BE Course Design Competition

ARCH 7216

Designing Diversity: Architecture and Urbanism in a Multicultural Context

Dr. Dijana Alić
Background: Course Redesign

- To develop a course in **blended learning model**
- An **elective** offered to UNSW Built Environment **postgraduate** students
- **Architecture and urbanism + culture and society**
- Building on the insights and methodologies of **sociology, cultural studies, and anthropology**
About the Course: *Designing Diversity*

- **Content:**
  - *Individual* experience / upbringing
  - *Culture* - as a set of collective practices and beliefs

- **Context:**
  - Investigate the many layers of *diverse contemporary multicultural Sydney*

- **Skills:**
  - *Methods to interpret relationships* between urban spaces and specific cultural practices
  - *Visual methodologies*
Course Structure: Scale & Perspective

- **Introduction:** individual
- **Pecha Kucha:** personal
- **Mapping:** large scale
- **Group work:** global
- **Buildings:** medium scale
- **Research:** objective
- **Videos:** personal, interpretative, visual and oral history
Changes:

1. Innovative Use of Technologies: Moodle
2. Expansive online library collection: Textual and visual
3. **Online Resources**: Video recordings with experts

[External Organisations]

- Video recordings with the purpose of providing a broader framework of action

- **Online resources** (such as ‘how-to’ guides) that are accessible to students throughout the duration of the course, to assist them in producing work based on their independent investigations.

- Videos focused on the process of producing videos, constructing stories, and technical aspects of filming and editing.
Educational Outcomes

- Online tools and resources facilitated a productive dialogue throughout the duration of the course, rather than a traditional ‘one-way’ mode of teaching.

- Online spaces promoted a collaborative atmosphere.

- The cumulative and collaborative nature of the work is articulated in the end product of the final assignment, an online ‘Cultural Atlas’.

- Webpage: updated, to become a record of the combined efforts of students as well as a resource on the suburbs and visual methods developed.
Formal and **Informal**: Site visit: community spaces, multiculturalism, diversity
Feedback: myExperience

MyExperience report  5.73 [D. Alic]
MyExperience report  5.42 [D. Alic]

Comments:

• Constantly **engaged** with the content and provided essential feedback that helped frame the students approach to coursework.

• Dijana’s **passion for the content** is obvious and encourages students to undertake deliberate and expansive research that **pushes beyond the archetypal site analysis**

• Dijana is a very knowledgeable academic, who **engaged with ALL** of her students throughout the duration of the course. Not at any point did Dijana exclude or ignore students, **making EVERYONE feel welcomed**, equal and comfortable in the learning environment.

• She is super passionate about what she is teaching.

• She makes what she is teaching **fun and engaging**.

• She is very approachable and willing to help her students

• She is quick at responding to emails

• **She knows how to use Moodle** (this is very rare these days)
Feedback: Informal Peer Review

Dr Arianne Rourke, Associate Professor

- Dr. Dijana Alic has designed an innovative, well-resourced blended course that uses well-planned activities to promote opportunities for ongoing student engagement and learning.

- The use of field trips, readings and other resources adds ‘real-world learning’ to the curriculum.

- Future changes / improvements
Cultural Atlas (Webpage): Mixed Media
Cultural Atlas of Sydney: Atlas + Videos

Auburn

Fairfield
Thank you

Questions?

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