Parsons School of Design
School of Art, Media, and Technology
MFA Design & Technology
PGTE 5200: Major Studio 1; CRN 1589
Fall 2019
Mon/Wed, 12.10pm, D1205

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Harpreet Sareen is an Assistant Professor of Media and Interaction Design at the Parsons School of Design, New York. His work is situated at the intersection of Material Science, Biology and Electronics and draws on the complementary abilities of the biological and artificial worlds. Sareen is interested in the cybernetics of organisms and materials and in his research-based design practice creates hybrid substrates and bionic materials that lend themselves for future ecological machinery, sensing systems and interaction design. Harpreet's prior experiences include leading roles at studios, corporates and research centers around the world.

Course Description
The goal of Major Studio 1 is to introduce students to self-directed creative research within a studio critique environment. Approached through students' individual research and making practices, this course is a space for critical thinking and discussion about creative practice, and the evolving issues in the fields of art, design and technology. Major Studio 1 is not a technical class, but rather dedicated to exploring the development of concept and process for which innovative use of tools and media will be applied. In addition to making, all students are also required to contribute to discussion and critique as a substantial part of their grade.

Major Studio 1 works in conjunction with Design for this Century and Creativity & Computation Lecture to establish a critical, research-based approach to creative practice. Major Studio 1 is the first in a series of four MFADT Studio courses: Major Studio 1, Major Studio 2, Thesis Studio 1 and Thesis Studio 2. These four courses are the core of the curriculum, with technical and academic electives supporting the central studio. Major Studios focus on development of concept and method; while support electives concentrate on technical development. Students are responsible for establishing intersections across different classes in their course of study.

Learning Outcomes
By the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Practice basic ideation techniques that explore multiple approaches to making ideas material.
2. Work productively in small team and collaborative contexts, and to actively listen and be attentive present during classroom discussion.
3. Demonstrate fundamental understanding of research and concept-driven work, by originating project work with conceptualization, and refining ideas through prototyping.
4. Demonstrate fundamental understanding of iterative prototyping in their project based work, to develop work through successive stages of testing, evaluation, and iteration.
5. Demonstrate competency describing the context of their work; how their work relates to history, ideas, and other creative works in the fields of art, design and technology, as evidenced in their final project work.
6. Demonstrate competency with analytical thinking to test and critically evaluate concepts, as evidenced by the ability to articulate a concept with conceptual rigor, a competent defense of their own work, and by offering constructive criticism of others.

7. Demonstrate ability to respond positively to critique, and to offer productive feedback to others.
8. Concisely express their intentions as a maker and demonstrate work they have created in response to those interests; as evidenced through oral presentations, a written creative practitioner's statement, and short research paper.

Assessable Tasks

There are four assessable areas in Major Studio 1: Class Participation, Instruction Sets for Strangers, the Final Project, and Process Blog. Assignment sheets will be provided for each.

Evaluation and Final Grade Calculation

Class Participation		10%
Instruction Sets for Strangers		20%
Final Project		60%
Research	10%	
7-in-7	10%	
Prototypes	20%	
Paper	20%	
Process Blog		10%

Course Outline

WEEK	MONDAYS	WEDNESDAYS
WEEK 1 08/26, 28	Introduction, Syllabus Handed Out *Assigned:* Instruction Sets for Strangers	Interactivity as Connection
WEEK 2 09/02, 04	NO CLASS / Labor Day	Instruction Sets Research Presentations
WEEK 3 09/09, 11	Instruction Sets Prototype Presentations	Instruction Sets Prototype Debrief
WEEK 4 09/16, 18	Instruction Sets Final Presentations	*Assigned:* Final Project
WEEK 5 09/23, 25	Research Group Sharebacks	Work Session
WEEK 6 09/30, 10/2	NO CLASS / Rosh Hashanah	Research Group Sharebacks
WEEK 7 10/7, 9	Midterm Reviews prep session	NO CLASS / Yom Kippur
WEEK 8 10/14, 16	Midterm Reviews *due:* Final Project proposal	Midterm Reviews, con't
WEEK 9 10/21, 23	Midterm crit debrief; Prototyping intro: giving form to ideas	NO CLASS
WEEK 10 10/28, 30	7-in-7 final project prototype presentations *Due:* 7-in-7 projects	7-in-7 final project prototype presentations, con't
WEEK 11 11/4, 6	Individual Meetings / Reflections due *Due:* Final Paper outline	Individual Meetings
WEEK 12 11/11, 13	Prototype Presentations *Due:* Prototype 1	Prototype Presentations, con't
WEEK 13 11/18, 20	Prototype Presentations Due: Final Paper draft, Prototype 2	Prototype Presentations, con't
WEEK 14	NO CLASS / Thanksgiving	NO CLASS / Thanksgiving

11/25, 27		
WEEK 15 12/2, 4	Individual Meetings *Due:* Prototype 3	Individual Meetings
WEEK 16 12/9, 11	Final Critiques *due:* Prototype 4, Final Paper	Final Critiques, con't
WEEK 17 12/16	Reflection & Debrief	NO CLASS / Winter Break

Readings

All courses, including studio courses, must provide a list of readings. The required style guide for all Parsons classes is the Chicago Manual of Style. This must be listed on the syllabus. You may wish to include the following as a required reference book for your course:

> Turabian, Kate. A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations. 7th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

For graduate courses, a supplemental bibliography for additional reading is recommended. You should note where students may purchase required readings. Consider the university's e-reserves for compiled materials.

Recommended Reading [List]

1. As We May Think - Vannevar Bush
https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1945/07/as-we-may-think/303881/

2. The Ultimate Display - Ivan Sutherland
http://papers.cumincad.org/data/works/att/c58e.content.pdf

3. What do Prototypes prototype?
https://uwdata.github.io/hcid520/readings/Houde-Prototypes.pdf

4. [Video] - The Mother of All Demos: Doug Engelbart
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJDv-zdhzMY&feature=youtu.be

5. The Design of Everyday Things, Don Norman
http://www.nixdell.com/classes/HCI-and-Design-Spring-2017/The-Design-of-Everyday-Things-Revised-and-Expanded-Edition.pdf

6. [Academic Reading] What is Interaction?
http://users.comnet.aalto.fi/oulasvir/pubs/what-is-interaction-chi2017.pdf

7. The Computer of the 21st Century, PDF
https://www.lri.fr/~mbl/Stanford/CS477/papers/Weiser-SciAm.pdf

8. The Art of Critical Making, John Maeda
http://thedesignoffice.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Critical-Making_Lucy-Hitchcock-Excerpt.pdf

9. Tools for Thought, Howard Rheingold
http://www.rheingold.com/texts/tft/

10. Tactical Urbanism 2
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8ut-BI3cpa2VkdFZGEwM0toUzA/view

11. Leverage Points: Places to Intervene in a System
http://www.donellameadows.org/wp-content/userfiles/Leverage_Points.pdf

12. Whyte, *Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*, 1980, intro & ch1 (also streams on Vimeo)

13. Jane Jacobs, *Death and Life of American Cities*, 1961, Introduction

14. "The Individual as a Unit," from *Relations in Public, Microstudies of the Public Order,* by Erving Goffman

15. The Practice of Everyday Life, by Michel DeCerteau

16. "Designing for a City of Strangers," from *Critical Vehicles*, Krzysztof Wodiczko

17. Wayne C. Booth et al. *The Craft of Research,* Third edition, 2008, ch 3, 4, 5

Materials and Supplies
List materials and the approximate costs. Please be mindful of the cost of materials associated with coursework, indicating those that are absolutely necessary versus those that are optional.

Resources
The university provides many resources to help students achieve academic and artistic excellence. These resources include:

- The University (and associated) Libraries
- The University Learning Center
- University Disabilities Service

  In keeping with the university's policy of providing equal access for students with disabilities, any student with a disability who needs academic accommodations is welcome to meet with me privately. All conversations will be kept confidential. Students requesting any accommodations will also need to contact Student Disability Service (SDS). SDS will conduct an intake and, if appropriate, the Director will provide an academic accommodation notification letter for you to bring to me. At that point, I will review the letter with you and discuss these accommodations in relation to this course.

Making Center
The Making Center is a constellation of shops, labs, and open workspaces that are situated across the New School to help students express their ideas in a variety of materials and methods. We have resources to help support woodworking, metalworking, ceramics and pottery work, photography and film, textiles, printmaking, 3D printing, manual and CNC machining, and more. A staff of technicians and student workers provide expertise and maintain the different shops and labs. Safety is a primary concern, so each area has policies for access, training, and etiquette with which students and faculty should be familiar. Many areas require specific orientations or trainings before access is granted. Detailed information about the resources available, as well as schedules, trainings, and policies can be found at resources.parsons.edu. If you are planning curriculum that makes use of specific resources should contact the Making Center in advance to coordinate.

Grading Standards

Graduate

A Work of exceptional quality
A- Work of high quality
B+ Very good work
B Good work; satisfies course requirements
   Satisfactory completion of a course is considered to be a grade of B or higher.

B- Below-average work
C+ Less than adequate work
C Well below average work
C- Poor work; lowest possible passing grade
F Failure
GM Grade missing for an individual

Grades of D are not used in graduate level courses.

Grade of W
The grade of W may be issued by the Office of the Registrar to a student who officially withdraws from a course within the applicable deadline. There is no academic penalty, but the grade will appear on the student transcript.

Grade of Z
This grade is to be assigned to students who have **never attended or stopped attending** classes. Exceptions can be made if the student has completed enough work to warrant a grade (including a failing grade), and arrangements have been made with the instructor(s) and the Dean's Office prior to grade submission. The Z grade does not calculate into the student's GPA.

Grades of Incomplete
The grade of I, or temporary incomplete, may be granted to a student under unusual and extenuating circumstances, such as when the student's academic life is interrupted by a medical or personal emergency. This mark is not given automatically but only upon the student's request and at the discretion of the instructor. A Request for Incomplete form must be completed and signed by student and instructor. The time allowed for completion of the work and removal of the "I" mark will be set by the instructor with the following limitations: [You should include one the following standards, depending on the level of your course].

  Undergraduate students: Work must be completed no later than the seventh week of the following fall semester for spring or summer term incompletes and no later than the seventh week of the following spring semester for fall term incompletes. Grades of "I" not revised in the prescribed time will be recorded as a final grade of "F" by the Registrar's Office.

  Graduate students: Work must be completed no later than one year following the end of the class. Grades of "I" not revised in the prescribed time will be recorded as a final grade of "N" by the Registrar's Office.

College, School, Program and Class Policies

A comprehensive overview of policy may be found under [Policies: A to Z](#). Students are also encouraged to consult the [Academic Catalog for Parsons](#).

Canvas
Use of Canvas may be an important resource for this class. Students should check it for announcements before coming to class each week.

Electronic Devices
The use of electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops, cameras, etc.) is permitted when the device is being used in relation to the course's work. All other uses are prohibited in the classroom and devices should be turned off before class starts.

Responsibility
Students are responsible for all assignments, even if they are absent. Late assignments, failure to complete the assignments for class discussion and/or critique, and lack of preparedness for in-class discussions, presentations and/or critiques will jeopardize your successful completion of this course.

Active Participation and Attendance
Class participation is an essential part of class and includes: keeping up with reading, assignments, projects, contributing meaningfully to class discussions, active participation in group work, and coming to class regularly and on time.

Parsons' attendance guidelines were developed to encourage students' success in all aspects of their academic programs. Full participation is essential to the successful completion of coursework and enhances the quality of the educational experience for all, particularly in courses where group work is integral; thus, Parsons promotes high levels of attendance. Students are expected to attend classes regularly and promptly and in compliance with the standards stated in this course syllabus.

While attendance is just one aspect of active participation, absence from a significant portion of class time may prevent the successful attainment of course objectives. A significant portion of class time is generally defined as the equivalent of three weeks, or 20%, of class time. Lateness or early departure from class may be recorded as one full absence. Students may be asked to withdraw from a course if habitual absenteeism or tardiness has a negative impact on the class environment.

I will assess each student's performance against all of the assessment criteria in determining your final grade.

Academic Honesty and Integrity
Compromising your academic integrity may lead to serious consequences, including (but not limited to) one or more of the following: failure of the assignment, failure of the course, academic warning, disciplinary probation, suspension from the university, or dismissal from the university.

Students are responsible for understanding the University's policy on academic honesty and integrity and must make use of proper citations of sources for writing papers, creating, presenting, and performing their work, taking examinations, and doing research. It is the responsibility of students to learn the procedures specific to their discipline for correctly and appropriately differentiating their own work from that of others. The full text of the policy, including adjudication procedures, is found on the university website under Policies: A to Z. Resources regarding what plagiarism is and how to avoid it can be found on the Learning Center's website.

The New School views "academic honesty and integrity" as the duty of every member of an academic community to claim authorship for his or her own work and only for that work, and to recognize the contributions of others accurately and completely. This obligation is fundamental to the integrity of intellectual debate, and creative and academic pursuits. Academic honesty and integrity includes accurate use of quotations, as well as appropriate and explicit citation of sources in instances of paraphrasing and describing ideas, or reporting on research findings or any aspect of the work of others (including that of faculty members and other students). Academic dishonesty results from infractions of this "accurate use". The standards of academic honesty and integrity, and citation of sources, apply to all forms of academic work, including submissions of drafts of final papers or projects. All members of the University community are expected to conduct themselves in accord with the standards of academic honesty and integrity. Please see the complete policy in the Parsons Catalog.

Intellectual Property Rights
The New School (the "university") seeks to encourage creativity and invention among its faculty members and students. In doing so, the University affirms its traditional commitment to the personal ownership by its faculty members and students of Intellectual Property Rights in works they create. The complete policy governing Intellectual Property Rights may be seen on the university website, on the Provost's page.