

Thesis 2020

Advisor: Gabe Barcia-Colombo | gabebc@nyu.edu

Residents: Aidan Nelson | anelson@nyu.edu and Chelsea Chen | cc5847@nyu.edu

<https://itp.nyu.edu/thesis/journal2020/>

Week 1:

In class:

1. Intro to thesis
2. Create a mind map that will help to guide your research. Even if you are unsure of your topic. Attempt to identify who your audience is and a location where will your research will fit in best? Is it a museum, a design competition, a nightclub, a school, a public festival? What are the needs of these specific locations?
3. Create 3 speculative designs that will address a question you are pursuing for your thesis.

Homework:

- Post your in class speculative design exercises to your thesis journal now known as TJ.
- Write a short story that forecasts future interactions or speculative fiction.
- In study groups meet and share your portfolio of past projects so far at ITP.

Week 2:

In Class:

1. Residents Present their thesis: focus on process, and what they wished they'd done
2. Research Swap Meet
 - Karina, Morgan, Jingyi
 - Luming, Mingna, Billy
 - Louise, Matthew, Rui
 - Alizarin, Guillermo, Hannah,
 - Gilad, Bora, Dana,
3. Brainstorm an experiment from the research swap meet that will help you develop your topic of research.

Homework

- Conduct one weekly experiment in visual audio or other material in your subject of interest. This can include sketches, material or physical experiments but should have a component of engagement with another human being.
- Have 1 conversation with someone you do not know about your topic of interest. Video tape this conversation and upload it to your research page.
- Find a scholarly paper in your topic of interest. Read this paper and write a reaction providing evidence of how this paper will influence your topic for thesis.
- Find 3 precedents for your topic of interest. Do research to find 3 projects that have been done in your particular field. Describe their context and what you liked or disliked in each project.
- Identify 3 people who are interested in or work in your thesis field.

Week 3: Feb 11

In Study groups:

1. Share your experiment in small groups:
2. Alizarin, Gilad, Matthew, Louise, Hannah: Aidan
3. Karina, Morgan, Dana, Billy, Luming: Chelsea
4. Mingna, Rui, Guillermo, Bora, Jingyi: Gabe
5. Give feedback for 1 hour.
6. Create a short written proposal based on your topic (1/2 - 1 page) and your project (art/design) response

Homework:

- **SUBMIT YOUR THESIS PROPOSAL BY 5PM FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH.**
- Write and Post your latest Thesis Statement (from your Thesis Proposal).
- Write and Post your rationale for doing this thesis. (In other words: The "So-What?" Why do you want to do it; why is it a good idea? what's your passion behind it?)

Week 4: Feb 18

In class:

1. 1:1 Meetings with Gabe to receive feedback on your proposal
3:30-Alizarin, 3:40 Luming, 3:50 Guillermo, 4:00 Dana, 4:10 Gilad, 4:20 Bora, 4:30 Hannah
4:40 Matthew, 4:50 Karina, 5:00 Louise, 5:10 Billy, 5:20 Jingyi, 5:30 Mingna, 5:40 Morgan
5:50 Rui
2. Create a timeline for your thesis:
<http://itp-thesis.s3.amazonaws.com/resources/self-assignment-matrix.pdf>

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aL-jsNHk2WBI0Pv4UC-v0SnTyq-ufkUvhQUgDsEobHQ/edit?usp=sharing>
<https://trello.com/b/1x4Uql2u/project-management>

Homework:

- Find 9 experts in your field of research. Identify 3 as your preferred targets.
- Explain why you chose these experts as your targets and what you hope to gain, overall, once the 3 interviews are complete
- Prepare a script, including 5 questions for 1 of the 3 preferred targets
- Describe the scenario for the expert interview including location, tone, equipment needed, travel time, etc.
- Brainstorm ways to contact the 3 experts, justifying why the method is best
- Draft 3 correspondence letters
- Find a public location relevant to your research and track the positions and movements of people within this space over time. Recording the pathways and traffic patterns of occupants of a space helps to define zones of different spatial behaviors. This reveals how artifacts and environments figure in people's lives, highlighting aspects of their lifestyle, habits, priorities, and values.

Week 5: Feb 25

In class:

1. Meet at **493 Greene Ave #1, Brooklyn**
2. Create a commercial for your thesis. This is a short video which describes what the project is about, demonstrates a possible interaction and transports us into the visual world you are trying to create. Illustrate a character-rich story line describing the context of use for a product, service, or experience. This should not be a joke or a gimmick, but a trailer or preview for your project that will help guide you in the coming weeks. Think about presenting a use case scenario that clearly conveys your path of research.

Homework:

- Finish editing your video and post it to your thesis repository.
- Write a post on your thesis repository evaluating your strengths and weaknesses in the thesis process so far. What has worked for you? What do you need to work on?

Week 6: March 3

In class:

1. Review commercials. How was the process?
2. Discuss and craft timelines and project development.

3. Create a production timeline for the next eight weeks. Break this down into the following categories: remaining research (experts, conversations, summarization of research so far) production & fabrication, user testing, and presentation preparation.

Homework:

- Prepare a 7 minute presentation on your progress so far. This can include your commercial, timeline and any research you've done so far on your area of interest.

Week 7: March 10th

In class: Midterm presentations

Homework:

- Write about your experience with your midterm presentation and be honest. Did you prepare adequately? What do you need to focus on for the next 7 weeks? Adjust your production timeline to reflect these changes.
- Build something physical. Using any materials available, quickly assemble possible forms or interactions for user testing of your project.
- Conduct a user test which helps to reveal unanticipated issues or needs. Re-evaluate your ideas as needed based on this user test.
- Over the next two weeks: build a working prototype of your project. For next week bring in a piece of the project to work on in class.

Week 8: March 24

In class:

1. User testing workshop.
2. <https://www.smashingmagazine.com/2017/11/improve-user-testing/>
3. In Groups make a list of materials needed for your thesis. Rapidly sketch, layout, and evaluate interaction design concepts for basic usability. This is a good way to quickly organize, articulate, and visualize interaction design concepts.
4. Critique and hands on building.

Homework:

- Prepare for the quick and dirty thesis show next class. Bring a working prototype to test with outside guests.

Week 9: March 31

In class:

1. Quick and Dirty Thesis show

Homework:

- Reflect on your experience at the Q&D thesis show. What do you need to change or develop to encourage your ideal interaction?

Week 10: April 7

In class:

1. 1:1 Meetings with study groups advisor and residents Group A

Homework:

- Prepare Materials for Thesis Archive & Thesis Project Summaries
- Continue to work on building a working prototype of your thesis.
- Conduct user testing and document this testing for your final presentation.

Week 11: April 14

In class:

1. 1:1 Meetings with study groups, advisor and residents

Homework:

- Create a barebones presentation with placeholders for media still not acquired
- **MILESTONE: SUBMIT THESIS SUMMARIES AND MATERIALS FOR THESIS Archive BY END OF DAY APRIL 28**

Week 12: April 21

In class:

1. How to give a thesis presentation
2. Mock presentations

Homework:

1. Fill in documentation gaps.

2. Practice your presentations for next week

Week 13: April 28

In class:

- Rehearse your final project presentations

Homework:

- Refine and rehearse your presentations for the final presentation next week!

Week 14: May 5

In class:

- Final project presentations (in class)
- Each student will present for 10 minutes on their thesis project.