

# Design Computing Seminar

Arch 484 - Winter, 2008  
Tu Th - 12:00 - 1:20pm  
Brian Johnson

## University Course Description:

---

*Weekly colloquium and discussion forum. Discusses design computing research and report on ongoing project progress, with demonstrations and guest speakers. Explores design computing, design thinking and design process, and inventing new computer aided tools for design.*

## Updated Class Description:

---

This course explores some of the topics that motivate active thought and research in design computing. It does this primarily through guest presentations and discussion of research and investigations taking place around us. Speakers are drawn from the department, the larger university, the community and the profession. Presentations are intended to spark discussion and invite students to make links to their own experience and interests. The issues will range widely over the realms of communication, collaboration, data management, design cognition, design process, simulation, interface design, embedding computation in the built environment, etc.

## Preparation

---

Experience with design activities and digital media, including 2D CAD, 3D modeling, or other design computing software is desirable, but the primary preparatory requirement is an open and inquiring mind willing to engage new viewpoints, discuss with others, and expand personal horizons.

## Expectations

---

The class meets once or twice each week to listen, discuss, or report. At most meetings a speaker will present their work and/or views with regard to design computing research. Students are expected to respond to each presentation through face-to-face discussion or via postings on the course web site.

Beyond participation in discussion & postings related to speakers, students are asked to make a weekly contribution to the class online environment, either in the "Site Catalog" or "Forum" area.

Finally, each student will also be expected to identify a topic of their own to explore independently through outside reading and investigation. These investigations will culminate in a brief (5 -10 minute) oral presentation to the class and a written report, both due at the end of the quarter.

## Schedule

---

Each Tuesday and many Thursdays we will have a presentation and discussion. In addition, a few days will be given-over to discussion of broad topics related to the class. As the schedule is necessarily somewhat flexible, the "current schedule" will always be available online.

## Class Assignments and Grading (C/NC)

---

Grading will be based on attendance at presentations, participation in face-to-face and online discussion, contributions to the course web site, and the personal investigation presented at the end of the quarter.

**Course web site:** (<http://quicksilver.caup.washington.edu/courses/arch484>)