Studio Title

Sky High Learning II– in the Southwest/Pueblo-- Indigenous Design and Planning with the Acoma Nation of New Mexico

Instructor/s (and other contributors to the course if applicable)
Lynn Paxson

Studio is open to: Grad. and Under Grad.’s in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community and Regional Planning, Interiors, (and potentially Industrial and Graphics see instructor 1st)

Max. Capacity: 16 -20

Includes a field trip to New Mexico.

This option studio needs a strong group of undergraduate and graduate students from many of the CoD disciplines: Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community and Regional Planning, Interiors and potentially others such as and Graphics, etc. I suggest that all students be willing to take the class for 6 credits, those who are interested from CRP, Interiors, Graphics etc. or who wish to take less credits should see me in advance so that we can discuss the possibilities in greater depth prior to you making a final choice. If you have taken the History of Native American/ American Indian Architecture and Placemaking seminar (Arch/AIn 426) this is a plus but it is not required.

Summary Description & Outline of project:
We have a very interesting project for this spring’s interdisciplinary service learning option studio, working with Acoma Pueblo Nation in New Mexico. Students will build on the work of last spring’s option studio to help the Acoma Nation envision a future education and learning “campus”/ “neighborhood”/ ”complex”/ environment. The work you produce will help them continue to make choices about their future planning and development and their constructed place - buildings and landscapes- as well as their experience at the interior level. Your work may also be used as the Acoma Pueblo works to raise funding to make this project a reality. Students will be required to produce both presentation materials and project documentation for the Acoma Nation. Students who choose this option must be willing to be flexible and also respectful of different cultures, value systems, and worldviews.

This studio will require students to be involved in group/team work opportunities and individual work opportunities. We should also have
opportunities to meet and/or work with a number of local NM practitioners and consultants.

The project under consideration involves many aspects/issues of ‘sustainability’ and ‘green’ design this includes consideration of net-zero issues, energy sources, material and techtonic issues, water use (treatment and management), planning and infrastructure, native planting, ethnobotany, and potentially garden/local agriculture, etc. as well as social sustainability. The potential program/building and landscape types to be explored in this project are rich in terms of learning and education: indoor and out, various generational groups, physical and digital or virtual etc.

Field Trip: The studio will take a field trip to New Mexico to meet and work with the Acoma Pueblo Nation that we will be working/designing with. The fieldtrip will also be your opportunity to experience at least a part of the southwest environment (physical and social/cultural), potentially some related precedents, the specific project site(s) and so on. It will also be a chance to meet with and perhaps work in person with UNM students/faculty if we are able to work this out. In the past students and faculty have worked together to control costs and have kept the cost of the trip very reasonable for students. The Nations appreciate your work and are welcoming of our students and often try to contribute in ways that help with the cost of the field trip.