

GRADING POLICIES:

METHODS BY WHICH STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED AND THEIR GRADE DETERMINED (REQUIRED): GRADING WILL FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING PEDAGOGY:

- A grade of “C” is average meaning the student has completed all requirements of the assignment satisfactorily. Graduate students receiving a cumulative grade of “C” are automatically placed on academic probation.
- A grade of “B” is good and indicates a level of commitment to the project that goes above the requirements of the assignment between 1-9%.
- A grade of “A” is excellent and indicates a level of commitment to the project that goes above the requirements of the assignment between 10-20%. It is expected that graduate students are striving to meet this expectation consistently through the course of the semester.

Assignment	Points or percentage
Exercise 1: Positionality Statement v. 1	5
Exercise 2: Positionality Statement v. 2	5
Exercise 3: Storytelling Exercise	5
Exercise 4:	5
PARTICIPATION	10
Project 1: This Is Us	20
Project 2: We Didn't Start the Fire	20
Project 3: Building Equitable Futures	30

GRADING SCALE:*A 94-100 % A- 90-93% B+ 87-89%**B 83-86% B- 80-82% C+ 77-79%**C 73-76% C- 70-72% D 68-69%**E 0-67%***COURSE SCHEDULE:****ALL MODULES AND ASSIGNMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON CANVAS.**

Date / Mode	Asynchronous Content	In Class Content	Homework/ Exercises Due
Aug. 18 – In Person (IP)	In Person 1	Introduction to Course	
Aug. 20 – Asynchronous (A)	Positionality Module		
Aug. 25 - IP		Forces Within	Positionality Statement V. 1
Aug. 27 - A	Storytelling and Humanism Module		
Sept. 3 - A	Storytelling and Humanism Module		
Sept. 8 -IP		Defining Humanism in Design	Storytelling Exercises
Sept. 10 - A	Quick History of American Culture Module	Modern American Culture: WDSTF	
Sept. 15 - IP		We Didn't Start The Fire	
Sept. 16 - A	Dehumanization		
Sept. 22 - IP		External Forces	
Sept. 24 – A	Dehumanization in Design		

Sept. 29 - IP		This Is Us In Class Show and Tell	
Oct. 1 - A	Foundations: Puritanism		
Oct. 6 - IP		Internalized Forces	
Oct. 8 - A	American Culture 1		
Oct. 13 - IP		WDSTF Presentations	
Oct. 15 - A	American Culture 2		
Oct. 20 - IP		WDSTF Presentations	
Oct. 22 - A	2020: Disruption		
Oct. 27 - IP		Where Are We Now?	
Oct. 29 - A	Equity, Inclusion, Access and Design		
Nov. 3 - IP		Building Equitable Futures	
Nov. 5 - A			
Nov. 10 - IP		Building Equitable Futures	Positionality Statement v. 2
Nov. 12 - A			
Nov. 17 - IP		Building Equitable Futures	
Nov. 19 - A			
Dec. 1 - IP		Show & Tell	

Disclaimer: This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.