

DIVISION OF INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

College of Professional Studies
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

IA 160: SURVEY OF DESIGN: MINORITY CULTURES IN THE U.S.

Sections 1-2-5-7 Semester I, 2007-08

COURSE DESCRIPTION: 3 cr. Understanding the design of utilitarian objects and the design of space in selected Native American and immigrant cultures. Investigates stereotype, discrimination, majority influence and historical tradition as a concept of design evolution in the U.S.

MEETING TIME: Sections 1,2,5: 11:00am – 12:15pm
(75 minutes in class on Mondays or Wednesday, according to assigned group)
Section 7: 2:00pm – 3:15pm
(75 minutes in class on Mondays)

PLACE: Room 116 CPS Sections 1,2,5
Room 317 CPS Section 7

INSTRUCTOR: Kim Simons

OFFICE: 334 C CPS
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 10:00 – 10:45 and 1:00pm – 1:45pm
Wednesday 10:00 – 10:45 and 1:00pm – 1:45pm
or by appointment

CONTACT: Phone: 342-5269
Email: Kim.Simons@uwsp.edu
Note: No guaranteed answer on weekends or evenings.

TEXTS:

From Text Rental: *Diversity in America* by Vincent N. Parrillo
Purchase from Bookstore (on a buy-back basis):
America's Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups that Built America, edited by Dell Upton

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOME EXPECTATIONS:

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Recognize and place within a historical context how U.S. minority cultures have contributed to the American design heritage and how cultural influences have impacted contemporary design.
2. Appreciate the richness of design origins without prejudice and recognize that design is present in all aspects of life and is inspired by cultural values.
3. Recognize the effects of culture, ethnicity, human interactions and environment on the design of items of material culture and the built environment.
4. Discover the positive awareness of diversity and consciousness of alternate points of view that is necessary for participation in a multicultural society.
5. Develop critical thinking skills in evaluating issues of diversity, assimilation, prejudice, and discrimination pertaining to cultural or ethnic differences.

MAXIMUM POINTS FOR EACH ACTIVITY:

Group project	100
Peer evaluation.....	50
Midterm project	200
Fifteen (15) reflections/commentaries/questionnaires @ 20 points each.....	300
Three (3) outside activity reports @ 50 points each.....	150
Final course reflection.....	200
TOTAL POINTS.....	1000

NOTE: No late work will be accepted and there is no extra credit.

PERCENTAGE AND LETTER GRADE EQUIVALENTS:

100 - 93%	A	73 - 77%	C
90 - 92%	A-	70 - 72%	C-
88 - 89%	B+	68 - 69%	D+
83 - 87%	B	60 - 67%	D
80 - 82%	B-	59 - %	F
78 - 79%	C+		

Section 1: GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

IA 160 is a survey course designed to provide the student with information on a general area of study and focuses on minority groups in the U.S. and how they have influenced our American design heritage. IA 160 is also what is known as a “Golden Bullet” course meaning that it fulfills the General Degree Requirements for both Humanities 1 (HU1, History and Appreciation of the Arts) and Minority Studies (MNS) categories; both required for graduation at UWSP. To maintain these designations this course must meet certain criteria determined by the university that is in addition to what is required for a course in Interior Architecture. Therefore the course content will cover a variety of cultural and historical aspects of minority groups in the U.S. not just those issues concerned with interior design or architecture. Culture and history are the foundation from which we will build an understanding of design and architecture.

Section 2: PERSONAL CONDUCT

This course is designed for student success. In order to be successful it is crucial that you attend class regularly, complete assignments on time, and contribute to discussions. These activities are essential since there are no tests and your participation in group discussions is a major part of the course. **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.** If it is necessary to miss class because of illness or emergency, you are expected to notify me **BEFORE** class (via phone or email) and you must personally make arrangements to discuss the situation during my office hours upon your return. Makeup work may be accepted at my discretion, depending on circumstances. Absences due to field trips or other campus activities must be validated with a formal excuse obtained from the instructor or sponsor of the activity. Please notify me prior to your absence so that we can discuss any make-up work. **UNAPPROVED MAKEUP WORK OR LATE WORK WILL RECEIVE NO CREDIT.**

Class attendance is imperative to success and it is expected that students will come to class on time and stay the entire period. Once the class session has begun, please do not leave the room and then re-enter unless it is an emergency. It is disrespectful and disruptive to the instructor, guest speakers and the rest of the class if students come to class late or leave the room before we are adjourned. **If you must leave class early, please inform the instructor in advance.**

Please turn off all cell phones and beepers prior to class unless you have informed me that you are, for example, an EMT or firefighter, or that you are waiting for a personal emergency call.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity refers to the “integral” quality of the search for knowledge that a student undertakes. The work a student produces, therefore, must be wholly his or hers; it should result completely from the student’s own efforts.

A student will be guilty of violating Academic Integrity if he/she – a) knowingly represents work of others as his/her own, b) uses or obtains unauthorized assistance in the execution of any academic work, or c) gives fraudulent assistance to another student.

This is a serious offense and won’t be tolerated. The following University website <http://www.uwsp.edu/centers/rights> defines our *Community Rights and Responsibilities* and includes explanations of *Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures*. Please read so you are informed of the consequences of violating Academic Integrity.

Special Accommodations: Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services, X3365, during the first two weeks of the semester if they wish to request accommodation.

Religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03 as long as the student notifies the instructor within the first three weeks of the beginning of classes of specific days or dates on which he or she will request relief from an academic requirement.

Keep in mind, that to be successful in any course it is important to take responsibility for your own learning and become an active learner. Don't expect that others, the professor or your peers are responsible for your success.

Section 3: HYBRID COURSE FORMAT

IA 160 has a *hybrid* format, a combination of face-to-face (F2F), outside activities, and online computer activities. Students appreciate the partial release from compulsory seat time; however, responsibility accompanies freedom: posting times must be strictly enforced in order for this format to succeed. The UW System's *Desire 2 Learn* (D2L) is used for course management. You can access it at <https://uwsp.courses.wisconsin.edu/>. Your user name and password is your UWSP network login.

D2L contains material for each module and includes readings, assignment instructions, lecture texts, etc. About half of our scheduled class time will be spent in online activity rather than in the traditional classroom. **Class time is not eliminated, it is self-determined, and is your responsibility to manage;** this time is *asynchronous* meaning 'any time, any place' within course deadlines. Students will be free to individually schedule the remaining "seat" time. See the class schedule for face-to-face days for your group. General information will be posted in the *News* section of D2L and via e-mail. Make certain you check and read your e-mail frequently as well as the *D2L News*.

The URL to access Desire2Learn is <http://uwsp.courses.wisconsin.edu>
Your UWSP user name and password is also your login for D2L.

Section 4: COURSE REQUIREMENTS

15 Individual Short Reflection papers (20 points each)

After every lecture, video or guest speaker's presentation each student will post a short paragraph (minimum 150 words) to the D2L Drop-Box. If your group meets on Mondays from 11:00 – 12:15, then your reflection paper is due by 12:15 the following Wednesday. If your group meets on Wednesdays, then your reflection paper is due by 12:15 on the following Monday. If your group meets on Mondays from 2:00 – 3:15, then your reflection paper is due by Wednesday at 3:15. Your paragraph **MUST** be created as a **Microsoft WORD** document (**.doc file extension**) or **Rich Text (.rtf file extension)** **not WordPerfect or any other program** and then uploaded to the D2L Drop-box. Although the D2L system accepts other file extensions and will send you a notification of successful upload, **it cannot open them, resulting in no credit.** If you do not have **Microsoft WORD** on your own computer you will have to use one in the campus lab. The posting process will be demonstrated in class.

These reflection papers will include responses to specific questions about the presentation posed in class and/or may focus on anything you found significant in the presentation. For instance, besides addressing questions that are brought up in class, your reflection may comment on something you found interesting or never knew about before; it may reflect personal feelings or reactions to what was discussed; it may point out something that you did not understand completely and would like clarified; or other questions that came to mind during the presentation. In other words, it is an open forum where there are no right or wrong answers. Keep in mind that you **must be present** in class to receive credit for your reflective paper.

These reflection papers provide important feedback to the instructor therefore they must contain **thoughtful and insightful responses to receive full credit.** The Drop-box does not allow everyone to read the contents, only the instructor, so in order to share general comments or perceptions; clarify any misconceptions; or answer any questions I will create a summary for the entire class to read on a need-to-know basis. This summary will be posted in the D2L News section or we will address these issues in class.

Final Course Reflection (200 points)

For this assignment you will write a reflection paper that describes your understanding and awareness of how minority cultures have contributed over time to our collective American design heritage. Assignment details are available on the CONTENT page of D2L.

This paper will be uploaded to the D2L Drop Box during the last week of classes and will be graded on an **individual** basis.

One Group Project (100 points)

D2L will randomly assign each student to a small discussion group of approximately 5 students each. This will remain your discussion group for the entire semester. More information will be provided with the group assignment and during group discussions in class.

It is strongly recommended that you keep a file of all of your documents for this course as a backup.

Three Outside Activity Reports (50 points each)

Many activities take place on campus and in the community that are relevant to cultural issues and help to foster a positive awareness of diversity and of alternative points of view. Each student will be required to attend or participate in **two** multicultural events outside of class, write a report on each event, and post your reports to the D2L Drop-box by the due date (check the course schedule for due dates). There are a variety of campus activities that are suitable for this assignment and you will be notified in class, in the News section of D2L or via email which ones are acceptable. Any activities that are not announced in class must have instructor approval **before** reports are submitted in order to receive credit.

The third Outside Activity report will be to interview a foreign student from this campus. If you do not know one from your classes, go to the *Foreign Student Office* and ask if they know of someone who will grant you an interview. Most are eager to talk about their culture. You may choose to do this with some of your group members, but each person in the group must write their own report and upload it to the D2L Drop-box by one of the Outside Activity report due dates.

Guidelines for both the reports and interview will be available on the CONTENT section in D2L.

NOTE: All papers must include your **NAME, SECTION NUMBER, AND GROUP NUMBER** in order to receive proper credit.

Peer Points (50 points)

Group members will have the opportunity to award peer points (0-50) to each person in their group based on each individual's participation and contributions to group work this semester. Details will be given in class.