Introduction to Design and Making: Developing Your Personal Design Potential

Design thinking is a popular buzz term in this age of Kickstarter, instant turnaround, and short time-to-market. But what is design thinking really all about? In many ways, it is a process that most of us were quite familiar with in our preschool years. Observe an opportunity. Take an action. Assess the results. Laugh at the failures. Repeat. Design is not just for artists and engineers – we are all designers!

But how do we get back to that pure form of design thought? In this class we will explore design through active making, discussion, presentation, and self-evaluation. Starting with the most basic of materials, we will exercise our latent creativity muscles and exorcise the constrained thinking and other obstacles engrained in us by “traditional” education. In this class, “failure” is an important concept that will be embraced and even celebrated. Science, entrepreneurship, and life itself is a process of try and try again. We must accept and learn from failure in order for “try” to become “do” and for “do” to lead to success.

Students from any major are welcome and encouraged to take this class. There are no course pre-requisites but Orientation training at one of the BeAM makerspaces is required.

NOTE: REGISTER FOR THIS COURSE THROUGH THE UNC COURSE REGISTRATION SYSTEM!