

**Course Code:**

PARE301

**Session**

2017/2018

**1. Course Title:**

Dissertation / Design Thesis

**2. Version**

1.1

**Date of Production/Revision:**

Session 2017/2018

**Approval Date**

20 April 2016

**3. Level:**

SCQF11

**4. Credits:**

60

**5. Lead School/Board of Studies**

Mackintosh School of Architecture

**6. Course Contact:**

Dr Filbert Musau

**7. Course Aims:**

- Following satisfactory progress in the Dissertation or Design thesis proposal in Stage 2, the main aim is for the student to further develop the approved proposal, based on the feedback provided by the examiners and the continuing guidance of the assigned supervisor;
- To critically review the relevant literature in the approved topic and develop independent standpoints and arguments;
- For students following a research pathway, the course will prepare and equip them with the skills needed to explore interests and ideas further through PhD study;
- To offer insights, solutions, in-depth understanding or interpretations of matters arising from distinct, specialist subject areas; and
- To develop and improve independent thinking and core research and analytical skills.

**8. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:**

**By the end of this course students will be able to:**

1. Refine a research question/hypothesis or design strategies based on identified challenges or opportunities.
2. Demonstrate autonomy, critical thinking, understanding, synthesis and active engagement with the current knowledge base in environmental architecture by critically reviewing literature that is relevant to individual interests and a defined project scope.
3. Take responsibility and leadership for undertaking a sustained period of independent study; and executing a research or design thesis project at a masters level of originality.
4. Plan, develop and apply appropriate research methods/tools, knowledge, analytical skills and intellectual rigor in the execution of a significant research project or design thesis, whilst taking account of health and safety and ethical issues.
5. Critically interpret research findings and discuss their significance.
6. Communicate concepts and individual standpoints fluently and effectively in writing or drawings in a clear, logical, concise and accurate professional style using the Harvard referencing system and standard citation conventions.

**9. Indicative Content:**

The course will be delivered during Stage 3, and will comprise of 600 learning hours. There will be no lectures. Individual dissertation projects will be self-directed under the guidance of supervisors. The dissertation will be expected to follow-on from the research/project proposal at Stage 2, which will be refined based on the feedback received from the assessment of the proposal. There will be an interim review presentation to tutors and peers.

**10. Description of Summative Assessment:**

No.	Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week (assignments) or length (exam)
1	Submission of written dissertation or design thesis drawings and a design report, including design analysis.	Written thesis, between 12,000 words (+ or -10%) or Drawings and a report of 8000 words. (+ or -10%)	100%	Semester 3 Week 13

**10.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:**

Students will be required to submit a dissertation or design thesis on a specific area of environmental architecture covered previously in the course. The submission should include the following: 1) Introduction/context, 2) Literature review and/or context, 3) Methods, 4) Results, 5) Discussion, and 6) Conclusion. The dissertation / design thesis will be assessed by two internal examiners based on learning outcomes 1-8. Particular emphasis will be placed on originality with an analytical approach which may include reshaping material or consideration of information in new ways. There will be a short defence prior to the internal examination.

**11. Formative Assessment:**

Tutorials and interim review

**11.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:**

Feedback will be provided through one-to-one tutorials and the interim review

**12. Collaborative:**

Yes

No

**12.1 Teaching Institutions:**

n/a

**13. Requirements of Entry:**

Successful completion of the MSc in Environmental Architecture

**14. Co-requisites:**

None

**15. Associated Programmes**

MSc in Environmental Architecture

**16. When Taught:**

Stage 3 – Term 3 and summer

**17. Timetable:**

Week 1: Supervisory meeting to discuss research proposal, feedback from Stage 2 submission and programme of execution

Week 3: Supervisory meeting to discuss chapter structure and progress to date

Week 5: Presentation to the programme tutors and peers

Week 7: Submission of initial chapters with discussion at supervisory meeting

Week 9: Presentation to the programme tutors and peers

Week 11: Supervisory meeting to discuss progress and initial results

Week 14: Submission of draft thesis with feedback (supervisory meeting)

One week to internal exams: Final submission

Exact dates and times to be agreed between supervisor and student

**18. Available to Visiting Students:**

Yes

No

**19. Distance Learning:**

Yes

No

**20. Placement:**

Yes

No

**21. Learning and Teaching Methods:**

Method	Formal Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours (Including formal contact hours)
Lecture		
Studio		
Seminar/Presentation	10 hours (two presentations)	20 hours (including preparation)
Tutorials/Supervisions	5 hours (5 x 1 hour tutorials) 2 hours (feedback)	10 hours (including preparation)
Workshop		
Laboratory work		
Project work		150 hours
Professional Practice		
E-Learning / Distance Learning		
Placement		
Examination		
Essay		
Private Study / Writing	Not Applicable	420 hours
Other (please specify below)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>600</b>

**22. Description of "Other" Teaching and Learning Methods:**

N/A

**23. Additional Relevant Information:**

N/A

**24. Indicative Bibliography:**

Groat, L. and Wang, D. (2013). *Architectural research methods*. 2nd ed. Oxford: John Wiley & Sons.

Willis, P. (1983). *Dissertation Handbook: A Guide to Research and Writing*. London: RIBA.

Fellows, R. and Liu, A. (2008). *Research methods for construction*. Oxford: John Wiley & Sons.

Knight, A. and Ruddock, L. (2008). *Advanced Research Methods in the Built Environment*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Creswell, J. (2013). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. London: Sage Publications.

Additional bibliography to be compiled by individual student based on the specific study area, with guidance from supervisor.