

Convergence

Intersection of Art/Science/Design in Our City

ENVI 294-01



Time	Fall 2020, Tuesday/Thursday, 9:40-11:10
Location	Classroom- Theater 001
Instructor	Amanda Lovelee
Instructor contact	alovelee@macalester.edu
Office	Olin Rice- 158A
Office Hours	Tuesday and Thursday- 8:30am- 9:30am

Course Description

The large environmental challenges facing us in the 21st century are not going to be solved in one sector. We need creative collaborations and innovative experiments. Change is happening at the intersection of art, science and design. In this class we are going to learn about artist and scientist who are doing things differently and explore how they engage with people, collaborate cross sector, change systems and involve people in the their research. We will use design thinking and prototyping to build new platforms in our cross departmental class. Together we will explore four large topic areas, bring in speakers and go on field trips across the cities. Each student will have the opportunity to design and test prototypes of their ideas in the public and bring back both their successes/challenges for the class to learn from. The class will end with collaborating on a local issue facing the City of St Paul. As a class working together we will develop a creative plan that will include working prototypes, possible funding sources and how to sustain our idea. The final idea will be present to the city for implementation.

Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes

1. Co-Create a road map for our class to see the city differently.
2. Learn together.
3. Bring in many different cross sector specialists and passionate thinkers.
4. Help dream up new ideas for our city.
5. Prototype and test ideas together.

Learning outcomes will include: an art practice that is honed and strengthened through regular critical dialogue; the establishment of a lasting peer group that provides keen feedback and productive conversation; and, student-mentor relationships based on thoughtful and informed analysis.

Course Materials

Topics

Place/City
Water
Food

Climate
Your Focus

Assignments

The following are required components of the course. You will receive detailed information about the expectations for each assignment at a later time.

- Class Participation
- Post Visitor Reflections
- City Solutions- Group Brainstorm and Proposals
- Topic Projects (4 total)
- Final Project
- Final Portfolio

Grading Philosophy

To often I have seen grades get in the way of trying something new. I want this class to be a place of experimentation and pushing the way you think, write, talk and make. I want students to focus on progress not products. In this class we will take a different approach to assessment and grades called “Contract for B.”

Contract for B

Throughout the term, I will assess your work and give you a lot of feedback. However, I will not grade anything until the final portfolio. This will allow me to be your mentor without grade getting in the way. I do not expect your work to be perfect, but I do expect you to meet the basic requirements of each assignment and to work to improve your knowledge and skills. Staying on contract requires all of the following:

1. Attendance: You will be present (and on time) for all class sessions, no more than three absences are allowed. Arriving late or leaving early three times will count as one absence.
2. Preparation and Engagement: You will be fully prepared for all class sessions, and you will be actively and appropriately engaged. For group assignments, you will complete your fair share of the work. In general, you will be a productive member of our classroom community.
3. Completing Work: You will submit all assignments to Moodle, on time and complete. Know that submission times are defined by Moodle’s timestamps; it is your responsibility to ensure that your work is correctly submitted. 3D projects please photograph and upload images.
4. Editing: When completing second drafts and the final portfolio, your work will be free from mistakes and errors. It is a good idea to get editing help from fellow writers and the MAX center.
5. Peer Editing and Collaboration: You will help your classmates improve their writing and ideas by participating actively in workshop days and by making clear and helpful comments on your peers’ writing and projects.

6. Final Portfolio: At the end of the semester, you will submit your portfolio with careful revisions and “finished projects.” We will have a conference about your portfolio at the end of the semester (see below).

Final Grade

If you stay on contract, the lowest grade you can earn is a B. All decisions about what is required for the B, listed above, are made without judgment on the quality of your work. I do not expect drafts to be perfect but I should see that you are engaging with the material and are taking assignments seriously. There should be improvement between drafts from rough draft to “finished work.” I do not expect informal writing to be perfect either but all your writing should show that you are thinking about the class materials, connections between readings, and how it connects to your life. To earn a higher grade, you must achieve excellence in your projects as demonstrated in your final portfolio. To get an A or A-, the work must be of the highest quality. We will work during the semester to produce the best final papers that we can. Final portfolios will contain the final project and a combination of smaller assignments. During the final conferences in the last week of classes, I will examine your portfolio and give you a cursory grade based on the improvements and quality of work that I see. If you are satisfied with that portfolio grade, you may stop there. If you are not satisfied, you may continue to edit the assignments until the date of our scheduled final. At that point, I will take a closer look at the portfolio and assign a grade. The grade will be no lower than the one assigned at the conference but is not guaranteed to be higher. If you do not stay on contract, the highest grade you can earn is a B-.

Forgiveness Tokens

Stuff happens and we all have busy lives. Sometimes you need an extension or an extra absence. Tokens are “get out of jail free” cards. You each have 4 tokens that you may use in the semester. Once the tokens are gone, extensions and absences will only be granted in extreme circumstances. Cost in tokens

Forgiveness

1. One class or conference absence (beyond the 3)
2. Late project draft or assignment (not including reading responses) (48 hour extension)
3. Final portfolio extension. (48 hour extension)

Other Course Policies

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES: I am committed to providing an inclusive environment in which all students can reach their academic potential and have equal access to academic opportunities. I will provide appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have not already done so, please contact the Office of Student Affairs (119 Weyerhaeuser Administration Building; x6220) within the first two weeks of the semester to ensure that accommodations are made. Also in the first two weeks of the semester, please meet with me so we can discuss how we will work together to meet your needs. For more information, visit: www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices/

CORRESPONDENCE: I will be available first come first serve for office hours. Best way to get hold of me is by email and for the most part I will get back to you with in 48 hours.

INCOMPLETES: Macalester College strongly discourages assigning incomplete grades. Unless the majority of assigned work for the course has already been done, an incomplete will not be given. If extenuating circumstances arise, I will direct you to the Dean of Students, and I will take into account the Dean's advice when making a decision about an incomplete request.

TECHNOLOGY ETIQUETTE: I welcome laptops and tablets when they are used as learning aids (e.g., for note-taking). "Multitasking" (e.g., checking email or Facebook during class) can impede your learning, be a distraction to those around you, and feels disrespectful to me. I reserve the right to ban technology that becomes detrimental to our classroom culture. Please set your cell phones to silent before class, and if you must take a call or text during class time, please discretely step outside.

Course Schedule

Tentative Schedule

Week One- Get to Know Each other

Week Two-Four- Place/City

Week Five-Seven- Water

Week Eight- Ten- Food

Week Eleven- Thirteen- Climate

Week Fourteen-Fifteen- Final

Assignments-

Readings

Post Visitor Responses

Projects

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|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. Home | 4. Manifesto |
| 2. Map Water | 5. Final Portfolio |
| 3. One Bite | |

Group Projects

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|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Solve Water | 3. Solve Climate |
| 2. Solve Food | |