**LMC 6650: PROJECT STUDIO: CIVIC MEDIA, FOOD SYSTEMS, & INTERACTION DESIGN**

**Course Instructor:** Carl DiSalvo

**Office:** 317-C TRSB

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**Office Hours:** tbd

**Seminar/Studio:** Friday 1-3pm

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

**Prerequisites**: None

**Core Area:** Civic Media

**Project Studio Description**

This project studio will investigate the design and use of civic media. Specifically, we will explore visualization, mapping, and other forms of interaction and information design in the context of contemporary food systems.  This will include mapping local food systems, visualizing food data, and developing interactive technologies for public engagement with food data.

Particular emphasis will be placed on the food systems of the Westside communities. We will examine the history, present, and possible futures of the local food system in the Westside communities, and work together to produce compelling media representations that communicate the issues and opportunities of developing a resilient food oasis in the English Avenue and Vine City neighborhoods. For interested students, there will be the opportunity to work directly with community members and organizations, and select projects may be continued in subsequent semesters.

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.

**MS Learning Outcomes**

Demonstrate the ability to analyze and critically evaluate existing digital media artifacts, services, and environments using formal knowledge, and to explain and defend one's critical evaluation.

Demonstrate the ability to devise, design, create, and assess prototypical digital media artifacts, services, or environments and to contextualize them within recognized traditions of practice.

Can compare, critique, and appraise digital media artifacts, services, and environments using formal terminology

Can summarize their work orally and in written form using formal terminology

Can justify the design choices in their works

Can formulate and test design hypotheses

**PhD Learning Outcomes**

Students can identify and analyze a domain within the field digital media and identify areas for original contribution as well as methods to pursue these contributions.

Students can formulate original interpretations and design original prototypes that reflect an understanding of the humanistic context of digital media.

Identify and define a suitable research problem in digital media design and apply appropriate disciplinary or interdisciplinary research methods to address it.

Demonstrate ability to conduct original research

In addition, you should have a portfolio worthy project that demonstrates your skills in design research and interaction design.

**A Few Other Things to Know**

This project studio may require you to interact with people outside of class and beyond Georgia Tech. For example, you may need to interview farmers, market mangers, community members, or other experts in the field. These activities will occur outside of the normal class time and may require that you use public transportation.

**Attendance & Participation**

Class attendance and participation is mandatory. Participation in class discussion is imperative because it allows you to explore the readings, projects, and themes collaboratively, and in the process, discover meanings and issues that you probably would not discover on your own. Participation in class also challenges you to continuously question, refine, and articulate your own ideas and interpretations.

In addition, much of this class is based in critiques, which require full participation and cannot be replicated outside of class. Extensive teaching and learning occur through critiques: it is through critiques that you will develop your skills for both making and discussion of the made.

**Grading**

If you complete all of the requirements for the assignment reasonably well, you should expect to earn a B. In order to earn an A, you must complete and go “above and beyond” all of the requirements and your work must be exceptional across multiple grading factors.

*Unexcused absence from two classes will result in the loss of 1-letter grade for  
the course.*

*Unexcused tardiness for four classes will result in the loss of 1-letter grade for  
the course.*

**Required Books**

*Fair Food*,Hesterman

*Close Up At a Distance*, Kurgan

**Assignments and Their Value**

Class Participation 10%

Blog Posts 10%

Essay 1 10%

Essay 2 10%

Final Project 30%

Final Presentation 10%

Documentation 20%

**Information for Students with Disabilities**

Please notify the instructor if you have any disabilities with which you need special assistance or consideration. The campus disability assistance program can be contacted through ADAPTS: <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu>

**Honor Code Statement**

Students are expected to adhere to the Georgia Tech Honor Code:

<http://www.honor.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=9>

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**August 23 Activity:** Introduction to the course

**Deliverable Due:** None

**Assignment for Next Week  
Read:** *Fair Food,* Chapters 1 & 2

Corner, “The Agency of Mapping”

**Do:** Create a map that documents where you need to go to acquire the items to make your favorite dish

**August 30 Activity:** Discuss readings, Discuss maps

**Deliverable Due:** Map of items for your favorite dish

**Assignment for Next Week  
Read:** *Fair Food,* Chapters 3 & 4

Kurgan, “Introduction” and “Lexicon” (through page 58)

**Do:** Interview another student and then create a map that documents where she needs to go to acquire the items to make her favorite dish

**September 6 Activity:** Discuss readings, Discuss maps

**Deliverable Due:** Map of items for other’s favorite dish

**Assignment for Next Week  
Read:** *Fair Food,* Chapters 5 & 6

Kurgan, “Million Dollar Blocks”

**Do:** Create a visualization or map that documents the sources of all of the materials needed to make the dish of the student you interviewed, highlighting the opportunities and issues of a “fair food” system

**September 13 Activity:** Discuss readings, Discuss research for maps

**Deliverable Due:** None

**Assignment for Next Week  
Read:** Hall, “Critical Visualization”

Feagan “The Place of Food”

**Do:** Continue to work on source map / visualization

**September 20 Activity:** Present source maps / visualizations

**Deliverable Due:** Source map / visualizations

**Assignment for Next Week  
Read:** “English Avenue Community Analysis and Recommendations” (GA Tech CRP, SJ Comm), “2012 Inventory of Atlanta Food Systems” (ALFI), and other reports of your choosing

**Do:** Write a short essay (1000 words) describing an Atlanta / Westside community food issue or opportunity in relation to *Fair Food.* Post   
to blog.

**September 27 Activity:** Discuss Atlanta / Westside community food issues  
and opportunities

**Deliverable Due:** A short essay describing an Atlanta / Westside community food issue or opportunity in relation to *Fair Food.* Posted  
to blog.

**Assignment for Next Week**

**Do:** In-teams, research and be prepared to lead a short skills workshops on a visualization or mapping tool

**October 4 Activity:** **Skills Workshop**

**Deliverable Due:** Skills workshop

**Assignment for Next Week**

**Do:** Write a short essay (1000 words) describing a food mapping / visualization project in relation to Corner, Kurgan, and/or Hall. Post  
to blog.

Develop initial project concepts

**October 11 Activity:** Open studio / DiSalvo out of town

**Deliverable Due:** A short essay (1000 words) describing a food mapping / visualization project in relation to Corner, Kurgan, and/or Hall. Posted to blog.

**Assignment for Next Week**

**Do:** Develop initial project concepts

**October 18 Activity:** Present project concepts

**Deliverable Due:** Initial project concepts (sketches, data sets, platform), also posted to blog (1)

**Assignment for Next Week**

**Do:** Continue to work on projects, post feedback and responses to blog

**October 25 Activity:** Present project research (data sets, platform)

**Deliverable Due:** Feedback and responses from 10/18 presentations posted to blog (2); also project research posted to blog (3)

**Assignment for Next Week  
Do:** Continue to work on projects, prepare for in-progress project presentations

**November 1 Activity:** **Skills workshop**

**Deliverable Due:** None

**Assignment for Next Week  
Do:** Continue to work on projects, prepare for in-progress project presentations

**November 8 Activity:** In-progress project presentations

**Deliverable Due:** In-progress project presentations, posted to blog (4)

**Assignment for Next Week  
Do:** Continue to work on projects, post feedback and responses to blog

**November 15 Activity:** **Skills workshop**

**Deliverable Due:** Feedback and responses from 11/8 presentations posted to blog (5)

**Assignment for Next Week  
Do:** Prepare draft final presentation, Prepare draft final documentation

**November 22 Activity:** Review draft final presentations and documentation

**Deliverable Due:** Draft final presentations, Draft final documentation

**Assignment for Next Week  
Do:** Complete final presentations by December 6th, Iterate final documentation

**November 29 Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class**

**December 6 Activity:** Final presentations

**Deliverable Due:** Final presentations

**Assignment for Next Week  
Do:** Submit final project documentation by December 10th, 5pm