THE HUMAN CONTEXT OF DESIGN

Course Objectives. This course is about the buildings and landscapes of our built environment: why we build them, how they enhance our lives, how they don't, and how we can make them better. The goal of this course is for students to develop an understanding of how human interactions with the built environment play a critical role in design, looking at design through the eyes of diverse users.

The course content focuses on environment-behavior concepts and also on critical analysis and application of these concepts by designers. Examination of case studies of functional building types will be used as a means to understand psychological, social, cultural, and functional expectations that people have for the places that they inhabit. A portion of the course will introduce students to research tools to analyze how people use places and to implement what they learn in design proposals.

Course Delivery. All students must attend lectures and sections. All lectures will be delivered live via Zoom. Sections will be live and in-person either in Eugene or Portland unless noted otherwise. The sections provide opportunities to discuss the readings and assignments and review student work. Section meetings have in-class exercises or project related discussions. These are intended as vehicles to deepen understandings of the principles and methods presented in lectures and readings.

Prerequisites. Undergraduate majors must have completed ARCH 283, 284 and 383 design studios. Graduate Students must have completed ARCH 680 and 681 studios or their equivalent.