LMC 6650: PROJECT STUDIO: SPECULATIVE CIVICS

Course Instructor: Carl DiSalvo
Office: 317-C TRSB
Contact: carl.disalvo@lmc.gatech.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Times
Seminar: Mondays 1:30-3:30pm
Open Studio: Mondays 3:30-4:30pm

Course Location: Public Design Workshop, 317-C TSRB

Project Studio Description
This project studio takes a speculative design approach to civics. By civics, I mean all aspects of public life, including government, communities, and economies. Over the course of the semester we will use design methods to explore what life in these civics might be like. Drawing from readings and research, students will develop design concepts and prototypes that explore various forms of the civic.

This course should be of value to graduate students interested in design research, social design, social innovation, speculative design, and design and government.

This project studio combines design research and practice. Activities will include reading across the disciplines of design, human-computer interaction, and science and technology studies; the analysis of existing products and services; and the design and production of digital media products and services.

The course is open to MS and PhD students in all majors.

Course Objectives
After taking this course you should have developed skills that will enable you to:
• Contribute to the development of new genres and forms of digital media
• Appreciate and evaluate future trends in the development of digital media

In addition, you should have a portfolio worthy project that demonstrate your skills in design research and interaction design.

Attendance & Participation
Class attendance and participation is mandatory. Participation in class discussion is imperative because it allows you to explore the readings, projects, and themes collaboratively, and in the process, discover meanings and issues that you probably would not discover on your own.

Participation in class also challenges you to continuously question, refine, and articulate your own ideas and interpretations.

In addition, much of this class is based in critiques, which require full participation and cannot be replicated outside of class. Extensive teaching and learning occur through critiques: it is through critiques that you will develop your skills for both making and discussion of the made.
Grading
If you complete all of the requirements for the assignment reasonably well, you should expect to earn a B. In order to earn an A, you must complete and go “above and beyond” all of the requirements and your work must be exceptional across multiple grading factors.

Unexcused absence from three classes will result in the loss of 1-letter grade for the course. 
Unexcused tardiness for four classes will result in the loss of 1-letter grade for the course.

Assignments and Their Value
Design Workbooks  100 points
Critiques  100 points
Concept Presentation  100 points
Final Presentation  100 points
Project Materials  100 points

COURSE OUTLINE

AUG 18   INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

AUG 25   SPECUALTIVE DEIGN AND SPECUALTIVE CIVICS – Part 1


Examples
A New Scottish Enlightenment, Jaffarali
http://mohammedjaffarali.com/A-New-Scottish-Enlightenment

SEP 01  LABOR DAY – NO CLASS
SEP 08  SPECULATIVE DESIGN AND SPECULATIVE CIVICS – Part 2

Situated Technologies (choose 1)

Examples
Deliirious New York, Koolhaas

Design Notebook: Six (6) concepts for Atlanta

Sep 15  CIVICS UNDER STRESS


Ambinder, Eric, and David Jennings. (2013). The Resilient Social Network @Occupy Sandy #SuperstormSandy. Falls Church, VA: The Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute. (Public Report)

Examples
The Warriors or Escape from New York or Black Hawk Down or…
Occupy Sandy Wayfinding https://occupywayfinding.crowdmap.com/page/index/1

Design Notebook: Three (3) concepts for Atlanta

Sep 22  CIVICS AS UTOPIA


Examples

The Whole Earth Catalog

**Design Notebook**: Three (3) concepts for Atlanta

**SEP 29**

CIVICS AS PLAY


Examples

World Without Oil, [http://worldwithoutoil.org](http://worldwithoutoil.org)

**Design Notebook**: Three (3) concepts for Atlanta

**OCT 06**

DATA AS CIVICS


Examples

Sensible Cities, [http://senseable.mit.edu](http://senseable.mit.edu)
Sunlight Foundation [http://sunlightfoundation.com](http://sunlightfoundation.com)

**Design Notebook**: Three (3) concepts for Atlanta

*Open studio from 3:30-4:30pm required for concept brainstorm*

**OCT 13**

FALL RECESS – NO CLASS
OCT 20  CONCEPT PRESENTATIONS

OCT 27  IN STUDIO WORKSHOP: RESEARCH METHODS FOR SPECLATIVE DESIGN

OCT 03  CRITIQUE

NOV 10  IN STUDIO WORKSHOP: DOCUMENTATION FOR SPECLATIVE DESIGN

NOV 17  CRITIQUE

NOV 24  CRITIQUE

DEC 1   FINAL IN-STUDIO PRESENTATIONS