

**IDES 3502A • CONTEXTUAL NATURE OF PRODUCTS**

---

**Instructor:** **Paul Thibaudeau**  
PaulThibaudeau@CUNET.carleton.ca  
Office Location: 3086 MC  
Office Hours: **Available upon request**

**Teaching Assistant:** Richard Sinnasamy-Sandanam  
RichardSandanam@gmail.carleton.ca

**Course Time and Location**

Course locations are no longer displayed on the public class schedule and are subject to change. For the latest information please refer to Carleton Central under Student Services – Registration – Student Timetable.

**Course Description**

Cultural subjects which have an influence on contemporary industrial design. The perspective of the course is anthropological: the context and cultural relevance of industrial design.

Prerequisite(s): IDES 1000 (ARCH 2006) and Third or Fourth year standing.

Lectures and tutorials three hours a week.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define and identify relevant basic theories found in sociology, anthropology, design, and cultural studies and how these affect products.
2. Categorize and differentiate products in their varied contexts, e.g., local, national, and international.
3. Discuss what the previous categorizations mean for human society and their uses.
4. Generate a research paper on a topic that synthesizes a particular problem or question regarding product (or products) impacts on society and/or people.
5. Demonstrate critical thinking skills.
6. Effectively communicate ideas through visual, written, and oral assignments.
7. Adopt professional behaviour.

**Course Deliverables**

These are the deliverables for this course. For more detailed information, please see the Course Schedule, **IDES 3502A CONTEXTUAL NATURE OF PRODUCTS F25 - Paul Thibaudeau - Course Schedule**, in Brightspace.

Deliverable 1 (individual work) – Essay Proposal (Due Monday, October 6, 2025 in Brightspace) (20% course grade)

-Provide essay research question, thesis statement and paragraph explaining how you will use your three annotated academic sources to answer your research question, using the APA style as discussed in the "Template for Essay Proposal".

**Deliverable 2 – (individual work) Essay (Due Monday, November 3, 2025 in Brightspace) – (40% of course grade)**

-must be a minimum of 10 pages (excluding images, cover page and bibliography) answering your essay research question. Must have a minimum of 10 academic sources in the citations that are used in the essay, using the APA style as discussed in the "Template for Essay".

**Deliverable 3 – (Group Work) Class Engagement on Topic Areas (20% of course grade – due weekly)**

-weekly discussion of class lecture material in teams of ~5 people to help demonstrate understanding of lecture topics by using a variety of activity-based learning activities.  
-Each team will be responsible for leading the activity for their respective lecture by providing the class with an activity to explore the topic discussed in the lecture, which can be one of the following options:

Option 1 – Tell a Story: Have class teams build a mind map of what was most relevant to them from the lecture and how it connects to their focus area. The Class Activity Leading team goes to see how teams are connecting the dots and use it to build an impromptu end of class ten-minute presentation that shows how teams are connecting ideas to build a story of how everything fits together.

Option 2 – Solve a Problem: The Class Activity Leading Team provides a critical problem that each class team will try to solve with what they heard in the lecture, along with any other material that the Leading Team provides. The Leading team will help answer questions teams may have, take notes on how teams are solving the problem, and then present the overall results between the teams to the class.

Option 3 – Wild Card: The Class Activity Leading team creates its own novel activity to help the class teams engage with the course material.

#### **Deliverable 4 – (Group Work) Group Presentation on Themes (20% of course grade – Dec 5, 2025)**

-Each team will give a ten-minute presentation on their inter-related essay topics to show how ideas fit together.

#### **Student Access to Exam**

No exam

#### **Cost of Educational Materials**

All materials required for the course and their costs are listed below. Please note some materials costs are dependent on the project and the materials chosen so a range listing minimum and maximum values will be given.

Students will be provided materials for Deliverable 3 – class engagement project (art supplies) but they may add some additional materials specific to their needs for their class engagement project (less than \$20 per group max).

#### **Technology Requirements**

Please refer to the technology requirements on the School of Industrial Design Website (<https://carleton.ca/id/student-info/it-support/technology-requirements/>). You may be asked by your instructor to refer to Brightspace for other information or requirements related to coursework.

#### **Individual/Group Work**

Courses may include individual and group work, and the majority of the grade must reflect individual work. This will support the assessment of individual performance, which may be difficult to determine in group projects. It is also important in collaborative work that students clearly demonstrate their individual contributions.

#### **Review/Presentation Attendance**

Attendance at scheduled SID Reviews/Presentations is mandatory. These are equivalent to exams when indicated in the course outline. Failure to attend the Review/Presentation without reasonable cause will result in a grade of F. Students arriving late for the Review/Presentation or not remaining for the complete session without approval from the instructor, will be addressed on a case-by-case basis at the instructor's discretion.

If you are unable to attend a Review/Presentation, foresee arriving late, or need to leave before it is complete, please email your instructor in advance explaining the reason for the situation. It is important that you provide a reasonable rationale for your absence, late arrival, or early departure.

## Late Submission of Assignments

Students who do not hand in assignments on time will have their earned grade reduced by **10%** per day at the instructor's discretion. If you foresee not meeting the submission due date and are requesting an extension, please provide your instructor with a minimum of 24 hours' notice.

## Participation and Professionalism

Active participation and professional conduct (e.g. class discussion, consultations with instructors, work ethic, etc.) are important in lecture and studio courses and may be formally evaluated by a grade. Professionalism also includes Carleton's Policy on Academic Integrity described in more detail below with links to content that you are required to review.

## Health and Safety

Students must participate in training to access all the SID Labs and Maker Space. Apart from this training, students are required to follow the health and safety standards of the School of Industrial Design as well as Carleton's health and safety standards. All materials related to SID health and safety are available here [Health and Safety](#) and it is expected that students review and understand these materials and apply these standards throughout their studies.

## Use of Studio Spaces

Access to studio space to attend courses and complete assignments is an important part of student success. Students are welcome and encouraged to use available studio spaces to work during non-studio hours. Out of respect for your colleagues, instructors, and Carleton cleaning staff, ensure you leave the space in good condition. This includes cleaning your area and storing your items in your designated storage space whenever you are leaving the space. The school will not be responsible for items that are not stored properly.

## Academic Integrity

Carleton's Policy on Academic Integrity is available at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/> and covers the following violations, but is not limited to:

- *Plagiarism*
  - Submitting work written in whole or in part by someone else
  - Failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work
- *Test and Exam Rules*
  - *Attempting to read another student's exam paper*
  - *Speaking to another student (even if the subject matter is irrelevant to text)*
  - *Using material not authorized by the examiner*
- *Other Violations*
  - *Improper access to confidential information such as exams or test questions*
  - *Disruption of classroom activities or periods of instruction*
  - *Misrepresentation of facts for any academic purpose*

This policy governs the academic behavior of students. In industrial design, ideas, and concepts come from a multitude of sources and may be modified and utilized in the design and development process. The student should reference such sources appropriately and it is strongly advised that you read Carleton's Policy on [Academic Integrity](#) before conducting any work at the University.

## Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technologies

### Minimal AI Use – Basic Assistance Only

Students may use AI tools for basic word processing and formatting functions, including:

- Grammar and spell checking (e.g., Grammarly, Microsoft Word Editor)
- Basic formatting and design suggestions (e.g., Microsoft Word's formatting tools, PowerPoint Design editor)

**Documenting AI Use** It is not necessary to document the use of AI for the permitted purposes listed above. If you have questions about a specific use of AI that isn't listed above, please consult the instructor.

**Limitations** Students may not use AI for the following tasks:

- essay creation
- essay proposal creation
- final presentation creation

**Why this policy adopted this policy?** This policy ensures that student voices and ideas are prioritized and authentically represented, maintaining the integrity of the work produced by students while allowing basic support to enhance clarity, correctness, layout, and flow of ideas. The goal of adopting a limited use of AI is to help students develop foundational skills in writing and critical thinking by practicing substantive content creation without the support of AI.

As our understanding of the uses of AI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of AI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course. Students can access resources related to citing Generative AI on the [MacOdrum Library website](#). Plus, additional AI resources are also available on Carleton's [Artificial Intelligence Hub](#).

### **Requests for Academic Accommodation**

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may require special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the *Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances*, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website ([students.carleton.ca/course-outline](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)). The website covers the below topics.

Topics:

- Pregnancy Obligations
- Religious/Spiritual Obligation
- Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
- Survivors of Sexual Violence
- Accommodation for Student Activities
- Academic Considerations for Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances
- Scheduling and Examination Support

### **Statement on Student Mental Health**

As a university student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you, refer to this link - <https://wellness.carleton.ca/> and open the needed section.

Topics:

- *Counselling*
- *Resource Guide*
  - *Thriving on Campus*
  - *Everyday Stress*
  - *Mild Mental Health Concerns*
  - *Moderate Mental Health Concerns*
  - *Complex Mental Health Concerns*
- *Umbrella Project*

**Student Responsibility**

The student is responsible for knowing the content of this course outline; the schedule of classes, assignments, and/or reviews; and the material that was covered when absent. The studio is a professional environment, and students should be working during the scheduled hours.

**Course Schedule**

Please refer to Brightspace for a detailed Course Schedule: **IDES 3502A CONTEXTUAL NATURE OF PRODUCTS F25 - Paul Thibaudeau - Course Schedule**.