

COM 7933 - 13404

DESIGN THINKING

Wednesday 2-4:45

CIS 3063

A feature article in the Chronicle of Higher Education asks: “Can Design Thinking Transform Higher Ed.” The article notes that, “design thinking inspires a prototyping mind-set, an experimental mind-set,” which “is ultimately a learning mind-set.” We might also ask: How does design of a future inform ways of being in the present?

What does it mean to design an online learning space? a new “app”? a sustainable community? a smart city? a workplace that features an ecological design? an exhibit at a science center? a university campus?

Or, a collaborative and dialogic communication process for designing any of these?

This course will explore and develop key ideas of design thinking, a framework that fosters creativity and innovation through attention to context, collaboration, and human values in co-creating future worlds. We will focus on design in a very broad sense, as a trans-disciplinary approach to problem setting and problem solving, whether situations are seen as social, technical, or rooted in the arts and humanities. Most importantly, we will feature communication approaches to creativity and innovation in local and global contexts, recognizing the importance of communication in need-finding in understanding human (and non-human) experiences. We will explore communication processes involved in coming up with new ideas (ideation) in imaginative ways while fostering a creative confidence and appreciating diverse contexts and human values. We will also explore the ways that design thinking might be applied to our own lives, enabling our own creativity in ways that fit with whole systems design. Our trans-disciplinary course will allow for project based learning in many senses, and will involve some serious play!

EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION!

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