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**48-351 Human Factors in Architecture**

**Research Paper**

*Due: Topic by 5 Feb, 1-3 paragraphs, printed submission in class*

*Individual conferences: 4 & 6 March, bibliography, outline, research process due*

*Paper due: Tuesday 21 April, requirements below*

*Presentations: As assigned 22, 24, 29 April, 1 May, powerpoint or other visuals, due by 3pm to Leah before date of presentation*

*Poster due: 8 May, 6:30-9:30pm, presentation to outside guests*

Over the course of the semester, you will be asked to do a research paper that explores topics related to human factors in architecture. The topic selection is open and you are encouraged to include research, observation or testing methods in your process. Possible subjects could include:

- Building organization and social housing
- The influence of the architectural studio on design culture
- The failure of open plan schools
- Phenomenology in contemporary architectural theory
- Research and observation of specific architectural spaces
- Meaning and value in architecture
- Incorporating behavioral theory activities in an architectural process
- Designing for disabilities
- Topics relating to building types explored in past studio projects
- Temporal activities in urban spaces
- Post occupancy evaluation of an existing space
- Anthropometry: the design of objects and their spaces
- Biophilia and the human relationship to nature

You are encouraged to explore architectural sources for projects, theories and research as well as behavioral psychology literature and other multidisciplinary resources. Experiments, interviews and/or observations may also be considered with prior approval from the instructor. Installations or human subject studies (questionnaires, etc.) must have university approval, which I will gladly help you attain. Martin Aurand is available for resource assistance.

We will review your topic during student conferences, at which point you should have a bibliography, an outline of the paper and any proposed research methods that are needed.

Papers are to be done individually and should be 12-15 pages in length, 1.5 spacing minimum, not including illustrations. All papers should have ample illustrations. See the syllabus for policies regarding plagiarism, citations and other intellectual property issues. Any incidence of plagiarism will be taken seriously.

Each student will be asked to present their work at the end of the semester in a Pecha Kucha-like format. Pecha Kucha was started in Japan by two architects as a way to get a number of short presentations in a limited time frame. Your presentation will follow the 20x20 format—20 powerpoint slides, each timed for 20 seconds. We will do 10 presentations per day, with time for discussion following all presentations.

Our last presentation date will be a true, registered Pecha Kucha Night ([www.pecha-kucha.org](http://www.pecha-kucha.org)), with our scheduled 10 presentations as well as an opportunity for people outside the class to attend and also present. All students, whether they are presenting or not, must hang a poster describing their research, per the given assignment. All students are required to attend.