

## **Sam Fox Commons Course Proposal**

Course title: Site Specific Design Installation

Level: 200 and up (200, 300, 400)

Term: Spring semester

Credit hours: 3

Instructor: Arny Nadler, Associate Professor of Art  
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Arny Nadler, Associate Professor of Art

**Course Description:            Site Specific Design Installation**

This course is an adaptation of a Special Topics in Core class I have taught offered twice through the college of art.

In this course students will work in collaborative teams to design, propose and fabricate design installations on the Washington University campus. In their proposals, students will respond to the public spaces on campus, how they are used and by whom. Design solutions may be utilitarian in nature or sculptural- one approach is not prioritized over the other. The choice of materials will be in response to the structural and aesthetic needs of the particular project. That said, students are encouraged to use materials that are easily obtained, relatively inexpensive and manageable in the existing Sam Fox workshops. Possible examples include wood, steel, fabric and concrete.

**Course Narrative**

Calls for public art proposals today frequently encourage submissions from design teams made up of architects, artists and often times engineers. It stands to reason that the symbiotic relationship between these adjacent fields has incredible creative potential. All too often though, members of a collaborative team become relegated to practice their expertise and theirs alone; the engineer figures out the math stuff and the others make it pretty. Specialization can be a good thing except when it favors efficiency over discovery. In this course, the desire to shape space and respond to our environment is shared by all who enroll and takes precedent over an intended course of major study.

Both students of art and architecture benefit from the process of brainstorming, responding, researching, planning, proposing, fabricating, installing and ultimately taking responsibility for something that lives outside the safety of the studio walls. Knowledge gained from this experience has clear application in both the fields of art and architecture.

Army Nadler, Associate Professor of Art

**Course Schedule:                    Site Specific Design Installation**

This course schedule is a draft and is to be used for course proposal purposes only.

- Week 1:            Introduction course, process, parameters and time line.  
Tour campus, photograph various sites and make journal entrees about the nature of the site, its use, physical attributes, etc.
- Week 2:            Field trips to both Laumeier Sculpture Park and Botanical Gardens  
Site observations.  
Assign reading: Peril in the Square, The sculpture that challenged a city, Geoffrey J. Walls
- Week 3:            Meet with William Wiley, Director of Maintenance Operations to discuss safety, environmental and location considerations.  
Assign ten hours in a site: students spend ten hours in a particular site on campus over the span of a few days and record observations.
- Week 4:            Share site observations, work on three ideas to be presented to class on proposal boards.  
Field trips to lumber yard and steel supply
- Week 5:            Form three to four teams based on similarities in design approach and site interest. Discuss and review presentation strategies (models, drawings, prototypes, etc.). Work on concept proposal draft.
- Week 6:            Critique of concept proposal draft. Review prototype samples and material investigations. Tool and technical training as necessary.
- Week 7:            Review proposals.
- Week 8:            Present to William Wiley, Director of Maintenance Operations for approval.
- Week 9-14        Fabrication of designs and site preparations
- Week 15         Document and critique
- Week 6            Wrap up semester and plan for project maintenance.  
De-installation to occur early following fall semester