ARCH 439/539 Spring 2023
MINIMAL DWELLING
THURS 4:00-6:50 PM LA 206

Instructor: Visiting Assistant Prof. Clay Neal

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
Examination of the design of small dwelling units for a variety of user groups and special situations.

SPECIFIC FOCUS:
This course is a combination lecture, seminar, and workshop in the examination of SMALL DWELLING DESIGN and SITE DESIGN at higher densities as a strategy to deal with compact growth and affordability. In addition, transitional and semi-permanent shelters for people who are unhoused, disaster-relief housing, migrant farm worker housing, and prefab homes will be examined both at the dwelling and site design level. Students will research, design, and/or construct prototypes, depending on individual student interests.

In Spring, 2023, this course will provide the optional opportunity for students to collaborate on the site and dwelling unit design for a designated Safe Sleep Site in Eugene in fulfillment of Project #2. Landscape Architecture and Architecture students are encouraged to work together in small groups to develop site plans (and explore dwelling design iterations) in support of the non-profit who manages the Safe Sleep Site. If students choose this as their primary project, they will be working with the course instructor as well as representatives from the Safe Sleep Site and faculty in Landscape Architecture at the UO. Results of the student research and design will impact the site design for a Safe Sleep Site in Eugene.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Class attendance and participation are required and, along with small in-class assignments, are worth 15% of the final grade. Although there are recommended reading assignments, the main thrust of the course will be based on projects. The class meets once a week for three hours; the format is essentially a lecture/workshop. Every student must complete three small research projects (#1) from a choice of six types (e.g., ADU, Small Cottage House, Disaster Relief, Temporary Homeless Shelter, Micro-Unit, Pre-Fab). Project due dates will be staggered (e.g., half the class presenting one week, the other half the next week during the term). Each of these short assignments is 15% of the final grade. A major design team project (#2) is worth 40% of the grade (like the one described above).

COURSE FORMAT:
The course meets once a week for almost three hours each week, typically as follows:
- 1st hour: Presentation of weekly topic by instructor OR guest lecturer
- 2nd hour: Student group presentations of bi-weekly assignments
- 3rd hour: Student peer group breakout discussions of next week’s project OR workshop style charettes

Credits: 3  Prerequisites: Junior Standing. Open to all majors in the College of Design
Note: This course fulfills one of the courses required for the Graduate Housing Specialization.