Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Architecture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Thesis Design _ I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>AR922 (Ninth Semester)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Rating</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>18 Weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructors</td>
<td>Hamir Soomro, Iftikhar Azam and Adil Kerai</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Description
The final year design studio is the culmination of architectural design tools and skills acquired through the first four years of studio education. In this year a student is expected to use his acquired technical skills to explore theoretical design concepts. The idea of having a year-long thesis project was introduced to provide the students an opportunity to explore in depth a design concept and theory of interest and detailed development of the idea in the second semester into a viable Architectural Project. The following is a description explaining the Goals and Objectives for each semester:

Ninth Semester

Objective:
Understanding and development of macro / master planning issues of the Project. The Project may or may not be a group of buildings, however it must have the size and conceptual depth to justify a year-long design process at the final year level.

Selection of Site:
- Development of a criteria for site selection based on context, availability and suitability
- Understanding of vehicular and pedestrian accessibility issues to the site
- Understanding of financial and commercial aspects of site selection if relevant to the Project

Concept and Theoretical Design Exploration
The Project should have a Conceptual basis of design. The students are expected to write a “Design Statement” and the Hypothesis should be explored through the Project design. The Project may or may not be “Site Specific” as regards the design exploration. Relevant theories and precedence studies are to be documented and included in the concept building process.

Development of Design Program
A Design Program is to be developed based on both the Site selection and the intent of design hypothesis. The Program should be developed to create the very foundation of Architectural Design itself. The functional typology is to set the tune for the nature of facility that the student is
attempting to explore. A fully developed Program will address the issues of function, socio-cultural consideration, proximity relationships, climatic and seasonal responses and other issues of relevance. Hence the Program with area calculations will become the hinge-pin between the Site and the Conceptual design intent.

Massing Studies
Students in the 9th semester are expected to formulate three dimensional studies of functional spaces and their relationship to the site and surroundings. A thorough understanding of the contours and physical nature of the land is expected at this time. The relationship of building mass investigating connectivity and relationships within functional units as well as sensitivity to the surrounding and the larger historical context of the City is expected to be demonstrated at this stage.

Conceptual Plan (Elevation and Sections)
Based on the programmatic spaces, functional relationships and massing studies a final set of Conceptual plan, elevations and sections are to be produced. This final presentation should document the design concept, programmatic relationships and general massing elevations showing the character of materials and spaces.

Tenth Semester

Review
10th semester is to start with a review and finalization of the 9th semester exercises. The Master planning and program of the overall project is to be reviewed and tweaked.

Building Design
The student may choose to take one or more building blocks for design development depending upon the nature and extent of the Master plan developed in the first semester. The objective is to allow the student a complete semester to develop an understanding of architectural and related faculties in the design and construction of a “Building Project”. Student is expected to utilize his/ her cumulative knowledge of the past four years from courses taken in structure and MEP.

Design Development
The site for one of the structure / block or the massing of a larger structure is taken as a starting point. Though ideally the overall design philosophy pursued in the 9th Semester id to be carried forward but the student may revisit the idea and either tweak or redefine the design direction. The program for the particular structure is to be reviewed and developed in further detail keeping in mind the practical requirements of structure and MEP. It is expected that the student will be working with series of “study models” and sketches (Sketch-up) to develop ideas and details.

The building blocks of good design are to be the basis of this exercise. Elements such as:

Context and time, programmatic proximities, sense of space, circulation and arrival, scale and monumentality, material and climate, light and shadow

Poetics of Design
It is very important that the student doesn't get so bogged down with the “nitty gritty” of the practical details that he / she loses sight of the poetic qualities of architecture. The attempt is to
keep bringing the students back to the poetic and philosophical issues of architectural design while developing the skills to incorporate those ideas into a living breathing building.

Issues of the day
Relevant issues of our day such as “sustainability” are to be always incorporated into the design exercise.

Final Presentation
The final presentation should include a comprehensive design solution of one or more building blocks demonstrating knowledge and skill to:

- Formulate a design strategy and hypothesis
- Selection of Site
- Preparation of a comprehensive Program
- Understanding of climatic, social, urban and contextual issues
- Demonstrating and incorporating structure and MEP into the design
- Demonstration of intangible poetic qualities of design and appropriate communication skills