format: This innovative studio will fuse net-zero energy design principles in the creation of an eco-centered elementary school. The studio will combine architectural programming, research, simulations, and design to explore architectural composition of net-zero schools. The design process will investigate various school typology designs for entries in the DOE Solar Decathlon and AIA Cote Top 10 design competitions.

studio objectives: Equitable communities represent a complex web of intertwined issues including engagement, safety, education, and workforce development. Fewer than 40% of architects believe they can impact social equity in their communities. This studio is targeting this problem by exploring innovative design solutions of Net-Zero Schools. The studio engages students in the DOE Solar Decathlon design competition focusing on climate change, social justice, and educational needs facing many disenfranchised communities. The studio will inspire students to be the next generation design professionals who are prepared to meet the growing imperative for environmentally responsive architecture with social and economic responsibilities.