



SDES3801 mad.lab Chongqing

Term Summer, 2019

Course Information

Units of Credit: 6

Course Overview

Course Description

AD.LAB is a unique short-term undergraduate mobility program for art, design, media and architecture students held in Chongqing, China. Although most in the West remain unaware of its existence, some suggest Chongqing is the largest and most rapidly expanding city in the world. Chongqing is situated in the east of southwest China, about 2,500km up the Yangtze River from Shanghai. Under its jurisdiction there are 40 districts, cities and counties. It covers an area of 82,000 square kilometres with a population of around 32 million. An estimated 10 million people live in urban Chongqing city. Downtown Chongqing lies at the point where the Yangtze River and the Jialing River merge. Known as the Mountain City, Chongqing is built against a backdrop of hills and rivers, and is characterized by zig-zagging roads and overlapping houses. It is also known as one of the four 'Furnace Cities' for its hot summers and the Foggy City for its misty winters.

MAD.LAB immerses students in an intensive three-week program where they (1) work with local and international industry professionals on real world industry briefs developed with project stakeholders including Chongqing industry and government (2) collaborate with their peers from Chongqing University and Sichuan Fine Arts Academy; and (3) engage directly with the citizens and unique culture of Chongqing. The program includes, lectures, peer and industry critique, field trips, collaborations and meetings with the art & design, architecture and urban development industry sectors and cultural institutions, local communities and public. The project culminates in an exhibition where students pitch their project outcomes to local industry and government representatives.

MAD.LAB utilises mapping as a research methodology to create urban narratives through experimentation, observation, story telling, journeys, film, audio-visual recordings and a range of cartographic techniques and explorations. MAD.LAB strives to explore how the desires, culture and behaviours of people shape the urban fabric. Students in MAD.LAB engage with a range of morphological, interpretive, critical, emotional, experiential, derive-like strategies to record the thoroughfares, pathways, hierarchies, continuities and discontinuities of a selected site or urban space. The process of creating and reinterpreting these mappings of the city will inform and support a design proposal.

MAD.LAB participants are encouraged to:

- (1) engage in research about Chongqing prior to and during MAD.LAB
- (2) acquire basic Chinese language in workshops conducted by UNSW Confucius Centre.
- (3) formulate strategies for engagement with the urban fabric of Chongqing and to map the opportunities this process reveals and develop interventions and conceptual proposals.

MAD.LAB is also a unique opportunity for students to develop a deeper understanding of the dynamics of transcultural and interdisciplinary collaboration in the context of one of the fastest growing cities on the planet. Interdisciplinary and transcultural collaboration are at the heart of the program and students will be encouraged to seek out collaborators from the participating cohort. Critical thinking and collaborative open discussion are integral to this project - and to China's future. MAD.LAB strives to begin outlining a

manifesto for the city, proposing a progressive way forward for Chongqing and in turn, China.

Course Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Use culturally appropriate mapping and design processes in studio and fieldwork environments.
2. Apply interdisciplinary design processes and technologies to develop design concepts in response to a brief provided by industry stakeholders.
3. Develop strategies and tactics for site-specific urban design research.
4. Prototype experimental, responsive designs using analogue and digital production technologies.
5. Reflect on and evaluate interdisciplinary, transcultural design research and collaborative studio processes.

Teaching and Learning in this Course

This courses uses a variety of teaching approaches:

Blended/online

- Review - assessment tool
- Moodle - learning management system

Lectures

The 3 week study period will include talks by industry partners, lecturers and visiting speakers relevant to the urban, cultural and design themes of the project.

Studio

This elective is offered in a highly intensive and collaborative studio mode. Studio is integrated with lectures, workshops, fieldwork, site visits and social engagements. Studio will be conducted in collaboration with student and faculty peers from Sichuan Fine Arts Academy and industry partners. Studio in mad.lab is enhanced by a program of local/international guests and mentors who will come in to support and advise students about their projects. Collaboration is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged as a means to (1) enhance your interdisciplinary trans-cultural learning and (2) the to generate greater potential of developing studio outcomes relevant to the Chongqing context.

Assessment

	TITLE	WEIGHTING	ASSESSMENT TYPE
Assessment Task 1	mad.lab introduction - Self-mapping for collaboration	20%	Project
Assessment Task 2	mad.lab Studio Project	60%	Project
Assessment Task 3	mad.lab Studio Reflection	20%	Project

References for this Course

mad.lab Chongqing Readings and Learning resources including industry brief/s, relevant readings, administration and travel information are shared to all enrolled students via Moodle and Google Drive.

Suggested reading for this program include:

Longxi, Z. (1988). The Myth of the Other: China in the Eyes of the West. *Critical Inquiry*, 15(1), 108-131.

Debord, G. (2006). 1958. *Situationist International Anthology*. Berkeley: Bureau of Public Secrets. Available from Internet:< <http://www.bopsecrets.org/SI/2.derive.htm>>

Friedmann, J. (2007). Reflections on Place and Place?making in the Cities of China. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 31(2), 257-279.

De Certeau, M., & Mayol, P. (1998). *The Practice of Everyday Life: Living and cooking. Volume 2 (Vol. 2)*. U of Minnesota Press.

Excerpt available at: <http://faculty.georgetown.edu/irvinem/theory/DeCerteau-Practice-Excerpts.pdf>

Gaver, B., Dunne, T., & Pacenti, E. (1999). Design: cultural probes. *interactions*, 6(1), 21-29.

Latour, B. (2003). Atmosphère, atmosphère. *Olafur Eliasson: The Weather Project*, 29-41.

Providência, P., & Moniz, G. C. (2012). Cognitive Urban Mappings as a tool for research by design teaching. In *Theory by Design: Architectural Research Made Explicit in the Design Studio*. ASP-Academic & Scientific Publishers.

Available at: http://www.ces.uc.pt/myces/UserFiles/encontros/1097_H2_034_proof.pdf

The above and additional reading material is provided prior to the commencement of the program.

The UNSW library is also a useful resource <http://www.library.unsw.edu.au/>