

ARC 4546-02: Arch Design IV-B | Spring 2026

Type of Course: Lecture/Lab

Class Meetings: MWF 1:00-5:00PM

Class Location: Giles Hall

Prerequisites: ARC 3914 and ARC 4536 or equivalent with approval of director

Instructor

John Ross, Assistant Professor, Course Coordinator | jross@caad.msstate.edu | Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Catalog Description

One hour lecture. Eleven hours laboratory. Design of architectural elements integrating building systems, social concerns, and environmental factors. Studies involve intermediate to large scale projects in realistic architectural situations

Course Description

Students will learn various models of spatial organization and will synthesize these principles through research and architectural design projects throughout the semester. Throughout the semester, students will continue to build on their abilities to represent architectural space through sketching, drafting, and digital tools. The course shall build on fundamental design principles taught in the previous semesters.

Learning Outcomes

- Analyze, and diagram, issues related to site and program
- Employ precedent analysis for typology, structure, materials, and environmental response
- Design appropriate assemblies of materials in relation to structure and enclosure (tectonics)
- Employ energy-efficient design principles
- Generate design in response to contemporary issues and practices
- Evaluate contemporary architectural investigations
- Implement innovative spatial and formal responses to a design problem

NAAB Criteria

- PC.2 - Design
- PC.3 - Ecological Literacy and Responsibility
- SC.5 - Design Synthesis

Course Timeline + Topics (Subject to change)

- 01/14 | Course Introduction
- 01/14 – 01/23 | Mapping
- 01/26 – 01/30 | Hybrid Typologies
- 02/02 – 03/06 | Design Project – Concept + Schematic
- 03/06 | **Mid Review**
- 03/16 – 04/27 | Design Project – Design Development / Final
- 04/27 / 04/28 | **Final Review**

Course References / Resources

Texts

- *Architecture as a Translation of Music: (Pamphlet Architecture 16)* by Elizabeth Martin
- *Green Building Illustrated* by Francis DK Ching
- *Xenakis Creates in Architecture and Music 1st Edition* by Roger Reynolds & Karen Reynolds

Websites

- *Meridian Lines* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Psi3G1zWuxs>
- *Meridian Main Street Approach* - https://www.msmainstreet.com/communities/meridian_main_street
- *Visit Meridian* - <https://visitmeridian.com/>

Canvas

All the lectures, assignments, readings, and syllabus will be available on Canvas, an online resource for this class. All assignments will be required to be submitted to Canvas in addition to any in-person assessment. Additionally, grades will be posted to the Grade Book in Canvas. All students are required to be able to access the site and understand how to use the Canvas site.

Projects + Assignments

Final course grades will be based on the following grading scale:

A = 100-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-70, D = 69-60, F = 59 and below

Final grade calculation will be based on the following breakdown:

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| • Assignment 1: <i>Mapping</i> | 10% |
| • Assignment 2: <i>Hybrid Typologies</i> | 10% |
| • Assignment 3: <i>Design Project - Concept / Schematic Design</i> | 25% |
| • Assignment 4: <i>Design Project - Design Development / Final</i> | 50% |
| • Final Portfolio | 5% |

Assessment + Grading

We will continually give you verbal feedback on your work. We will evaluate both your work and your work habits. The evaluations will be based on three general areas: quality and quantity of work, depth of thinking, effectiveness of verbal, written, and drawn communication.

All work shall be turned in at the published deadline -- even if the project is incomplete. Failure to turn in the work ON TIME shall constitute a failure of the project. Requests for extensions (due to excused illnesses, emergencies, etc.) must be made in writing immediately upon the student's return to class from the emergency. The amount and manner of extension will be determined by the studio instructor.

Grades will be based upon the development of the project as reflected in the final product and upon the progress demonstrated through the course of the semester. Grades are not arbitrary or mere opinions; assigned grades are considered professional judgments based upon the stated project goals, widely accepted principles of design and construction, and the long-standing standards of the school. Most important, grades are not personal nor are they political. They reflect our appreciation of the work, not our opinion of the individual. A range of grades will be determined, and that range will include the entire grading scale from A to F.

Students demonstrate their expertise and individual development through imagination, observation, documentation, etc. Attendance at required lectures, maintaining studio documents - i.e., sketchbook/journal, project folders, data sheets, etc., keeping up with assigned external references (readings, videos, and the like), participation in class, etc. will all affect final grades. Accurate evaluation of studio performance goes beyond strictly numerical values; the numerical average may be modified according to student success or failure in achieving an adequate level of growth and development during the semester.

- New work must be produced for each class.
- Completion of all exercises and projects must be on time. Failure to submit and present a project on time will result in an F for the project. In addition, failure to be present during your designated final review time slot will result in an F for the project.
- Always be prepared to work in class. Keep all work in the studio. It is highly recommended that all students work in studio between class meetings.
- Studio is not "social hour." It is class time for you to advance your studies. Excessive breaks from work will not be tolerated and will affect your final grade. Leaving class early will constitute an absence.
- All students must have or receive shop certification prior to working in the shop.
- All factors will be considered in determining the final grade. Most important, however, are completion of the projects and exercises, quality of the work, and participation in the class.
- Students receive final reviews for projects at the discretion of their faculty. In some cases, students may be asked to present to faculty at a time other than the final review in order to engage in a more formative review process.

Grading Standards

At a minimum, students are expected to exhibit architectural/construction competency as a result of participating in this studio. While the quantity of time one spends working on subject-specific studies is often reflected positively in the quality of the work, it cannot - in itself - be a guarantee of a high grade in this course. In other words, just

because you spend a lot of time working on something doesn't necessarily mean it is good work worthy of a high grade.

A: Excellent, Exceptional 90 to 100

This work advances the standards of the school, challenging conventions, provoking new insights, and achieving a high level of thoughtful making.

B: Above Expected High Standards 80 to 89.9

Well-considered work that advances conventional wisdom. The thought and making are beyond competent and the problems are solved with a high degree of skill.

C: Satisfactory 70 to 79.9

This work is effective, sound, and acceptable, executed with conventional wisdom. Problems are solved in a competent manner.

D: Not Satisfactory 60 to 69.9

Work is inconsistent and has solved only some parts of the problems. While some aspects may be solved to an acceptable level, there are aspects that are not addressed in a way that conveys an adequate or reasonable response.

F: Failure 0 to 59.9

The work is unacceptable because it demonstrates no or little awareness or regard for standard expectations of design. The resulting work endangers the public health, safety & welfare.

I: Incomplete

An incomplete may be submitted in lieu of a final grade when the student, because of illness, death in their immediate family, or similar circumstances beyond their control, is unable to complete the course requirements or to take final examinations. For studio courses, grades of (I) must be removed before the first day of studio in the next semester or within thirty (30) calendar days if the student does not enroll in studio the following semester. Only that part of the work missed during the emergency for which the incomplete was granted may be made up. If a grade of (I) is not resolved into a passing grade within the allotted time, the grade then becomes an (F). For more information refer to AOP 12.12-Credit, Grades, and Academic Standing

Studio Culture Policy

Expectations and policies for the studio are found in the SARC Studio Culture Policy.

<https://www.caad.msstate.edu/sites/www.caad.msstate.edu/files/inline-files/Studio%20Culture%20Policy%202021%20Sept%202022.pdf>

University Syllabus

<https://www.provost.msstate.edu/faculty-student-resources/university-syllabus>