

Ball State University | Spring 2026

ARCH 484 | Digital Design and Technologies Capstone

Instructor: Daoru Wang

Meeting Times: To be arranged individually with the instructor

Location: To be arranged individually with the instructor

Contact Information: Daoru Wang

Office Hours: Appointment based only

Prerequisite: ARCH 363, ARCH 463

First Class Meeting Information

Date: January 6, 2026 (via Zoom)

Time: To be discussed and confirmed

Zoom Link: Will be distributed prior to the meeting

Course Description

This capstone course serves as the concluding experience for the Digital Design and Technologies minor and is centered on **self-directed student projects**. Rather than following a fixed sequence of assignments, ARCH 484 provides a flexible framework that adapts to each student's academic interests and career goals. Students will synthesize the skills and knowledge developed throughout the minor by proposing, developing, and completing an independent digital design project in consultation with the instructor.

The course emphasizes applied digital design research and the integration of advanced tools and methods into a comprehensive final deliverable. Each student defines their own objectives and learning outcomes through an individual project proposal, while the instructor offers continuous mentorship, technical guidance, and critical feedback to support the design process and project realization.

Course Materials

- Resources and required materials will depend on your approved project proposal.
- The instructor will recommend software, readings, and tools specific to your project's scope and goals.

Course Structure

ARCH 484 is organized around the planning, design, and realization of your individual capstone project. The schedule, milestones, and faculty guidance will be tailored to fit your unique project trajectory. Iterative progress reviews and critical feedback sessions will serve as the foundation for your work.

Required In-Person Reviews

There are only two required in-person meetings for this course:

- **Midterm Review:** February 24, 2026
- **Final Review:** April 28, 2026

These are the only times students are required to meet in person. The exact time and location for each review will be announced later.

Learning Objectives

By the completion of this course, you should be able to demonstrate the following competencies through your independent project:

- **Critical Thinking and Analysis:** Formulate and assess design questions, evaluate multiple approaches, and arrive at reasoned conclusions through iterative design inquiry and experimentation.
- **Design Communication:** Integrate written, verbal, and visual modes of communication, 2D, 3D, and digital media, to effectively document and present design concepts.
- **Design Principles:** Employ spatial, formal, and organizational design principles to guide conceptual development and project refinement.
- **Research and Precedents:** Identify, analyze, and synthesize design precedents through structured research to support the conceptual and technical evolution of your project.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment Structure & Grading

Student performance will be assessed through the following components:

Component	Weight
Project Proposal	20%
Project Development	30%
Final Project Deliverable	50%

FINAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE: All work must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 27, 2026.

GRADING

FINAL LETTER GRADE SCALE

Grade	Score Range (%)
A	93 - 100
A-	90 - 92
B+	87 - 89
B	83 - 86
B-	80 - 82
C+	77 - 79
C	73 - 76
C-	70 - 72
D+	67 - 69
D	63 - 66
D-	60 - 62
F	< 60

Grading Policy

Grades reflect the quality, rigor, and completeness of your work as evaluated by the instructor. Assessment follows Ball State University's grading policies. For details on grade appeals, refer to official BSU academic regulations.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance Policy

- You are expected to attend and participate in all scheduled meetings with the instructor.
- Consistent attendance and communication are essential to making sustained progress on your individual project.

Participation Policy

- Active participation is required through meetings, critiques, and scheduled reviews.
- Check your Ball State email daily for announcements and updates.
- Complete all required milestones and deliverables by assigned due dates.
- Notify the instructor promptly in case of illness, emergencies, or unavoidable absences.

Academic Integrity

- All submissions must be original and created specifically for this course.
- Submitting another individual's work or reusing prior coursework constitutes plagiarism and will not be tolerated.

- Cite all references, data, and design precedents used in your work.
- Collaboration is encouraged only when approved by the instructor and properly acknowledged.

Professional Conduct

- Maintain professionalism in all communications, meetings, and studio interactions.
- Dedicate your ARCH 484 time exclusively to work related to this course.
- Address any course-related issues directly with the instructor first.

Diversity Statement

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the campus community are welcome through our practice of valuing the various experiences and world views of those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as evident in our Beneficence Pledge and through university resources found at: [bsu.edu/campuslife/multiculturalcenter/bias-incident-reporting](https://www.bsu.edu/campuslife/multiculturalcenter/bias-incident-reporting)

Architecture Department and University Policies

Architecture Department Studio Culture Policy

Students must review and adhere to departmental expectations regarding studio conduct and culture for all architecture courses. [Studio Culture Policy Link](#)

University Special Needs Statement

Students requiring accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services as early as possible. Documentation must be on file with that office before accommodations can be arranged. Disability Services can be reached at 765-285-5293 or via email at dsd@bsu.edu.

University Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students are expected to read, understand, and adhere to these community standards. <https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/student-conduct>

University Student Academic Integrity Policy

Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the university community. Academic dishonesty and other forms of academic misconduct threaten the foundation of an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and will not be tolerated.

<https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/vice-provost/student-services/academic-integrity>

University Health

Information about BSU Health Plans and services can be found here:

<https://www.bsu.edu/campuslife/healthcenter>

In the event of a campus or public health emergency, you must comply with university directives and safety procedures.

University Emergency Preparedness

For information regarding university emergency protocols and weather-related closures, visit:

<https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/emergency-preparedness>

Faculty Disclosure Statement

BSU faculty are committed to supporting student well-being and academic success. Please note that under Indiana and federal law, all university employees are mandated reporters for issues such as abuse, harassment, or threats of self-harm.

FERPA and Privacy

Your academic records are protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Except in cases permitted by law, your information will not be released without your written consent.