

DSGN 4020 Design Studio 5: Collaborative Projects – Course Outline

Credits:	6
Prerequisites:	DSGN 3510 or DSGN 3520 (completed with a grade of B or higher), or permission of the Division Chair.
Days and time:	Tuesday and Friday, 8:30am – 12:30pm
Location:	C100 (next to the Bookstore)
Instructor:	Matthew Hollett
E-mail:	mhollett@nscad.ca
Phone:	494 8154 (via Heather Harris)
Office:	N217 (by appointment)

Calendar Description

Visual communication and product design students will work together on projects that involve the application of the knowledge and expertise gained in the course of their studies. The students will identify problems, carry out research, develop solutions, and communicate these solutions to an appropriate audience.

Objectives and Format

This course will provide an opportunity for students to collaborate with their colleagues, applying combined skills and knowledge to a series of open-ended projects. Students will be challenged to work together to identify problems, carry out research, develop concepts and strategies, and present professional design solutions. Emphasis is on developing communication, research, and presentation skills in a collaborative design context.

Four themed projects provide a structure for the class, with potential for students to investigate their own areas of interest within the scope of each project. For each project, students will be given an opportunity to choose from several suggested assignments, or to develop their own course of action in consultation with their group.

This course will consist of studio projects, informal lectures, discussions and readings, student presentations, and web-based collaboration. Group critiques will develop students' ability to provide and receive constructive criticism. Students are expected to display a high level of professionalism at all times.

Workload

This is a 6 credit class, and as such students are expected to devote a minimum of 10 hours working outside of class each week, in addition to 8 hours of in-class lecture and studio work.

Assignments

There will be four major projects over the course of the semester. Unless otherwise stated, each project will consist of:

- A design brief (a one-page written description of the group's objectives and strategies for the project). This is to be submitted one week after the project has been introduced.
- Documentation of research (field notes, sketches, source materials or inspirations, concept notes, and other information gathered or generated during the design process).
- The final refined design, including a brief written rationale.
- A presentation and critique of the final design.

Students should consider the following guidelines in preparing their written materials:

- The style, composition, organization and presentation of written work may count for up to one-third of the grade for the report or paper.
- Spelling mistakes and grammatical errors may reduce the grade for the work.
- Plagiarism (using the words, ideas or images of another author without full and proper acknowledgement) constitutes grounds for failure of the paper or report.

All assignments should be clearly labelled and organized, and written components should adhere to proper academic standards. Any work which is submitted for evaluation should be retained by the student until the end of the semester. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all course work is backed-up properly, and no allowance will be made for work that is lost. Submitting work late is not acceptable and will result in a lower grade (see Evaluation for details).

Attendance and Participation

NSCAD Policy on Attendance

NSCAD students are required to attend all classes in which they are enrolled. Please note that students who miss the first meeting of a class may be withdrawn from the class so that wait list demands can be met.

Attendance will be taken each week. In the event of an unforeseen absence, it is the responsibility of the student to discuss arrangements to make up the material missed with the instructor.

Students will be expected to take an active part in discussions, group projects, and presentations, and to participate on the class website.

Materials

Students should come to class prepared to do studio work; the usual toolbox of drawing implements, rulers, tape, rubber cement, cutting tools, sketchbooks, and so on will be required. Laptops are welcome in class; students can also access computers and software in the NSCAD Multimedia lab.

Bibliography

Readings and references will be provided on a regular basis for the purpose of group discussions. There is no specific

text required for this course, however various books or resources may be recommended for further study.

Disability

With reference to NSCAD's General Policy on Students with Disabilities, students should identify themselves as early as possible to the Disability Resource Facilitator (Bill Travis) in the Office of Student and Academic Services, so that the appropriate accommodations can be made in a timely manner.

Safety and Access

All faculty, staff, and students are responsible for safe working practices and procedures so as to safeguard their own individual health and well-being as well as that of other members of the NSCAD University community.

Without a current NSCAD ID that includes a Health & Safety sticker, students will not be permitted anywhere on the campus after hours. Please note that items such as backpacks, purses, laptops, iPods and cameras should never be left unattended, and also note the importance of using the buddy system when working on campus outside of class time.

Evaluation

Evaluation Criteria for Each Project

30%	Depth and documentation of research
30%	Final design and presentation
10%	Written components
15%	Communication and collaborative skills
15%	Overall fulfilment of requirements

Final Grade Calculation

20%	Project 1
20%	Project 2
20%	Project 3
20%	Project 4
15%	Participation in class discussions, critiques, and website
5%	Attendance and motivation

Submitting work late is not acceptable other than in exceptional circumstances or with prior agreement. Unexcused late work will result in lower scores for "Final design and presentation" and "Overall fulfilment of requirements".

For group projects, each student in the group will receive the same grade for that project (exceptions may be made if group members are obviously not contributing equally). Final grades will be determined individually for each student.

Grade Scale for Undergraduate Courses

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Grade Point Score	Descriptive Term
A+	95 and above	4.3	Excellent
A	90–94	4.0	Excellent
A-	85–89	3.7	Very Good
B+	80–84	3.3	Very Good
B	73–79	3.0	Good
B-	67–72	2.7	Good
C+	63–66	2.3	Satisfactory
C	59–62	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	55–58	1.7	Satisfactory
D	50–54	1.0	Marginal
F (Fail)	49 and below		Unsatisfactory

Only a letter grade will be assigned for the final grade. Narrative is shown for information. Instructors may use percent scores for calculating letter grades. GPA is used for calculating student average.