**LMC 4699: Undergraduate Research**

**Sample Syllabus:**

**PROJECT STUDIO: CIVIC MEDIA, FOOD SYSTEMS, AND INTERACTION DESIGN**

**Course Instructor:** Carl DiSalvo

**Office:** 317-C TRSB

**Contact:** cdisalvo@gatech.edu

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Course Times**

**Seminar:** Mondays 1-3pm (required)

**Open Studio:** Mondays 3-4pm (optional, but strongly recommended)

**Course Location:** Public Design Workshop, 317-B TSRB

**Course Prerequisite**: English 1102

**Course Description**

This undergraduate research class will be in the form of a project studio where students will investigate the design and use of civic media. Specifically, we will explore participatory and collaborative approaches to interaction and information design in the context of contemporary food cultures. Subjects will include: collective practices and methods in design, the computational representation of food data, the design of software and services for the exchange of food information, and the role of design in food politics.

This project studio combines design research and practice. Activities will include reading across the disciplines of design, human-computer interaction, and science and technology studies; the analysis of existing products and services; design ethnography; and the design and production of digital media products and services. Students from any discipline are welcome to enroll.

**Learning Outcomes**

* Textual/Visual Analysis: Students will learn to read, analyze, and interpret not only cultural projects such as film, literature, art, and new media, but also scientific and technical documents.
* Interpretive Frameworks: Students will become familiar with a variety of social, political, and philosophical theories and be able to apply those theories to creative and scientific texts, as well as to their own cultural observations.
* Trends in Digital Media: Students can appreciate and evaluate future trends in the development of digital media.

**Required Reading**

* http://www.ediblegeography.com/
* http://www.foodandtechconnect.com/
* http://www.gastronomica.org/
* http://interactions.acm.org/

**Grading**

* Blog Posts 10%
* Design Proposal 10%
* First Iteration 20%
* Second Iteration 20%
* Final Presentation 20%
* Final Documentation 20%

**Participation and Attendance:** First of all, participation assumes presence; that is, you must show up to class on time on a regular basis. You are allowed three free absences to do with as you please. Beginning with your fourth absence, your overall *final* grade will be lowered by 50 points for each absence. For example, a 920 (A) would become an 870 (B) if you were absent four times.

*If you miss six or more classes, you run the risk of failing the course as a whole.* If you have an illness or family emergency that prevents you from attending class, contact the instructor as soon as possible by email. If you are late for class, it is your responsibility to make sure that you are not recorded as absent. If you miss a class for any reason, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed *before* the next class.

**Students with Disabilities** should self-report to the Access Disabled Assistance Program for Tech Students (ADAPTS) through any of the following channels:

ADAPTS

220 Student Services Building

Atlanta, GA 30332-0285

404.894.2564 (voice)/404.894.1664 (voice/TDD)

http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/guidebook.html

**Scholastic Dishonesty and Academic Misconduct**: All of the writing you submit for this course must be your own. If you are suspected of plagiarizing all or part of a project, (passing off someone else’s writing as your own), your name and the project in question will be submitted to the Dean of Students, who will then take the appropriate disciplinary action. The Georgia Tech honor code (http://www.honor.gatech.edu) defines academic misconduct as:

* Possessing, using, or exchanging improperly acquired written or verbal information in the preparation of any essay, laboratory report, examination, or other assignment included in an academic course;
* Substitution for, or unauthorized collaboration with, a student in the commission of academic requirements;
* False claims of performance or work that has been submitted by the claimant;
* Alteration of any academic grade or rating so as to obtain unearned academic credit;
* Deliberate falsification of a written or verbal statement of fact to a member of the faculty so as to obtain unearned academic credit;
* Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any institute document relating to the academic status of a student.

**Weekly Schedule**

Week 1 **Aug 20** **Introduction to the Project Studio (What is Civic Media?)**

Week 2 **Aug 27** **What is Design Research?**   
Buchanan “Wicked Problems in Design”  
Fallman, “The Interaction Design Research Triangle”  
Gaver, “What Should We Expect from Research Through Design”  
Ehn, “Participation in Design Things”

Week 3 **Sep 3** **Holiday** **No Class**

Week 4 **Sep 10** **Collectivity and Digital Media**Excerpts from Sennett *Together*Excerpts from Kester *The One and the Many*Rhinegold, “Technologies of Collaboration”

Week 5 **Sep 17** **Contemporary Food Cultures***The Future of Food* (Hulu)…or…  
*El Bulli: Cooking in Progress* (Netflix)…or…  
*TED Talks Food Theme* (1+ hours)

Week 6 **Sep 24** **Food Cultures and Digital Media**Excerpts from *The Wealth of Networks*  
Catmull, “How Pixar Fosters Collective Creativity”  
Bowers, “The Logic of Annotated Portfolios”Comparative analysis of current projects

Week 7 **Oct 1** **Collectivity, Digital Media, and Food Cultures**Gaver, “Making Spaces: How Design Workbooks Work”  
Present background research on design opportunities in-class

Week 8 **Oct 8** **Design Proposals Due**

Week 9 **Oct 15** **Fall Recess – No Class**

Week 10 **Oct 22** **First Iteration Due** Present in-class

Week 11 **Oct 29**

Week 12 **Nov 5**

Week 13 **Nov 12** **Second Iteration Due** Present in-class

Week 14 **Nov 19**

Week 15 **Nov 26** **Review Documentation**Present in-class

Week 16 **Dec 3** **Final Presentations**

**December 10 Final Materials Due (5pm)**