

Note: lettered responses represent the same individual across the questions, so that all “a)” responses come from the same person, and so on.

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**1. Start with an evaluation of yourself. What were your personal goals in taking this course? Did you achieve them? How would you have proceeded differently if you were doing this course again? What have been your major personal obstacles to learning more from this course?**

- a) In taking this course, my personal goals were to be become more comfortable and confident in my ability to 'think'. I wanted to be challenged, outside of my comfort zone, to think outside of the box. I feel as though I was able to VASTLY achieve these goals, as I felt truly rewarded in being able to explore so many different cases and challenge myself to learn more. I do think this class would have even MORE learning potential if it wasn't so condensed.
- b) I wanted to explore what exactly the title meant, I suppose. I saw this class as really pivotal to the idea of the program itself, and I needed to know this this was going toto work for me- if I "could do it" and if it was going to help me to move forward in my personal and professional life. Certainly I achieved understanding what was meant by the course, and of the program, but more than that I was empowered to know that I could, in fact, do it, and that coming to understand these principles and processes would become a major marker in my education and in my life. If I could do this course again I would have tried to enter with more confidence, and perhaps offered myself a little grace and flexibility in my own understanding and processing as I began the course. My personal obstacles to learning more from the course are simply the time constraints of my life. Occasionally I would have to help put my daughter to bed or bring work home from the office; things that took time away from what I wanted to be doing which was diving as deeply into this coursework as I could. That said, I think that finding a balance here was a design process in itself, and one that has impacted my life in very practical ways.
- c) My goals are always open to my potential future, so it was very open ended. I always know with CCT that I will improve as a human being. YES... I achieved those goals. Interesting to think about how I would be taking this course 2x. I of course would be on a higher level. I would have proceeded with the knowledge base I know inhabit. Personal obstacles have included - literally - the death of my Father and a currently suicidal Mother.
- d) To expand my way of thinking so I could bring new experiences into my classroom. To look at challenges differently. If I did the course again I would try to write a draft for the cases and get them in so I could get quicker feedback. At first I thought I had to hand in a finished product. (Even though I was told that a draft was acceptable. One obstacle was that Monday and Wednesday are so close together to get work done.

**1. Self-evaluation (continued). What have you learned about what you have to do to make a course stimulating and productive (with respect to the format of this course: face-to-face, online, hybrid)?**

- a) I need online courses due to a busy work schedule. However, I truly feel that the online courses in which we are required to still meet 'online' together as a group, are much more stimulating than traditional online courses.
- b) I loved everything about the course. The Google Hangout platform was wonderful and it was such a treat to be able to see and experience a small part of each of our worlds. As with all courses, but I think particularly with this topic, you get what you put in. In order for this course to be stimulating and productive, you must be creative, thoughtful, and generous with the time you give yourself to explore this work.

- c) I have to say that I am completely sound in these aspects.. I didn't learn anything directly in this capacity as online learning is wonderful to me.
- d) I like the hybrid. I don't think I could have done a just on line course. It's good to get with a group at a scheduled time. It's great that we can share in real time.

**2. General Evaluation of course. What was special about this course (+positive and/or -negative)? How did the course meet or not meet your expectations? In what ways do you think this course could be improved?**

- a) The group that was created was very special and impactful. This course EXCEEDED my expectations in that it taught me things that I can use in my professional, academic, and personal life.
- b) I believe we had a very special group of students, and a professor who related to each of us in very intimate and meaningful ways. Each of us was facing challenges, and to work through them together with a group of strangers through the process of critical thinking and design has been a tremendous gift. This course has exceeded my expectations in every way.
- c) The students were special. Peter's style of facilitation - a fine balance of high-end wisdom and pragmatism... was very special. This course far exceeded my expectations. This course will be improved via the feedback of students and the interlay of their input with an already - wonderful curriculum.
- d) A group of interesting people in the class. Different goals and experiences. The course exceeded my expectations. To improve, have the classes with at least two days in between sessions. The instructor did try to do this but we were already scheduled

**2. General evaluation (continued). In what ways did your attitude to doing the course change through the semester? How does it compare with other graduate courses? What would be your overall recommendation to prospective students?**

- a) At the beginning of the course I was quite intimidated and did not know what to expect. However, the group was very supportive and extremely intelligent allowing for various and consistent learning opportunities and opportunities for growth . I would absolutely recommend this course to other students, as it seems to be a very strong foundation to the CCT program.
- b) As I said before, I believe I gained confidence through the semester. My willingness and ability to "take MYSELF seriously" grew, and from that I began to feel more engaged and invested in the readings, discussions, and what was produced in sketches and revisions. This course, to me, seems to typify what I would want from a graduate course, and it is the best one I have taken. It almost feels like it should somehow book-end the program. My recommendation to prospective students would be to take this course as early in the program as possible and to devote as much of themselves and their time as they can. I can hardly believe that the incredible opportunity of taking this course is coming to an end for me.
- c) My attitude improved. I was negative and down in the beginning of this course.. in the first weeks... I was inspired, encouraged and enlightened by my fellow students. This course compares very favourably in that it while it was challenging, I never felt like a fish out of water... I always felt I was in the right place. My overall recommendation is that students that are looking to be challenged will be.. but in unexpected ways... its like - You know you don't know and that is good because you go with it anyways and come out a better person.
- d) I got to be more confident knowing that the instructor would be supportive. This does not compare because of the subject matter. I would recommend this course to anyone.

**3. Evaluation in relation to the course description. Read the course description/goals below. Comment on how well the goals expressed in the syllabus were met. Make general and specific suggestions about how these could be better met.**

*Design is about intentionality in construction, which involves a range of materials, a sequence of steps, and principles that inform the choice of material and the steps. Design always involves putting people as well as materials into place, which may happen by working with the known properties of the people and materials, trying out new arrangements, or working around their constraints (at least temporarily).*

*Critical thinking involves understanding ideas and practices better when we examine them in relation to alternatives. In a sense, critical thinking is in design from the start, because design cannot proceed without the idea that there are alternatives to the current way of doing things. This course exposes and explores alternative designs through history (showing that things have by no means always been the way they are now), "archeology of the present" (shedding light on what we might have taken for granted or left as someone else's responsibility/specialty), comparison (looking at the ways things are arranged in different organizations and cultures), and ill-defined problems (in cases of real-world "living complexity" that invite a range of responses).*

*Each course session takes up an issue about design, introduced in a presentation (drawing on videos and other materials available online), followed by in-class work on a case related to that issue and, at the start of the next session, reports on students' design sketches to address the case. With each design sketch, students add to or revise a growing set of principles for critical thinking in design. The design sketches and principles will, with students' permission, be made accessible to a wider online audience and serve as part of an evolving online text for subsequent years.*

- a) The course description is quite intimidating at first, hard to comprehend. However, quickly into the course, it started to make more sense.
- b) It's funny, because the course description and goals make sense to me now in ways that they didn't before. I wondered "are these the ONLY design principles out there?" and also what exactly a "sketch" entailed. I do think that there are some terms of art here that can be intimidating to a new-comer, but, as we discussed, maybe that is purposeful and useful. I do feel we met the goals of the syllabus, but feel somehow that the format was a bit confusing at times until I got the hang of it. Perhaps a more traditional syllabus would be helpful to begin, with the more in depth version given after the first class when students understand a bit better what they are about to do.
- c) I gained in this course through really understanding cellularly from the realisation that it is ALL about intentionality. One cannot ever put anything anywhere without the guttural urge that puts materials into place. From there we tap into any wisdom we may have garnered through our days on this planet, and when things need improvements we try new things. CHECK - got it. Contrast... Tension. I love to see challenges now through this perception. Though I have to say that while there was a modern history approach to design, I am now curious as to what more ancient histories might offer to critical thinking as humans of course were operating from a much more base-primary level. We are fortunate now to have the luxury of comparison but what was critical thinking like when we had strands of knowledge to connect? Maybe a bit more history... like 12Century or so... ?? What was CT then? I am curious! The design of the course was superb. I don't have anything to add other than my last point above.
- d) I believe that the goals were met because we followed the syllabus. In other words we followed the agenda and it works. My goals were met because we looked at a wide variety of topics. Some of the topics had room for teachers, like myself to develop ideas.

**4. Synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs). Building on your comments from Qs 1-3, compose a synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs) evaluating this course. (Imagine readers who might not be willing to wade through all the answers to Qs 1-3, but are willing to read more than simply the numerical averages of standard course evaluations.) Please make comments that help the instructor develop the course in the future and that enable some third party appreciate the course's strengths and weaknesses. Among other things you might comment on the overall content and progression of classes, the session activities, and the use of mentors to support the learning in the course.**

- a) This course provided such a rewarding space for learning. Small group sized allowed for very personalized learning and relationships to be formed. The general flow of the class was fast paced, due to it being a summer course, but allowed you time to reflect and revise work as you went on. There was flexibility in interpretation, as you weren't made to feel 'wrong' when taking your sketch into a different direction or 'stretching' it. I felt like valuable member of the group and felt well respected and received by my peer and the instructor.
- b) This course has been about so much more than simply design, critical thinking, or any one aspect of the title or description. It has permeated all of the boundaries of my life and enabled me to take real control over the ways I am teaching, living, and processing my experience of the world. It has truly been life-changing, with both practical and incalculable value.
- c) This course exceeded my expectations. My goals are always open to my potential future, so it was very open ended. I always know with CCT that I will improve as a human being. YES... I achieved those goals and what made this work was that the students were special. Peter's style of facilitation - a fine balance of high-end wisdom and pragmatism... was also very well connected. This course far exceeded my expectations. This course will be improved via the feedback of students and the interlay of their input with an already - wonderful curriculum. I was negative and down in the beginning of this course.. in the first weeks... I was inspired, encouraged and enlightened by my fellow students. This course compares very favourably in that it while it was challenging, I never felt like a fish out of water... I always felt I was in the right place. My overall recommendation is that students that are looking to be challenged will be.. but in unexpected ways... its like - You know you don't know and that is good - because you go with it anyways - and come out a better person.
- d) I thought it is a well designed but challenging course. I think it will help develop anyone's skills for looking a things differently and being able to make alternative plans.

**I give permission for my response to Question 4 to be included anonymously in the compilation posted to the CCT wiki (and thus viewable to the public).**

- a) Yes
- b) Yes
- c) Yes
- d) No

**Using the scale below, overall, how would you evaluate this course?**

**1. Very Poor 2. Poor 3. Average 4. Good 5. Excellent**

- a) 5
- b) 5
- c) 5
- d) 5

**Using the scale below, overall, how would you evaluate this instructor?**

**1. Very Poor 2. Poor 3. Average 4. Good 5. Excellent**

- a) 5
- b) 5
- c) 5
- d) 5