



SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

ARPL 696B-03 Thesis II (Design) *and* **ARPL 696 Thesis II Continuation**

6 Credits
Fall 2023

Graduate offering

COURSE SPECIFICS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Thesis II is the culmination of the Graduate Thesis Program (a two-semester sequence consisting of Thesis I and Thesis II.) The Thesis II semester involves the further development of an architectural investigation initiated in Thesis I. Students will continue to push forward their research and analysis through the production of diagrams and multiple design exercises, culminating in a significant architectural project/proposal.

Students will take full responsibility for seeking direction from their professor/advocate and committee member, convening meetings and pin-ups. Students will manage their own time in consultation with their advocate. They may bring other faculty and consultants to work with them but the faculty of record will be their advocate.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY LAST NAMES)

- **Julio Bermudez, Professor**
Office: Crough 206
Phone: (202) 319-5755
Email: bermudez@cua.edu
- **James McCrery, Associate Professor**
Office: Crough 205
Email: mccrery@cua.edu
- **Jason Montgomery, Associate Professor**
Office #: Crough 207
Phone: (718) 791-2787
Email: montgomeryja@cua.edu
- **Lavinia Fici Pasquina, Associate Professor**
Office: 209 Crough Center, 2nd floor
Phone: 1 (301) 526 6278
Ficipasquina@cua.edu

Interactions between faculty and students will be in person during class or via email after hours.

CLASS MEETINGS

- Week 1: Wednesday 9:40 am – 12:10 pm
- Week 2 – 14: Fridays throughout the semester; other days and times might be arranged by mutual agreement 9:40 am – 12:10 pm
- Week 15: Thursday all day.
- Refer in detail to the Course Schedule
- In person at School or in case of need: Online via ZOOM
- Physical space: Graduate studios

OFFICE HOURS

- CROUGH 206 (Bermudez)
- CROUGH 209 (Fici Pasquina)
- CROUGH 205 (McCrery)
- CROUGH 106A (Montgomery)

PREREQUISITES

ARPL 696 A-C - Thesis I – “Pass” Grade.

COURSE GOALS

OBJECTIVES

In this course, students will gain competencies in the following categories:

- Concept / Abstraction: Development of a significant, clear, and relevant idea.
- Investigation: Rigorous development of all applicable research topics with thoughtfulness and depth expected of capstone graduate work.
- Development and Integration: Ability to substantially develop the project over the course of the semester. Research and design should be adequately integrated relative to areas of social, cultural, urban, programmatic, and formal concerns. Additionally, technical issues such as construction details, material properties and performance, sustainability, structural design and detailing, mechanical systems, natural and artificial lighting, and acoustical details must be addressed.
- Construction: Development of documents, drawings, and models which are complete and executed with both skill and care.
- Argument / Defense: Independently presenting ideas, concepts, research, precedents, analysis and design proposals in such a way and with such an understanding of the issues such that they may be defended against reasonable criticism.
- Leadership: Taking personal responsibility for decisions that are made, interpretation and/or application (where appropriate) of criticism from faculty members, and the overall effort applied to the development of the thesis.
- Presentation: Ability to present the research and design proposal clearly and concisely both verbally and graphically.

OUTCOMES

Successful completion of this course will enable students to:

- Develop effective architectural research methodologies
- Link research, theory and history to the design process
- Explore the building of an argument through text and graphic analysis
- Enable the translation of research, written and graphic analysis into a strategy of design
- Craft and develop an architectural problem

- Demonstrate an understanding of the means and methods required to develop a solution to the problem posed

INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY

In-person/on-campus with possible Zoom meetings. Blended options will be specified if needed.

CONTINGENCY PLANNING

In the event that the University as a whole, or this class in particular, must shift to entirely online course delivery, the following adjustments will be made to the mode of instruction, assignments, and assessments for that specified time period: We will meet on the same days and times using **ZOOM** (and other supporting digital tools such as emails, website/blackboard, and/or MIRO software) as our communication platform. The **ZOOM link** for this class is:

<https://cua.zoom.us/j/89341023610>

Students may still be required to quarantine due to close contact or to isolate at times over the course of the semester due to a positive COVID test result. In these cases where students are told by the Student Health and/or the Dean of Students that they cannot attend class in person, students will have access to course materials, teaching, and interaction with the instructor using the same digital platform and support defined above. This class is not taught as a hybrid course which means that this accommodation is made only for those students that are required to quarantine.

In rare circumstances, students may make requests for alternative class participation arrangements for a limited time period due to their personal health, family emergency, or extraordinary circumstance. In such a case, students may request to have access to course materials and instruction in place of in-person attendance only for these circumstances. All of these arrangements are at the exclusive discretion of the instructor.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Students are expected to work in studio and independently between weekly meetings. Students will be required to attend four/five formal reviews over the course of the semester in addition to the final review. Students will receive feedback from the course professor, an advocate (if a student is working with one) and other consultants throughout the development of the initial research framework and methodologies. As the semester evolves, students will be required to incorporate their research into a series of comprehensive drawings, diagrams and images, and to present them in a formal jury.

Neither research, nor architectural design are linear processes. Although students will be operating within the given structural format of the Thesis Studio, the sequence of investigation and duration of particular phases may vary from individual to individual. Since the successful project is dependent on the clear, concise communication of ideas – students are expected to develop, question and test their means, methods and medium of representation through various drawings, diagrams and models.

The expectation for each student in this course is **the production of studio based and independent and individually directed graduate level work**. Although the course instructor will be the student's primary point of contact, it is recommended that students seek out the advice of faculty with expertise in topics relevant to their individual project. The faculty of the School of Architecture and Planning exist as valuable resources, critics and guides and should be used accordingly. In the end however, you are your most valuable resource and are expected to become your toughest critic.

Each student will meet with the critic a minimum of once per week.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to attend all crits and mandatory reviews. Students will be required to make a Final Presentation (also see Course Schedule) at the end of the semester in addition to submitting a Final Thesis Book.

Thesis Book:

Aside from the Final Presentation, students are required to submit a Thesis Book. By the end of the Thesis Studio II semester this document should be approximately 50 pages (100 pages for joint degree students) in length. The Thesis Book will be 11" x 17", horizontal format, hardbound, and should follow the formatting and organizational requirements as outlined in the CUA Thesis Handbook pages 6-9 available online (<https://graduate-studies.catholic.edu/masters/masters-and-licentiate-thesis-handbook-2020-2021-complete-edition.pdf>) Additionally, the Thesis Book should have an indication of the Thesis Title and Student Name embossed or imprinted on the exterior front of the book.

Book Due Date: Books will be due the Friday before final semester grades are due. Students with DSS forms should work with their Thesis Advocate to establish an appropriate book submission deadline.

In addition, and as described in the CUA handbook pages listed above, the thesis book should contain the following information:

- Title Page: Must follow the University's standards (see Thesis Handbook)
- A Signature Page signed and dated by your thesis advocate(s) (see Thesis Handbook page 6)
- An Abstract (a one-page document clearly and succinctly describing your proposal, see Thesis Handbook pages 6-7)
- An Introduction (your problem statement and brief supporting information)
- A Body (your research and summation of your translation of that research through the lens of your proposal, your design methodology, precedent analysis, program analysis, site analysis, tectonic analysis, and any additional information)
- Notes/Footnotes per the Thesis Handbook
- A Conclusion restating your thesis intent, what you discovered and what was revealed through your research and design processes, and your conclusions regarding your thesis statement.
- Letters of permission per the Thesis Handbook (page 8)
- Bibliography per the Thesis Handbook (page 9)
- All Relevant Graphic Information (your final thesis presentation complete boards to include all research, analysis, site, program, precedent, drawings, vignettes, support information)
- Size / Orientation: 11"x 17" landscape format
- Binding: After successfully defending their thesis, students must submit a professionally bound copy of the book. See the sample from the instructors. Students are encouraged to use Blurb, LuLu or other printers/binders.

- Style, Typeface, paper, margins, line spacing, pagination, page number placement, illustrative materials, optional preliminary pages and end matter, and packaging addenda are per the student's design.
- Deposit of Thesis Book requirements are as follows:
 - Electronic and hard copies to The University per the guidelines on pages 12-13 of the Thesis Handbook online (link provided above)
 - One bound copy to the School Advocate(s)
 - One bound copy to the School for inclusion in School's collection
 - One digital copy to the School Advocate(s)
 - One digital copy to the Dean of the School for inclusion in School's collection
- See examples of the Title Pages, the Abstract and the Signature Page in the Thesis Handbook (link provided above) on pages 15-18

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Since this course is a continuation of self-directed research done by each student, there are no class-wide reading materials.

Textbooks:

- For joint M.Arch+MSNZD degree students: Living Building Challenge 3.1, Petal Handbooks.

Supplies:

- Sketchbook, size and design by student preference
- Trace paper
- Sketching tools (pens, pencils, markers, etc.)
- Scales
- Concept Model making supplies (chipboard, Bristol, x-acto knives and blades, cutting mat, steel ruler, glue, etc.)

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

The studio instructor and other faculty advisors may make recommendations for sources pertaining to each student's individual research. As a self-directed course, students are expected to identify and implement relevant resources whenever possible.

- Thesis books from previous years are available in the Architecture and Engineering Library.
- Digital version of Thesis Books and presentations are also available upon request to faculty.

CLASS POLICIES

- **Attendance**
You are expected to be in class, or, if the class is online, in our ZOOM room, during all class periods.
- **Technology**
All technologies are appropriate for this class. We will discuss options together in class.
- **Late Assignments and Make-Up Exams**
We will discuss this on a one-on-one basis.

GRADES

- Grades/Feedback will be communicated either via Blackboard or email throughout the semester at regular intervals per the course deliverables schedule, including at midterm

and at final. Please note: grades on Blackboard do not necessarily forecast the final course grade, as they may not reflect outstanding assignments.

- Include weighting of various components of course grade including a clear representation of what the midterm grade will include.

The University grading system is available:

- Graduates - <https://policies.catholic.edu/students/academicgrad/gradesfull.html#iii>
- Additional Requirements per the School of Architecture and Planning – See Grading Policy located here: <https://architecture.catholic.edu/academics/undergraduate-advising/policies/index.html>

Reports of grades in courses are available at the end of each term on <https://csprd.cua.edu/psp/csprd/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG&>.

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING

Interim assessments will be given to each student by the committee following each mandatory review. Students are encouraged to discuss their progress and request suggested assignments for improvement from the committee.

This course will be graded on a **Pass/Fail** basis (see ‘Goals for Student Learning’ for assessment criteria). Students who meet or exceed the learning objectives and topics for the course will receive a passing grade, while students who do not meet the learning objective and topics will fail the course. Although grades are given by the committee member assigned as your advocate, all aspects of the course, including final grades will be a consensus of all members of your committee.

STUDENT WORK NAMING CONVENTIONS

All student work uploaded to Blackboard or on the course Google Drive **MUST** be named accordingly:

- CourseNumber_Semester_InstructorLastName_StudentWork_StudentLastName_AssignmentName. PDF

For Example:

ARPL609-B_Spring12022_MorshedOhnstad_StudentWork_Smith_Assignment1.PDF

As part of the final grade, all students are to upload a single PDF that includes all student work, organized by assignment, separating each assignment with a one-page cover sheet. For all assignments that include any group work, this cover sheet is to include a description of the individual student contribution to the group work for that particular assignment. The title of the PDF is to be “Last Name_Course Number.pdf”. This PDF is to be less than 25MB. A passing grade will be withheld until this submission to Blackboard is uploaded successfully.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS ADDRESSED – NATIONAL ARCHITECTURE ACCREDITING BOARD (NAAB) 2020 CONDITIONS FOR ACCREDITATION FOR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE PROGRAMS IN ARCHITECTURE

Program and Student Criteria

These criteria seek to evaluate the outcomes of architecture programs and student work within their unique institutional, regional, national, international, and professional contexts, while encouraging innovative approaches to architecture education and professional preparation. The following criteria are required to be met by this course:

- PC.2 Design—How the program instills in students the role of the design process in shaping the built environment and conveys the methods by which design processes integrate multiple factors, in different settings and scales of development, from buildings to cities.
- SC.5 Design Synthesis—How the program ensures that students develop the ability to make design decisions within architectural projects while demonstrating synthesis of user requirements, regulatory requirements, site conditions, and accessible design, and consideration of the measurable environmental impacts of their design decisions.

For additional information, see the NAAB Conditions for Accreditation link:

<https://www.naab.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-NAAB-Conditions-for-Accreditation.pdf>

COURSE SCHEDULE & BIBLIOGRAPHY

COURSE SCHEDULE

The detailed course schedule is per Instructor. A weekly overview is as follows along with a visual schedule on the next page.

Week 1	Pin Up 1	Intro to TS 2: student pins up and discuss with Concentration Director all the relevant material completed in the first semester of TS1
Week 3	Pin Up 2	Review of: Site, Program, Precedents, Parti Diagrams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Site selection: complete (from TS 1) ● Program analysis: complete (from TS 1) ● Thesis committee: complete (from TS 1) ● Site Model (physical or digital): in progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Built model showing urban context ● Precedent Analysis: complete (from TS 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Series of projects similar in scale, scope, program, formal adjacencies, ● Site Analysis: complete (from TS 1) ● Semester Schedule: done by student <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schedule with deliverables, deadlines, ● Design Parti: 3 to 5 convincing alternatives to discuss
Week 5	Pin Up 3	Review of: Final Design Parti <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Site Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scale: Urban, neighborhood, block ● Models showing massing, program adjacency, and schematic options. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scale that clarifies massing and clearly presents an iterative process. ● Development of orthographics (plan, section, elevation) and experientials ● Materials and technology ● Site Model (physical or digital): complete ● Vision of final presentation: per student
Week 8	Pin Up 4	Review of: Design Development, Mid Term Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plan development (1/16" minimum) ● Section development (1/8" minimum) ● Urban context (1:50) ● Materiality, structure review ● Clear demonstrating understanding of program requirements (code, SF, ADA, egress)

- Vignettes demonstrating the experiential quality of the project
- Concentration Director approval
- Committee approval

Week 12 Pin Up 5 **STOP GO Review: Substantial Completion** (graphic/model presentation)

- Ten minute presentation of final graphics that will be presented, only notation of what is missing. Special Jury will make recommendation on stop/go.

Week 15 Presentation **Final Review**

Schedule 2023-08-28 (see attached and please know that it is subject to change)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Will result from individual work.

THESIS II Design

Fall 2023

Faculty: Bermudez, Fici Pasquina, McCreery, Montgomery

Week #	WEDNESDAY	DETAILS	EXPECTATIONS
1	8/30/2023 (August) INTRO TO THESIS 2 all students + teaching faculty	After general explanation, the general meeting adjourns TS 2 students meet with their thesis adviser (Concentration Director).	Student presents Spring work summarizing their Project's thesis, site, program, precedents, etc., to their concentration Director.
	FRIDAY	DETAILS	EXPECTATIONS
2	9/8/2023 (September)		
3	9/15/2023 REVIEW 1: IN PROGRESS PART I +	Internal review only with Concentration Director and other guests of his/her choosing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site selection: complete (from TS 1) Program analysis: complete (from TS 1) Thesis committee: complete (from TS 1) Site Model (Either physical or computer Models): in progress Precedent Analysis: complete Site Analysis: complete Design Part I: 3 to 5 convincing alternatives
4	9/22/2023		
5	9/29/2023 REVIEW 2: PART I (External Jury)	Jury composed of: – Concentration Director – Assoc. Dean of Graduate Studies or Dean – External Jurists selected by the Concentration Director + one other Concentration Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Plan Models showing massing, program adjacency, schematic options Development of orthographics (plan, section, elevation) and experientials Materials and technology Site Model: complete Vision of final presentation: per student
6	10/6/2023 (October)		
7	10/13/2023		
8	10/20/2023 REVIEW 3: SCHEMATIC DESIGN (Internal Jury)	Jury composed of: – Concentration Director – Assoc. Dean of Graduate Studies or Dean – Minimum of 3 CUA Faculty Jurists (includes 1 other Concent. director) selected by the Conc. Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan development (1/16" minimum) Section development (1/8" minimum) Urban context (1:50) Materiality, structure review Clear demonstration of understanding of program requirements (code, SF, ADA, egress) Vignettes demonstrating experiential quality of project Concentration Director approval Committee approval
9	10/27/2023		
10	11/3/2023 (November)		
11	11/10/2023		
12	11/17/2023 REVIEW 4: STOP / GO (Internal Jury)	Jury composed of: – Concentration Director – Dean – Assoc. Dean of Graduate Studies – One other Concentration Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantial Completion (graphic/model presentation) Ten minute presentation of final graphics that will be presented, only notation of what is missing. Special Jury will make recommendation on stop/go
13	11/24/2023 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY		
14	12/1/2023 (December)		
	THURSDAY	DETAILS	EXPECTATIONS
15	12/7/2023 THESIS 2 FINAL REVIEW (External Jury) Final Book Due (TBD)	Jury composed of: – Concentration Director (no voice or vote) – Dean – Assoc. Dean of Graduate Studies – External Jurists selected by the Concentration Director	TS2 jury and committee will decide on whether project is selected to advance to superjury in Spring 2023

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY POLICIES

GRADUATE LEVEL

All members of the Catholic University community have a shared responsibility to know and to abide by the University's policies, especially relating to:

- Academic Integrity
- Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
- Attendance
- Conduct
- Final Exams
- Grades and appeals

All of Catholic University's policies are detailed at <https://policies.catholic.edu/index.html>. Please follow up with the instructor if you have any policy-related questions.

Of particular note are the policies regarding Academic Integrity, Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, and Final Exams, which are described below.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty at The Catholic University of America is not tolerated (<https://policies.catholic.edu/students/academicundergrad/integrityfull.html> and <https://policies.catholic.edu/students/academicundergrad/integrityprocedures.html>)

As such, academic integrity is not merely avoiding plagiarism or cheating, but it certainly includes those things. Academic integrity means, above all else, taking responsibility for your work, your ideas, and your effort, and giving credit to others for their work, ideas, and effort. If you submit work that is not your own – whether test answers, whole papers, or something in-between – that is considered to be academic dishonesty. University procedures related to academic dishonesty are conducted with respect and dignity, while also preserving accountability, and they presuppose that all participants will treat each other with respect and dignity.

The following sanctions are presented in the University procedures related to Student Academic Dishonesty:

“The presumed sanction for undergraduate students for academic dishonesty will be failure for the course. In the context of graduate studies, the expectations for academic honesty are greater, and therefore the presumed sanction for dishonesty is likely to be more severe, e.g., expulsion. ...In the more unusual case, mitigating circumstances may exist that would warrant a lesser sanction than the presumed sanction.”

At times, you may do group work for an in-class presentation or group project. For that *specific* assignment, you are allowed to share material, ideas and information; however, for any related work that is to be submitted on an individual basis, your submission is expected to be your own in its entirety. If there is no group work in the class you should not collaborate with classmates on work that is to be submitted for an individual grade.

For more information about what academic integrity means at CUA, including your responsibilities and rights, visit <https://integrity.catholic.edu/index.html>.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Any student who feels s/he may need a reasonable accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Support Services (<https://dss.catholic.edu/index.html>) by email at CUA-DSS@cua.edu or call 202-319-5211 to make an appointment to discuss possible accommodations. DSS recommends that a student with a disability meet with DSS staff during the first week of every semester since accommodations are not retroactive. Please note that instructors will only provide those accommodations included in the DSS accommodation letter. DSS is located in PRYZ 127.

Final Exam: The final exam must be given on the day and time assigned by Enrollment Services. Please plan accordingly for travel, work, special events, or appointments.

A student having an exam scheduling conflict as defined in the policy must report to her/his school's Academic Dean's Office no later than fourteen calendar days before the end of classes. The dean will assist the student in rescheduling the exam(s) for the course having the lowest enrollment(s). All make-up exams must be completed at the earliest possible time during the final examination period.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

- **Libraries** <https://libraries.catholic.edu/>
- **Center for Academic and Career Success** <https://success.catholic.edu/>
- **Math Center** <https://success.catholic.edu/academic-support/math-center/index.html>
- **Tutoring Services** <https://success.catholic.edu/academic-support/tutoring-services/index.html>
- **Writing Center** <https://success.catholic.edu/academic-support/writing-center/index.html>
- **Office of Disability Support Services** <https://dss.catholic.edu/index.html>
- **Counseling Center** <https://counseling.catholic.edu/index.html>
- **Student Health Services** <https://health.catholic.edu/index.html>
- **Dean of Students Office** <https://deanofstudents.catholic.edu/index.html>