

San José State University
School/Department
ANTH 132 (28152)/GEOG 132 (28927)/URBP 132 (28926)

Creating Built Worlds, Spring 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Chuck Darrah
Office Location:	Clark Hall 463
Telephone:	408 924-5314
Email:	chuck.darrah@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	1030-1130 & 1330-1430 MW
Class Days/Time:	MW 1500-1615
Classroom:	Clark Hall 204

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Some course materials will be distributed in class sessions and others will be sent to students via the email address which appears in the course roster. This course makes no use of the Canvas learning management system and you are responsible for all assignments and changes to them. You should plan to attend class, talk with other students in the class, and regularly check your email for information about the class.

Course Description

Cross-cultural exploration of material expressions of culture. Analysis of production and consumption of places, shelters, and goods. Implications for design and policy. Prerequisites: upper division standing

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Students who satisfactorily complete this course will:

1. Be knowledgeable about the diversity of built environments and material artifacts, and the way they are patterned and can understood. This outcome will be accomplished through course readings and lectures, and demonstrated in essay examinations.
2. Be able to analyze the relationships of artifacts and the built environment to social organization and ideology. This learning outcome will be accomplished through lectures and readings during the entire semester, midterm examination essays, classroom exercises, and the final exam project.
3. Be able to analyze aesthetic, functional, adaptive and policy implications of artifacts and the built environment using different theoretical perspectives. This outcome will be accomplished through midterm essays, the final exam project, and an individual term project completed by each student.
4. Be able to create alternative scenarios for artifacts and built environments. This outcome will be accomplished by completion of a final exam design scenario project.

Required Texts/Readings

Adam Drazin & Susanne Küchler (2015). *The Social Life of Materials* (ISBN 9781472592644)

Penny Harvey & Hannah Knox (2015). *Roads: An Anthropology of Infrastructure and Expertise* (9780801479649)

Ezio Manzini (2015). *Design, When Everybody Design* (9780262028608)

Daniel Miller (1998). *Material Cultures* (ISBN 9780226526010)

Charles Montgomery (2013). *Happy City* (ISBN 9780374534882)

Anthropology Library Liaison

Our library liaison is Silke Higgins (silke.higgins@sjsu.edu), a graduate of our undergraduate program in anthropology who knows our discipline and department very well.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

[University Policy S06-4](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf>) states that “There shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at the scheduled time in every course, unless the course is on the official List of Courses in which a final is optional.”

1. Midterm Examination #1 (25%). Take-home essay examination on lectures and readings.
2. Midterm Examination #2 (25%). Take-home essay examination on lectures and readings.
3. Term Report (25%). You will prepare a 10-20 page report (double space/11/12 pt font) on a topic of your choice relevant to the study of material culture. The report may be based on library research (i.e. fully referenced and using American Anthropological Association style (http://www.aaanet.org/pubs/style_guide.htm)) and/or ethnographic fieldwork (participant observation, observation, interview).
4. Participation (10%). Part of participation is being in class and generally contributing to discussions, but in addition there will be several classroom exercises that complement readings, lectures and discussions. These cannot be made up
5. Final Project Scenario (15%). After reading Manzini’s *Design, When Everybody Designs*, you will work in small teams to prepare a scenario for modifying or changing the built world in some way. Class time will be used to work on the project and get feedback from other teams and the instructor. Each team will present the results of their exploration using some combination of words and images during the final examination period. A single, massive report is not required; a template for a 1-2 page summary will be provided. The emphasis is on what you learned and how you learned it.

[University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Grading Policy

Course grades will be assigned as follows:

A+ = 98-100%

A = 94-97%

- A- = 90-93%
- B+ = 88-89%
- B = 84-87%
- B- = 80-83%
- C+ = 78-79%
- C = 74-77%
- C- = 70-73%
- D+ = 68-69%
- D = 64-67%
- D- = 60-63%
- F = lower than 60%

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details. The instructor will return materials submitted for grade within 10 days. I am happy to discuss student grades during office hours, but I will not do so by phone or email or in class.

Classroom Protocol

Electronics. Unless a student has explicit, written permission from the Accessible Learning Center, electronic devices such as laptops, tablets, and smart phones should be turned off and are not allowed out in class; you may audio record class lectures. Research has shown that (1) glowing screens distract other students in class and (2) learning is enhanced by taking manual notes that are rewritten later using with pen and paper or word processor.

Presence and Presenting. Roll will be taken rarely and only so I can learn names. If you wish to drop the course it is your responsibility to do so. If you vanish during the semester your name will appear on the final grade roster and you will receive a WU grade, which is equivalent to an F. Incompletes are only granted if I have been notified in advance and approved the request. Attendance *per se* is not graded, but I doubt you will get much out of the course, including a passing grade, if you are frequently absent. You are also expected to be present in the sense of paying attention and treating fellow students and the instructor with respect and civility.

Late Papers, Missed Exams. All assignments must be completed during the designated period. You may be allowed to make up an exam only if (1) you contact me immediately by phone or email and (2) you can provide a compelling *and documented* excuse for your absence (e.g. family emergency, sickness, injury, etc. Please remember that it is unfair to both your classmates and the instructor to request exceptions to the official examination dates or paper deadline.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>”

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This schedule is subject to change with fair notice and such changes will be communicated to you by the instructor in class and via email. You are responsible for any such changes.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	January 30	Course introduction & basic concepts
1	February 1	Living in the World: Sense & Bodies What to read? Miller Ch. 1 and Manzini Chs. 1-3

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
2	February 6	Living in the World: Sense & Bodies What to read? Drazin & Kuchler Ch. 1 and Harvey & Knox Introduction
2	February 8	Positioning Ourselves: Proxemics What to read? Montgomery Chs. 1 and 2; and Drazin & Kuchler Chs. 2-5
3	February 13	Material Culture: Form What to read? Drazin & Kuchler Chs. 6-8
3	February 15	Things Change: Evolution of Technology What to read? Harvey & Knox Chs. 1 and 2
4	February 20	Things Change: Evolution of Technology Montgomery Chs. 3-5
4	February 22	Things Mean: What Things Can Tell Us About Us
5	February 27	Things Mean: Built Environments and Symbols TERM PAPER TOPICS DUE MIDTERM #1 DISTRIBUTED
5	March 1	Place
6	March 6	People in their places MIDTERM #1 DUE
6	March 8	Dwelling What to read? Miller Chs. 2-4
7	March 13	Dwelling What to read? Montgomery Chs. 6-9
7	March 15	Kitchens & Housework What to read? Miller 5-8
8	March 20	Making Harvey & Knox Chs. 3-5
8	March 22	Making What to read? Harvey & Knox Chs. 6 and 7
9	March 27	SPRING BREAK
9	March 29	SPRING BREAK
10	April 3	Living With Stuff What to read? Miller Chs. 9 and 10; and Drazin & Kuchler Chs. 9 and 10
10	April 5	Ridding MIDTERM #2 DISTRIBUTED What to read? Manzini Chs. 4 and 5
11	April 10	Making What to read? Manzini Chs. 4-10
11	April 12	Making MIDTERM #2 DUE
12	April 17	Designing as a Basic Human Capability Montgomery Chs. 10-13
12	April 19	Designing, Well,.... Everything!

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	April 24	Group Projects TERM REPORT DUE
13	April 26	People, Environments, and Intelligence
14	May 1	People, Environments, and Intelligence
14	May 3	Workshops
15	May 8	Workshops
15	May 10	Non-Places, Flows, & Mobilities
16	May 15	Workshops
Final Exam	May 24 1215-1430	FINAL EXAM: 1215-1430 PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS DUE