

ID 4206 Syllabus**The Culture of Objects (section 1, 3 credits)****In-person, on-campus lecture course****Instructor Information**

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This seminar surveys the field of design studies by examining the theories and methodologies that locate meaning within our culture that contribute to the designed object. Philosophy, material culture, anthropology and the technology sciences have all posited reciprocal relations between the designed object and culture. This seminar maps these different approaches and theories.

Pre- &/or Co-Requisites:

ID2202 History of Industrial Design

Course Goals and Learning Outcome:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge, skill and abilities in the following areas: Students will better understand the role of material culture in the design process in abstract theoretical terms and in specific examples.

Course format

Weekly lectures which will summarize different design criteria, followed by student presentations which will address and apply these criteria to specific examples to generate discussion within the class

Attendance: required**Course Requirements and Grading:**

The grading components of the course allow students to practice a number of different design-related skills: researching different and varied design criteria, making informed choices about design preferences and synthesizing factual information about design theory to perform well on tests.

There will be **assignments** attached to the weekly lectures that will provide students with experience in applying design protocols. These assignments will be uploaded into Assignments on Canvas and submitted through Canvas as well.

In addition, each student will prepare a well-researched and informed **presentation** on an assigned topic appropriate to the course material. The topics will be assigned via written assignment briefs which will include information about a) format and details of the presented research, b) expectations and evaluation criteria in grading, c) due dates and submission information.

There will also be three **on-line proctored tests**. The tests will be made available on-line through Honorlock

Students will be evaluated on the quality of the completion of assignments (30%), on the quality of their researched presentation (30%), and on grades on tests (30%), and on the quality of their contributions in class discussions and consistent attendance of the lectures (10%).

Grading Scale:

Final grade averages will be calculated as follows: A: 100-90 (exceeds expectations on all questions); B: 89.9-80 (adequately meets expectations on the test answers); C: 79.9-70 (fails to adequately meet some expectations of test answers); D: 69.9-60 (failure to meet most expectations).

Course Materials:

Course Textbook (required): Prasad Boradkar, Designing Things: A Critical Introduction to the Culture of Objects, 2010

Supplemental Readings (required): numerous files will be uploaded into the Modules in Canvas in support of the lectures and the various assignments.

Organization:

As an in-person course, the primary teaching aid is in the form of weekly classroom lectures by the instructor presenting the course material. Assignments which will require application of the lecture material to a specific project will also be introduced and explained in the weekly class meetings. The tests will consist of questions derived from the lectures, resource files posted in the Canvas site and from the information presented in the student research presentations. Students will be graded based on how accurately the student has synthesized the course material. Canvas (<http://canvas.gatech.edu/>) will be the main portal for dissemination of course information in support of the weekly in-class lectures.

Course Policies:

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Student-Faculty Expectations

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to continually strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectations – that you can have of me, and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech, while in this class.

Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services (often referred to as ADAPTS) at (404)895-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also email me as soon as possible to request an extension of the time allowed for the tests if you wish this privilege..

Campus Operations

In case of the need for modification of campus operations, closing of campus, or the necessary closing of instructional spaces for any reason, students should follow guidance and/or directions provided by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-Being regarding student activities, events, programs and services based upon the [Digital Learning Days for Modified Campus Operations Policy](#).