

**San José State University  
College of Social Sciences**

**Departments of Anthropology, Geography, & Urban & Regional Planning  
ANTH 132 (27059)/GEOG 132 (29177)/URBP 132 (29176) Creating Built Worlds,  
Spring 2020**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Chuck Darrah
Office Location:	Clark Hall 463
Telephone:	(408) 924-5314
Email:	chuck.darrah@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	MW 0900-1000 & 1330-1400 and by arrangement
Class Days/Time:	MW 1200-1315
Classroom:	Washington Square 004
Prerequisites:	Upper division standing

**Course Format**

**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.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete this course will:

1. Be knowledgeable about the diversity of built environments and material artifacts, and the way they are patterned and can be 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**

Edgerton, David (2007). *The Shock of the Old: Technology and Global History Since 1900*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Murphy, Keith (2015). *Swedish Design: An Ethnography*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University

Zeisel, John (2006). *Inquiry by Design*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: W. W. Norton Publishers.

### **Other Readings**

Douny, Laurence (2015). "Wild Silk Indigo Wrappers of Dogon of Mali: An Ethnography of Materials Efficacy and Design". Chapter 6 (pp. 101-118) In Drazin, Adam and Kuchler, Susanne. *The Social Life of Materials: Studies in Material and Society*. New York: Bloomsbury Press.

Manzini, Ezio (2015). *Design, When Everybody Designs*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. (pp. 121-202)

Pellegram, Andrea (1998). "The Message in Paper". Chapter 5 (pp. 103-120) Miller, Daniel. *Material Cultures: Why Some Things Matter*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Tacchi, Jo (1998). "Radio Texture: Between Self and Others". Chapter 2 (pp. 25-46) in Miller, Daniel. *Material Cultures: Why Some Things Matter*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Wah, Chan Chow (2015). "The Peony and the Rose: Social change and Fragrance Marketing in China's Bath Market". Chapter 13 (pp. 227-244) in Drazin, Adam and Kuchler, Susanne. *The Social Life of Materials: Studies in Material and Society*. New York: Bloomsbury Press.

### **Library Liaison**

Silke Higgins is our department's library liaison and she can be contacted at [silke.higgins@jsu.edu](mailto:silke.higgins@jsu.edu). She is a graduate of our program and knows the department very well.

### **Course Requirements and Assignments (Required)**

Course grades will be based on the following assignments that must be submitted as per the course schedule deadlines. The weighting of assignments follows in parentheses.

1. Conduct a participant observation or structured observation on campus as per the guidelines that will be provided (20%).

2. Analyze the results of the observation using a protocol that will be provided. The analysis must also include two specified “deliverables” that facilitate presentation of the analysis (15%).
3. A proposal for a design intervention into the social-environmental setting that has been observed and analyzed that takes the form of a modification to the setting or a “new” artifact that can be incorporated into it (15%).
4. Participate fully in a “Making Things Happen” workshop based on the Manzini reading and contribute to the group’s report about the discussion (20%).
5. Submit an essay midterm that you will have a week to prepare (15%).
6. Submit an essay final exam that you will have a week + to prepare (15%).

“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 three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

### **Final Examination or Evaluation**

The final exam is take-home and you will have the questions over a week in advance. It must be submitted by the ending time of the final exam period.

### **Grading Information**

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. You will receive detailed feedback on all assignments submitted and you are invited to discuss with the instructor any questions you have about your grade and how we can work together so you learn the most in the class. Along with the feedback you will receive a numerical score on any assignments submitted for grade that corresponds to the following assignment of letter grades. The instructor will assign plus and minus course grades at the end of semester.

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 other assignment deadlines.

### **Determination of Grades**

Course grades will be assigned as follows:

A plus = 98-100%

A = 94-97%

A minus = 90-93%

B plus = 88-89%

B = 84-87%

B minus = 80-83%

C plus = 78-79%

C = 74-77%

C minus = 70-73%

D plus = 68-69%

D = 64-67%

D minus = 60-63%

F = lower than 60%

### **Classroom Protocol**

Electronics. Cell phones must be turned off during class and inaccessible to students. Laptops may be used for notetaking but remember that 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 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 assignment 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 posted deadlines.

### **University Policies (Required)**

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is 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/>.

**Make sure to visit this page, review and be familiar with these university policies and resources.**

# ANTH/GEOG/URBP 132 Creating Built Worlds, Spring 2020

## Course Schedule

Week (Optional)	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines (If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)
1	1/27	Course Overview
1	1/29	An Anthropological Approach Reading: Murphy Ch. 1
2	2/3	Introduction to Built Worlds: Components & Processes Reading: Zeisel Ch. 1
2	2/5	Introduction to Built Worlds: Components & Processes Reading Zeisel Ch. 2 OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED
3	2/10	Thinking About Looking: Promises & Pitfalls of Usability Zeisel: Chs. 3 & 4
3	2/12	Thinking About Looking: An Ethnographic Approach and its Implications Zeisel Chs. 5 & 6
4	2/17	Getting Started: Observing Reading: Zeisel Ch. 8, 9, & 13
4	2/19	Getting Started: Recording & Analysis
5	2/24	Interpreting the Analysis: Usability Deliverables OBSERVATION ANALYSIS ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED
5	2/26	Being a Researcher: Projects, Organizations, and Observer Luggage
6	3/2	Back to the Built World: Artifacts, Products, (Non-)Places, Systems, Infrastructures, etc. Reading: Edgerton Chs. 1-3
6	3/4	Back to the Built World: The Nature & Amounts of Materials Reading: Douny & Wah OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENT DUE
7	3/9	Information & Meaning: Patterns/Structures Reading: Edgerton Chs. 4-5
7	3/11	Information & Meaning: Agency & Smartness Reading: Edgerton Chs. 6 & 7
8	3/16	Creating & Constructing: Technological Evolution OBSERVATION ANALYSIS DUE MIDTERM EXAM DISTRIBUTED
8	3/18	Creating & Constructing: Innovation & Users Reading: Edgerton Ch. 8
9	3/23	Processing: Ideas to End of Life MIDTERM EXAM DUE
9	3/25	Processing: Hand Crafting to Systems & Projects

<b>Week (Optional)</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines (If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</b>
10	3/30	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK
10	4/1	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK
11	4/6	People & the Worlds they Build Reading: Pellegram & Tacchi DESIGN INTERVENTION ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED
11	4/8	Built Worlds & the People they Create Reading: Murphy Ch. 2
12	4/13	<i>Homo faber: A Designing Species</i> Reading: Murphy Ch. 3
12	4/15	Designing & Making as Ambiguous Systems Reading: Murphy Ch. 4
13	4/20	Senses, Proxemics, and Materializing Readings: Murphy Ch. 5 and Zeisel Chs. 7 & 14
13	4/22	Senses, Proxemics, and Materializing Reading: Manzini Chs. 6-8
14	4/27	Design & Power: Designing For, Designing With Reading: Manzini Chs. 9-10 DESIGN INTERVENTION ASSIGNMENT DUE "MAKING THINGS HAPPEN" WORKSHOP GUIDE DISTRIBUTED
14	4/29	"Making Things Happen" Workshop
15	5/4	"Making Things Happen" Workshop
15	5/6	Design Intervention Presentations
16	5/11	Design Intervention Presentations "MAKING THINGS HAPPEN" WORKSHOP SUMMARY & REFLECTIONS DUE
Final Exam	5/19	Washington Square Hall 004 0945-1200 FINAL EXAM DUE BY 1200