

SPC 4930

DESIGN THINKING

Tuesdays 3:30 -6:15 PM

CIS 3063

What is it like to design a new “app”? An exhibit at a science center? A sustainable community? A global organization that inspires creative confidence? A workplace that features new media? A university campus? Or, a collaborative 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 an interdisciplinary approach to problem setting and problem solving, whether those problems are seen as social, technical, or rooted in the arts and humanities. To situate design thinking, we will grapple with questions of creativity and innovation in local and global contexts, featuring intercultural understanding. We will explore communication processes involved in coming up with new ideas (ideation) in imaginative ways. In other words, we will study “wicked problems” explored across boundaries.

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 highly interdisciplinary course will allow for project based learning in many senses, and will involve some serious play!

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