



Sicily Design Lab

COURSE DETAILS

Course Designator and Number: SCLY 3201

Number of Credits: 3

Language of Instruction: English

Contact Hours: 45

Instructor: On-Site Faculty

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Physical making remains central to how we understand and design the world around us, even as we become a more digitally connected, global world. These project-based, making-intensive courses celebrate the act and craft of individual hand-making in community with other makers. The specific theme and project change each year and are determined by the expert instructors in consultation with MADE Academy leadership. They are taught by international designers at the MADE Academy, at the Academy of Fine Arts in Syracuse, Italy.

Students in these workshops will learn in the tradition of the expert and apprentice, working side by side with peers and expert art and design instructors from around the world. Each workshop will focus on a single team project; the prompt is issued at the start of the week, students work through the design and making throughout the week, and the project is reviewed five days later. At mid-week, students have a brief, independent assignment that extends the specific ideas of the workshop in the context of the learning abroad experience and the concurrent summer MADE Academy symposium content.

Course Objectives

- Experience and practice making in service of a design goal and in the context of a global expertise

- Extend traditional, disciplinary-based ways of working and communicating into meaningful work in a collaboration with others
- Develop understanding of the role of material-specific and site-specific making by hand in an increasingly global digital world
- Develop an ability to contribute to a team project in a fast-paced, collaborative context
- Understand how your design interests and skills align with other design fields or academic disciplines

Methodology

Student learning is hands-on in the studio and/or on site with significant instructor contact for the making project. Students work as an interdisciplinary team with expert art and design instructors to realize a project made by hand and in community. Making by hand, i.e., practicing a sensory and embodied understanding of materials, is a mode of inquiry unique to art and design disciplines. The course consists of two MADE Labs, each one led by an internationally renowned designer hosted by the MADE Academy. The College of Design faculty instructor for the co-requisite course has responsibility for guiding and grading the final submission for each workshop. The specific team project brief (the site, need, material investigation, and project goals) will be determined by the lead instructor. The instructor works side by side with the students to realize the team project throughout the week, culminating in a community conversation at the end of the workshop.

In addition to the core team project, students are expected to:

- attend the Monday featured speaker presentation
- complete a mid-workshop independent assignment
- complete an ongoing reflection exercise (sketchbook, journal, blog posts, etc.)
- complete a curated exhibition submission

Course Corequisite

DES 3151 *Image Making in Italy*, completed earlier in the program in Sicily.

Grading

Grading Rubric

Letter grade	Score or percentage	Description
A	93-100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90-92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87-89	
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77-79	
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D+	67-69	
D	60-66	
F	0-59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of How Grades Are Weighted

Assignments	Percentage of grade
Workshop making	70%
Journal entries	10%
Mid-workshop assignment	10%
Final project	10%
Overall grade	100%

Assessment Details

Your final grade for this course will come from your instructor on the co-requisite course, DES 3151, in consultation with the instructor of the MADE Lab, which is accredited by The Fine Arts Academy of Syracuse.

There is no single criterion for evaluating design work, and each workshop phase may emphasize different aspects of the iterative design and making process. Students should refer to each project brief to better understand the intent and emphasis of each exercise or assignment. Expectations for each of these graded components of the workshop will be issued in more detail along with the topic, instructor and project information for each individual workshop.

Workshop Making, Participation, and Teamwork

This includes, e.g.: actively participating every day, demonstrating your willingness to experiment, to be thinking with your hands and through physical making; demonstrating your willingness to respond to the work of others; and contributing to the team effort as needed. More information may be distributed in writing at the start of the workshop.

Journal Entries

At the end of each workshop lab day, briefly identify, describe and critique something (action or event) that went well, something that did not go well and something that surprised you. Each item must include an annotated drawing of the thing/event (identifying its Who, What, When, and Where)

as well as an annotated drawing critiquing the thing/event (identifying How and Why something might be of value, especially relevant or changed going forward).

Mid-Workshop Assignment

The prompt for the mid-week assignment will be issued early in the workshop. Generally, the prompt will ask you to reflect on the Monday featured speaker presentation relative to your career goals and/or the workshop project as it is emerging.

Final Project

This portion of the workshop will be incorporated into the co-requisite requirements for an end of summer exhibition. Final submissions are due after you return to the United States.

COURSE CONTENT

Unit 1

Workshop Introduction: Workshop #1

- Introduction to workshop goals and to one another
- Orientation to studio environment and available materials and resources
- Safety review
- Guided project
- Assignment: Journal log/blog post **due**

Unit 2

Intensive Design Project Work: Workshop #1

- Guided project work
- Issue individual or small-team assignment
- Assignment: Journal log/blog post **due**

Unit 3

Intensive Design Project Work: Workshop #1

- Individual or small-team assignment work
- Issue guidelines for final curated exhibition materials/submission information

- Assignment: Mid-workshop assignment **due**

Unit 4

Intensive Design Project Work: Workshop #1

- Guided project work
- Assignment: Journal/blog post **due**

Unit 5

Intensive Design Project Work: Workshop #1

- Guided project work
- Assignment: Journal/blog post **due**

Unit 6

Final Presentation & Wrap-Up: Workshop #1

- Workshop project presentation and conversation

Unit 7

Workshop Introduction: Workshop #2

- Introduction to workshop goals and to one another
- Orientation to studio environment and available materials and resources
- Safety review
- Guided project
- Assignment: Journal log/blog post **due**

Unit 8

Intensive Design Project Work: Workshop #2

- Guided project work
- Issue individual or small-team assignment
- Assignment: Journal log/blog post **due**

Unit 9

Intensive Design Project Work: Workshop #2

- Individual or small-team assignment work
- Issue guidelines for final curated exhibition materials/submission information
- Assignment: Mid-workshop assignment **due**

Unit 10

Intensive Design Project Work: Workshop #2

- Guided project work
- Assignment: Journal/blog post **due**

Unit 11

Intensive Design Project Work: Workshop #2

- Guided project work
- Assignment: Journal/blog post **due**

Unit 12

Final Presentation & Wrap-Up: Workshop #2

- Workshop project presentation and conversation

POLICIES

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes while abroad. Many instructors assess both attendance and participation when assigning a final course grade. Attendance alone does not guarantee a positive participation grade; the student should be prepared for class and engage in class discussion. See the on-site syllabus for specific class requirements.

University of Minnesota Policies & Procedures

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

Student Conduct

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.