RESEARCH METHODS IN SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Course Overview. Research is increasingly important for academics and for practicing architects, interior architects, and landscape architects. Hence, this course is open to graduate students in Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Landscape Architecture as space permits. It is required for PhD students in Architecture. The course provides an overview of research theory and an introduction to qualitative and quantitative research methods. Key course objectives are as follows:

- Develop an understanding of the basic characteristics of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research
- Learn how to search the research literature on a topic of interest
- Develop writing strategies for qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research proposals and reports
- Anticipate ethical issues related to research
- Understand the elements that comprise a good introduction to research
- Write a purpose statement for qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research
- Develop research questions and/or hypotheses for qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research
- Develop a thesis prospectus or proposal for a research study

Course Assignments. Students will work individually on their selected assignments that will include: 1) human subjects research training; 2) preparing a journal and database review report; 3) writing review of abstracts; 4) completing a detailed review of a research article; 5) conducting a detailed literature review; 6) developing a prospectus outline; and 7) crafting a research prospectus.

Course Structure. The course meets once a week virtually. Research design and methodologies are explored through various learning modes: peer-discussions, readings, writing assignments, and individual projects. Students will seek and use new information resources. Invited scholars, AAA faculty and/or graduate students may be invited to the class to discuss their research and the role of research in their professional development. Doctoral students may request permission from the course instructor to enroll for one or two additional credits for a maximum of six credits if the scope of their independent work requires additional time. The scope of this additional work will be defined in consultation with the instructor and, when appropriate, the student’s major advisor.