

Level II Design Studies Courses from 2009

Semester I

Subject/Catalogue No.	Title	Units
DESST 2500	Technology in Design	6
	<i>+ 2 elective courses from below offered by the School or 2nd year electives from other School</i>	
DESST 2513	Colonial and Contemporary Issues in South Asian Architecture	3
DESST 2504	Art History and Theories IIA	3
DESST 2507	Special Topic in Design Studies IIA: Design with Plants	3
DESST 2508	Special Topic in Design Studies IIB: B-side	3
DESST 2509	Special Topic in Design Studies IIC: Digital Media for Design Studies (3D Modelling)	3
DESST 2510	Special Topic in Design Studies IID: Environmental Performance of Design	3

Semester II

Subject/Catalogue No.	Title	Units
DESST 2501	Design Studio	6
DESST 2502	Architecture Histories and Theories	3
DESST 2503	Landscape Architecture Histories and Theories	3
DESST 2505	Art History and Theories IIB	3
DESST 2506	Digital Media II	6

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Level II - Semester 1

DESST 2500 Technology in Design - 6 units, CORE

Rebecca Francis, Coordinator

This course explores the environmental and technological aspects of design of the built environments. Key topics include climate; thermal performance; thermal comfort; natural light; noise control; building structures; construction materials, techniques and processes; and the interrelationships between plants, hard landscape and domestic scale building construction.

The course also introduces students to related Standards, Codes and Regulations on design. The projects encourage innovative and investigative designs that integrate environmental, human and technical issues, with the use of different manual and digital techniques to express design as well as to apply the conventions of technical documentation.

ELECTIVE COURSES

DESST 2513 Colonial and Contemporary Issues in South Asian Architecture II - 3 units

Dr Peter Scriver, Coordinator

This course explores historical and theoretical issues arising from the colonial encounter of Europe and Asia, and their implications for contemporary architectural thought and practice. Lectures will focus on the historical case of India since the early 19th century. Through a critical interpretation of British colonial efforts to 'construct' a modern Indian architecture and the subsequent efforts of post-colonial architects and theorists to 'deconstruct' that spatial and conceptual legacy, the course will consider the discursive nature of architectural knowledge and the built environments it may prescribe, with particular regard to power and the politics of cultural identity. The colonial case study will also draw attention to problems in intercultural understanding, and the relation of architecture to myths, rituals and cosmologies.

DESST 2504 Art History and Theories IIA- 3 units

Dr Rosemary Brooks, Coordinator

Impressionism and after: a critical view of European art from the time of Manet to the First World War. This course introduces students to the most influential ideas and theories in the art of the latter part of the 19th century, a time of renegotiation of the relationship between artists and the social context within which they work. Included in the study are the major artists and ideas contributing to the development of impressionism, post-impressionism, symbolism, fauvism, cubism, futurism, constructivism, posters and political art. The course aims to stimulate an awareness, that familiarity with the history of ideas can aid each person in the expansion, structuring and enrichment of his or her own life. Development of the following skills will be brought into focus: clear-thinking, verbal communication, written communication, interpretation of written and visual material, and ability to work with historical research methods.

Note: Not available for students who have taken and passed Art History and Theories IA.

DESST 2507 Special Topic IIA: Design with Plants - 3 units

Dr Heike Rahmann, Coordinator

In this course, students will explore the vast spectrum of possibilities to use plants in design projects. Plants have over centuries been regarded as the inherent element in landscape architectural work. However, with the development of the profession moving away from garden design to creating urban settings that fulfill our contemporary consumer oriented demands, less attention is devoted to the complexity of planting design. In fact, plants are one of the most challenging materials in design. As living beings they change over seasons, they grow and die. The dimension of time therefore plays a significant role in design concepts and objectives.

This course approaches plants from a design perspective, which incorporates both the arts and the science. We will examine the composition of space with plants, their forms, structures and textures, the specifics of plant selection, installation and maintenance. Through the analysis of precedents, we will investigate the aesthetics of planting design and develop an understanding of historic and contemporary fashion trends. As most recently, debates on the way we think about cities emphasize the importance of greenery in our built environment, a specific focus in this course lies in the exploration of possibilities for planting design in contemporary architectural and urban contexts, e.g. of roof gardens, green walls.

Finally, students will combine their analysis skills with their theoretical knowledge of horticultural, functional, and ecological aspects. In individual design projects, we will develop design solutions for site-specific conditions and learn to apply appropriate representation techniques for designs with plants.

DESST 2508 Special Topic in Design Studies IIB: B-side - 3 units

Felicity Sando, Coordinator

This topic will explore strategies for activating 'forgotten' urban spaces. A series of lectures, together with in-studio workshop tutorials provide a framework for a detailed independent design investigation. Coursework will be built around developing and designing an installation proposal. Design will be informed through research, analysis of physical and theoretical precedents and contextual analysis and will include both individual and group components.

Note: not available to students who completed this topic previously

DESST 2509 Special Topic IIC: Digital Media for Design Studies (3D Modelling) - 3 units

Urs Bette, Coordinator

This course will develop advanced knowledge and skills in the use of digital media for communication and design, as well as for design exploration using 3D modeling software packages such as 3D Studio Max and/or Rhino. The tutorials of this course will be conducted in the CAD Lab.

DESST 2510 Special Topic IID: Environmental Performance of Design - 3 units

Assoc. Prof. Terry Williamson and Assoc Prof. Veronica Soebarto, Coordinators

This course is about exploring design from the point of view of environmental performance assessment. It will help students understand that the environmental performance of a building can be predicted during the design process and assessed after the building has been built and operated. Assessing and rating the environmental performance of a proposed or existing building is increasingly being demanded by Governments and clients.

The nature and background of this environmental assessment will be critically examined. This course will also provide students with some knowledge and skills that will be needed in the everyday practice of design. The topics covered will include:

- understanding the issues of design performance assessment
- assessing some aspects of performance in a proposed/existing building.
- using simulation to predict the performance of design
- using energy and environmental rating tools to comply with building codes & regulations (ie BCA)

The course will include site visits to "sustainable" housing development and a commercial building, with projects involving environmental assessments of existing buildings and designing a "sustainable" building.

Level II- Semester 2

DESST 2501 Design Studio - 6 units, CORE

Dr Peter Scriver, Coordinator

This studio course explores contemporary design forms and theories and their origins in the form-making techniques and the design movements, theories, and critiques of the modern era and recent past. Coursework will comprise a series of individual and group studio projects, emphasising experimentation in both abstract and realistic design exercises. These will include multiple shorter exercises and incremental submissions entailing intensive in-studio workshops. Students will work

in a variety of 2 and 3 dimensional media, further developing skills in presenting design work with manual/hand and digital drawing and physical modelling. This will explore conventions and innovations in architectural and landscape architectural representation.

DESST 2502 Architecture Histories and Theories - 3 units, CORE

Dr Peter Scriver, Coordinator

This course explores the histories and theories of architecture in the Modern era. Formal and theoretical developments since the mid 19th century are placed in a coherent historical framework through which further spatial, social and cultural dimensions of architectural discourse may be better understood. From a global perspective, lectures and readings address the larger story of how Modern (European) ideas and forms came to dominate architectural thinking worldwide by the mid 20th century, and how these have continued to evolve in the light of more recent post-colonial and postmodern critiques and theories that have shaped the globalised world of contemporary architectural design. Through these critical perspectives, the course also addresses issues of cultural and social difference in the modern world, and how these are reflected and responded to in the development of designed environments. The course is lecture and tutorial based. Assessable coursework consists of short written essays, in-class quizzes, and more interactive forms of group work which may include formal debates, seminar presentations and compulsory participation in on-line discussion boards.

DESST 2503 Landscape Architecture Histories and Theories - 3 units, CORE

Dr Katharine Bartsch, Coordinator

This course examines the theories and histories of landscape architecture. It focuses on key landscape movements and important designers, theorists and garden makers from the sixteenth century until the present day, including an appreciation of the Australian context. Given the dynamic history of landscape architecture, special emphasis is placed on the transmission of ideas, the diffusion of technologies or the mobility of individuals as a means to understand efforts to shape diverse landscapes. Through a process of accumulative assessment, research and critical analysis of iconic precedents and innovative contemporary practice will be cultivated as a solid basis for students' future design work.

ELECTIVE COURSES

DESST 2505 Art History and Theories IIB – 3 units

Dr Rosemary Brooks, Coordinator

Art history and theories after World War I: modernism and beyond. The course introduces students to some of the leading ideas and manifestations of visual art from about 1920 to the present day. The term 'visual art' is broadly understood to include film, graphics, photography, posters, performance and the arts of process and idea, as well as painting, sculpture and architecture (although architecture is chiefly dealt with in other courses). Expressionism, dada, surrealism, modernism, abstract expressionism, op, pop and minimalism, art and technology, environments, happenings, performance, body art, conceptual art, process art, video, women's art, murals and photorealism are studied. Guest lecturers and excursions are incorporated in the course where appropriate. Use is made of a broad range of visual material.

DESST 2506 Digital Media II – 6 units

Andrew Osborne, Coordinator

This course develops knowledge and skills in the use of digital media for communication and design in the visual arts. The specific forms of communication and design are those of digital visualization and presentation. The course augments knowledge and skills developed in prior areas such as of design, architecture, landscape architecture and computer graphics. It focuses on graphic design skills, both 2D and 3D, print and digital media production, visualization and animation