



Course Information	<p><b>Design and Social Environment</b></p> <p>Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00pm – 5:00pm in ART 1.202</p> <p>Course website: <a href="https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1255084">https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1255084</a></p>
Instructor	<p>Sam Lavigne, Assistant Professor, Department of Design</p> <p><a href="mailto:samlavigne@utexas.edu">samlavigne@utexas.edu</a></p> <p>Office hours: Thursdays 1pm – 2pm or by appointment in ART 1.205</p>
Catalog Description	<p>Studio course. Involves researching a contemporary social issue; define an area of opportunity; and design graphics, objects, services, and/or systems that respond ethically to the issue.</p>
Course Overview	<p>Nothing happens in a vacuum. This course approaches design as a political and social practice - as a toolkit for publicly questioning, critiquing and generating new ways of thinking about the most pressing issues of our day. Through a series of research-driven projects, students will explore the possibilities and the limitations of art and design in addressing complex political and social realities. Themes may include: race, colonization, labor, surveillance and data-driven systems, incarceration, immigration, climate, conspiracy, health, equality, and other topics of interest to the class. The course will introduce students to different formal models of socially engaged practice, such as work that makes invisible systems legible, translates complex issues to new audiences, and that puts theory and critique into practice.</p>
Objectives	<p>Students will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Gain experience researching current social and political issues</li><li>2) Articulate a point of view through embodied experiences and critiques</li><li>3) Engage a public around complex issues</li><li>4) Collaborate</li></ol>
Course materials	<p>All required readings will be posted to Canvas.</p>
UT Electronic Mail Notification Policy	<p>Electronic mail (e-mail) is a mechanism for official University and instructor communication to students. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University- and course-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of every student to keep the University and instructor informed of changes in his or her official e-mail address (do so at <a href="https://utdirect.utexas.edu/utdirect/bio/address_change.WBX">https://utdirect.utexas.edu/utdirect/bio/address_change.WBX</a>). Consequently, e-mail returned to the University with "User Unknown" is not an acceptable excuse for missed communication. Similarly, undeliverable messages returned because of a full inbox or use of a spam filter will be considered delivered without further action required of the University or instructor. (see <a href="http://www.utexas.edu/cio/policies/university-electronic-mail-student-notification-policy">http://www.utexas.edu/cio/policies/university-electronic-mail-student-notification-policy</a>)</p>
Attendance	<p>You are allowed three absences for illness or personal reasons; however, you will likely miss points for in-class assignments or activities as a result, and these generally cannot be made up. However, if a serious medical or personal crisis (hospitalization, death in the family, etc.) impacts your attendance, please inform me as soon as possible. In addition, see the exception below for religious holy days.</p> <p>Arriving more than ten minutes late at the beginning of class or after a break, leaving class without permission, and leaving class prior to dismissal for the day all count as being tardy. Three tardies equals an absence. Four absences will lower your course grade by one letter grade. Additional absences may result in failure of the course.</p>
Religious Holidays	<p>Section 51.911 of the Texas Education Code states that a student shall be excused from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the</p>

student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy requires students to notify each of their instructors at least fourteen days prior to the date they will be absent from scheduled classes to observe a religious holy day.  
(from [http://www.utexas.edu/provost/policies/religious\\_holidays/1555\\_001.pdf](http://www.utexas.edu/provost/policies/religious_holidays/1555_001.pdf))

#### Classroom Etiquette

Please observe the following rules during class as a courtesy to fellow students and the instructor.

- 1) *Be on time at the beginning of class and after each break.* If you must come in late at the beginning of class, please enter the room and seat yourself as quietly and unobtrusively as possible. And please don't hold up the entire class by failing to return promptly at the end of an announced break, since often the second part of the class period is when we will engage in group activities.
- 2) *Turn off your cell phone's notification sounds upon entering the classroom.* If you forget to do so, and your phone rings, chirps, or vibrates loudly during class, turn it off immediately and discreetly. I reserve the right to penalize repeat offenders by subtracting points from their day's assignment.
- 3) *Don't distract other students.* Everyone benefits from a classroom free of distracting sights, sounds, and smells. If you would like to update your Facebook page, talk to your friends, listen to loud music, polish your nails, doodle with Sharpies, etc., please do so outside the classroom during breaks.
- 4) *Consider bringing earphones and/or earplugs to class for work sessions.* If you like to listen to music while you work, you are welcome to do so, so long as no one else can hear it. And if you are easily distracted by noise/conversation, please bring earplugs to wear so that the conversation from desk critiques will not bother you.

Exams	There are no exams in this class.
Grading	<p>There will be 4 projects and one final project in the class. In addition, students will be asked to lead readings ("reading leadings"), and present brief reports on other practitioners ("critical reports"). More information about these assignments will be posted to the class website.</p> <p>Reading leading: 10%  Critical reports: 10%  Project 1: 15%  Project 2: 15%  Project 3: 15%  Project 4: 15%  Final Project: 20%</p> <p>A 90 and up  B 80 to 89  C 70 to 79  D 60 to 69  F below 60</p>
Academic Integrity	<p>The University's Honor Code states that "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity." You are expected to maintain absolute integrity and a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work undertaken at the University. At a minimum, you should complete any assignments, exams, and other scholastic endeavors with the utmost honesty, which requires you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• acknowledge the contributions of other sources to your scholastic efforts;</li> <li>• complete your assignments independently unless expressly authorized to seek or obtain assistance in preparing them;</li> <li>• follow instructions for assignments and exams, and observe the standards of your academic discipline; and</li> <li>• avoid engaging in any form of academic dishonesty on behalf of yourself or another student.</li> </ul>
Academic Dishonesty	<p>In promoting a high standard of academic integrity, the University broadly defines academic dishonesty as including <i>any act designed to give an unfair or undeserved academic advantage</i>, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheating</li> <li>• Plagiarism</li> <li>• Unauthorized Collaboration / Collusion</li> <li>• Falsifying Academic Records</li> <li>• Misrepresenting Facts (e.g., providing false information to postpone an exam, obtain an extended deadline for an assignment, or even gain an unearned financial benefit)</li> <li>• Multiple submissions (submitting essentially the same written assignment for two courses without authorization to do so)</li> <li>• Any other acts (or attempted acts) that violate the basic standard of academic integrity</li> </ul> <p>Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University.</p>
Plagiarism	<p>"Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation of, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one's own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course requirement (from Sec. 11-402, <a href="http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/student-discipline-and-conduct/">http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/student-discipline-and-conduct/</a>).</p>
Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)	<p>The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities (512-471-6259, <a href="mailto:ssd@austin.utexas.edu">ssd@austin.utexas.edu</a>, <a href="http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/">http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/</a>, or videophone 512-471-</p>

6644). Please provide documentation of your needs during the first week of class, if possible, so that I can make the necessary accommodations promptly.

Overview of  
Schedule

This schedule is subject to change. Please be aware that on occasion the order and timing of the course schedule may need to be altered to accommodate UT closures, instructor illness, student needs/interests, and design program workshop opportunities and lectures. Any significant alterations to the schedule will be announced via Canvas.

**TUESDAY/THURSDAY class meeting dates, Fall 2019**

Tue 08/27 – No class

Thu 08/29 – Introductions / **Project 1 brief: The Modification**

Tue 09/03 – Reading discussion / Critical report / Project pitches

Thu 09/05 – **Project 1 due** / Documentation workshop

Tue 9/10 – **Project 2 brief: The Investigation** / Lecture / Research exercise

Thu 9/12 – Reading discussion / Critical report / Investigation workshop

Tue 9/17 – Project pitches / Studio

Thu 9/19 – Guest lecture /

Tue 9/24 – Studio / Meetings

Thu 9/26 – **Project 2 due**

Tue 10/01 – **Project 3 brief: The Performance** / Lecture

Thu 10/03 – Reading discussion / Critical report / Performance workshop

Tue 10/08 – Project pitches / Studio

Thu 10/10 – Guest lecture / Studio / Meetings

Tue 10/15 – **Project 3 due**

Thu 10/17 – **Project 4 brief: The Campaign** / Lecture

Tue 10/22 – Reading discussion / Critical report / Studio

Thu 10/24 – Studio / Meetings

Tue 10/29 – Project pitches / Studio

Thu 10/31 – Guest Lecture / Studio / Meetings

Tue 11/05 – **Project 5 due**

Thu 11/07 – **Final project brief**

Tue 11/12 – Reading discussion / Critical report / Studio

Thu 11/14 – Studio / Meetings

Tue 11/19 – Final project check-ins

Thu 11/21 – Studio / Meetings

Tue 11/26 – Studio / Meetings

Tue 12/03 – **Final project due**

Thu 12/05 – Reflections