ARCH 620 RESEARCH METHODS IN SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Students interested in learning about various research methods used to support design thinking should consider this course!

COURSE AND INSTRUCTOR
Instructor: Alison G. Kwok PhD, FAIA, LEED AP, FASES, CHPC
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Office Hours: Mondays 11:00-12:50pm in 100 Pacific, contact for appointment or Zoom
CRN: 15687
Credits: 4 credits (PhD and MS students); 2 or 4 credits (MARCH or MS students)
Time: Fridays 9:00am – 11:50am, Lawrence 405A

Course Description
Welcome! This course provides an overview of research theory and introductory qualitative and quantitative design methods. This overview consists of understanding the preliminary considerations that go into selecting a qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods research design. These include understanding and knowing the definition for these different approaches, considering philosophical worldviews, reviewing the literature, understanding the use of theory, anticipating ethical issues, and developing writing strategies. We will discuss the process of research as it relates to each approach. This course will help you anchor your ideas in these realms as it pertains to your research question(s). This course will also give you the tools to develop the methods and procedures for research: quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods studies, developing a literature review and a dissertation proposal or master’s prospectus or an application for another degree program! The common goal is for each of you to better build, track, and use these research skills in the profession and for more resilient environments. The course meets once a week. 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 and deliver short presentations to practice delivering an “idea”. Invited scholars, College of Design faculty and/or graduate students may be invited to the class to discuss their research and the role of research in their professional development.

Course Objectives: I am committed to our course and look forward to learning, questioning and growing as a class community this term. The goals for this course are:

- Develop an understanding of the basic characteristics of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research and the differences among these approaches
- Discuss the major philosophical worldviews related to research
- Define the major strategies of inquiry used in qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research
- Learn how to search the research literature on a topic of interest
- Understand the role of literature and theory in qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research
- 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
- Understand the procedures involved in developing quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods plans
- Develop a thesis prospectus or proposal for a research study
- Present information about research in a scholarly manner