

Fall Term
Graduate Levels
4.588

SMArchS Computation: Thesis Preparation

Prof. Larry Sass

Thursdays: 3-6 PM
Room W41-5520

Introduction

This is the second of two subjects that will prepare you to write an *SMArchS* thesis. You will learn the following in this course:

- Develop an original and relevant thesis topic that will contribute to a new understanding of the area of design and computation
- Compile the necessary background material to validate and support your thesis exploration
- Define methodologies and strategies to begin your thesis work in the following semester
- Complete a formal thesis proposal for the SMArchS degree and decide on your thesis committee
- In addition to class meetings, each student must meet and consult individually with his or her academic advisor or proposed thesis advisor to assist in developing a thesis topic.

Requirements

Students are expected to complete three assignments, participate in class discussions and reviews, and present their thesis proposals at the end of the term, all-SMArchS review.

Grading

- Assignment I: Thesis ideas (20%)
- Assignment II: Thesis idea refinement and bibliography (20%)
- Assignment III: Thesis Proposal, including the public review in which students present their thesis topics and methodologies to their thesis committees and invited reviewers (40%)
- Class participation (20%)

1 - Introduction

- Assignment I handout

2 - Thesis Ideas

- Assignment I discussion
- Assignment II handout

3 - Thesis ideas (Faculty Guest Critics)

- Assignment II discussion
- Assignment III handout

4 - Writing a Thesis (PhD Guest Critics)

- Assignment III discussion (thesis proposal in progress)

5 - Writing a Thesis

- Assignment III discussion (thesis proposal in progress)

Other Important Dates

- TBA - Confirm the name of the thesis advisor; email Tessa McLain <tmclain@mit.edu>
- TBA - Digitally submit pre-thesis materials for the SMarChS review booklet (TBA)
- TBA - Deadline to submit a signed copy of the thesis proposal form and thesis proposal to Tessa McLain <tmclain@mit.edu>
- Dec 6, 10 AM - Thesis Proposal Due