THIS COURSE PROVIDES A WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF
• Human anthropometrics and ergonomics and their influence on furniture design and placement
• How furniture design influences and is influenced by theories of organizational management
• Flexibility Modularity and the logic of systems design
• Furniture types and typology: Historic and contemporary
• Materials and fabrication and how they effect furniture design
• Life-cycle issues and costing
• Furniture as material culture
• Built-in furniture, how it shapes space and helps to mediate between buildings and people

Expected Format:
this class is a blend of hands-on examination of products and seating, traditional lectures and in-class help sessions. I expect that this course will continue to integrate these hybrid learning methods in the fall. I will likely flip some of the course instruction so that purely lecture content can be remote while hands-on activities and help sessions may happen in class or in interactive small group meetings based upon social distancing requirements.

Projects:
Projects change a bit from year to year but always include active design activities. Past projects include analysis of individual sitting patterns through a sitting time sheet, making a model and analyzing a contemporary chair, designing a temporary lectern to fit your own body and speaking style and working to retrofit and furnish a modular house from the 1960’s into a bunkhouse.

Exams:
In past years ,two exams (a mid-term and a final) gauge students’ understanding of readings and material presented in class. Graduate students answer additional essay questions on exams. I expect to keep this format in the coming year.

Required Readings:
Given the topical nature of this course readings change on a yearly basis. Readings are drawn from contemporary writings on anthropometrics, ergonomics, cultural connections, materials use, and design intention. Readings are available on Canvas

Grading:
Grades are based on a combination of exams and projects (50% each). I expect to follow this same distribution in the fall whether the course is a hybrid or mandated to be on-line if the university requires it.