

ANT 365 Environment, Culture and Sustainability

Professor Misha Quill

As a way of improving how this course is taught, I would like your feedback about the Human Centered Design learning and research implementation.

Please answer the following questions:

1. Before taking ANT 365 (Environment Culture and Sustainability) did you have any exposure to the ideas of Human Centered Design or IDEO? (If yes, in what context?)

Over winter break, a family friend who was visiting gave me some advise on potential careers mentioned this form of research that was becoming more popular in the tech sector. He did not mention the name of the process, so I was delighted to encounter and practice it in the class. The family friend works for Intel.

2. When the Human Centered Design process was introduced in the classroom (our Improving Campus Health Challenge) were all concepts adequately explained?

Yes, the basic ideas of the process are fairly easy to grasp. Being able to implement them directly after having been introduced to them was unexpected but really helped in the internalization of the concepts.

3. Did you have enough time to work on things in your small groups (during the first day)?

While it was rather rushed, our team actually had a half an hour left after having interviewed seven or eight people. Our information may have been more accurate/ representative if given more time, but the time constraints helped us push ourselves more.

4. When you were put into small groups for your Local Environmental Challenge, were the design - research processes that you were expected to use adequately explained?

If we could have started the Local Environmental Challenge the first week, I think it would have been easier to finish and we would have been able to gather more information and done more interviews.

5. Overall, how do you think your group did in terms of collecting data, doing the data dump, coming up with themes, asking How Might We questions and designing prototypes?

I think we did a good job with the information we gathered and that it was fun thinking up new and different ways to approach the problems.

6. What specific challenges did you face?

Time constraints and busy individual schedules = less group time, reduced our ability to use all the resources.

7. Are there things about the assignment that could have improved your group's process or outcome?

I think it all went pretty well.

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8. Do you think the Human Centered Design process helped you think differently about methods of tackling complex human problems?

Yes. It was very worthwhile - creative thinking and engagement process. Also helped us with thinking about how to tackle problems without feeling overwhelmed or fatalistic.

9. Is there anything else you would like to share about the process, the assignment or the class?

No. Maybe have all research sites be on campus or within a 5 mile radius

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Please answer the following questions:

1. Before taking ANT 365 (Environment Culture and Sustainability) did you have any exposure to the ideas of Human Centered Design or IDEO? (If yes, in what context?)

I think I had heard of HCD, but didn't really know what it was or how it worked. I just assumed it was focusing on people.

2. When the Human Centered Design process was introduced in the classroom (our Improving Campus Health Challenge) were all concepts adequately explained?

Yes – we went into a lot of detail about the process.

3. Did you have enough time to work on things in your small groups (during the first day)?

We had enough time, but it was difficult because one of our group members had to go to work during lunch.

4. When you were put into small groups for your Local Environmental Challenge, were the design - research processes that you were expected to use adequately explained?

No – I felt confused.

5. Overall, how do you think your group did in terms of collecting data, doing the data dump, coming up with themes, asking How Might We questions and designing prototypes?

I think we did a good job for the time and broad topic we had. There was not a lot of time so we worked with what we had. We could have done better if we had more time and a narrower topic.

6. What specific challenges did you face?

We had less time because we couldn't get our interview scheduled until late. We also had difficulty narrowing things down to one topic.

7. Are there things about the assignment that could have improved your group's process or outcome?

If we could have scheduled additional interviews with others who work on these issues, but our schedules conflicted.

8. Do you think the Human Centered Design process helped you think differently about methods of tackling complex human problems?

Most of it felt pretty similar to how I already think. The difference was the formalized process of prototyping. It helped to make it more formal so we were consciously thinking these ideas through

9. Is there anything else you would like to share about the process, the assignment or the class?

No

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1. No, I did not have any experience with Human Centered Design - I was vaguely aware of some aspects of industrial design

2. Yes

3. As an introduction to the concept, yes.

4. Yes

5. I think we did well. Collecting data at the farm was a little challenging due to the cold weather, but we supplemented that with emails. You can't really get a real sense of a place in one relatively short interview, so there's that as well.

6. The whole process was very accelerated and it was hard to focus on that as well as the class readings.

7. I think lack of time was the main challenge.

8. Yes, and especially so in the context of the articles/sections of Rough Waters about development, globalization, modernism, etc.

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As a way of improving how this course is taught, I would like your feedback about the Human Centered Design learning and research implementation.

Please answer the following questions:

1. Before taking ANT 365 (Environment Culture and Sustainability) did you have any exposure to the ideas of Human Centered Design or IDEO? (If yes, in what context?)

I had been exposed to the idea of centering practices and projects around people themselves, thus integrating people into the project and making it better for them. I had not been exposed to the processes of HCD, though I believe it was perhaps introduced to me in another anthropology or environmental studies class – in a discussion of problem solving.

2. When the Human Centered Design process was introduced in the classroom (our Improving Campus Health Challenge) were all concepts adequately explained?

I believe that the concepts themselves were adequately explained, ie how to go about doing each step. I understand the importance of each step but not why the process as a whole is better than creating a project another way. I still don't quite understand how this method would compare with other ways of problem-solving. How would it differ? Why are these differences important?

3. Did you have enough time to work on things in your small groups (during the first day)?

Yes, the time was adequate. I liked how we had relatively little time to come up with an idea and prototype, because it showed how effectively we can come up with a plan. It also doesn't give us time to slack off or become unfocused, because the processes we were going through were so time consuming and moved so fast.

4. When you were put into small groups for your Local Environmental Challenge, were the design - research processes that you were expected to use adequately explained?

For the local Env Challenge, yes, the processes were explained well. The only part that didn't make a lot of sense was the second data dump because it seemed like we were repeating ourselves. But I can see how that second round of gathering information and interviews could be (and was to us) beneficial.

5. Overall, how do you think your group did in terms of collecting data, doing the data dump, coming up with themes, asking How Might We questions and designing prototypes?

Our group collaborated very well. We were engrossed in the project and explored a lot of different pathways and ideas. The only tricky part for our group and this project was our prototype (the bat house). We had the idea and images, but did not actually build because of time constraints. It would have been nice to have more time seeing it through and working with farmers to make a difference.

6. What specific challenges did you face?

Would have liked to build the prototype (instead of making a flier)

7. Are there things about the assignment that could have improved your group's process or outcome?

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See above

8. Do you think the Human Centered Design process helped you think differently about methods of tackling complex human problems?

Yes, I have started to think more creatively about how to problem solve. Letting my mind wander and explore any option at first and then thinking about what is possible. I really appreciated that freedom of thinking part of the process as was as the data dump to collect ideas. The collaboration part is really effective and I can see how to process could work well for a single person too. Nice structure

9. Is there anything else you would like to share about the process, the assignment or the class?

I was glad to see how HCD was integrated into our class. It fit well with the environment and health issues we read about. I liked the readings. Maybe examining more issues close to home? This might be more relevant for our future jobs or communities.

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1. I feel like I had got some exposure to Human Centered Design. Every time we were talking about it, it made me think of the engineering course in a block I took earlier this year. One of the main questions of that block was "What do people want (or need)?" and I feel like that's what a lot of Human Centered Design is all about or at least my perspective on the idea.

2. I felt all the concepts were explained just fine. I think this is an easy concept for students amongst the college and possibly high school level to grasp. I think it allows for ideas to flow and permits room for creativity. Which is what I liked about it (i.e. Cornell Mom's)

3. I wasn't here the first part of the first day that we had started the process of Human Centered Design due to sickness but I believe that we were given a sufficient amount of time to work on the process. The block plan is rigorous so I'm sure at a different school we could have spent a couple days on something like this to really delve into it. Overall I think we spent just the right amount of time on it. I think the time we spent on it was perfect in relation to our project. It really set the tone for how it should go and a lot of us followed that process to a T when going about our project.

4. I feel every group did a great job explaining their design with the amount of time that was given. The detail was good.

5. If we're talking about the day we did Human Centered Design in class I felt like we weren't really able to go out and collect data to use. We were only able to use our common knowledge about Cornell. I think we were able to accomplish everything else well.

If we're referring to the project, I think the implementation (with the help of your contacts) with the interviews made collecting data on our end that much easier. It made the project flow very easily. I didn't feel like we had to scramble to try and find somebody to talk to to find or collect data. I know my project group and I struggled to come up with How Might We questions because we had so many broad themes and I think that it should be emphasized (and I think you had mentioned this) that groups should try to keep their themes a little narrow to make research easier.

6. As I mentioned in the last answer I think having too broad of themes make it hard to gather a lot of research in the short amount of time that we have on the block plan. How Might We questions were definitely a challenge.

7. I think that our group (for the project) just had a larger area to cover (Cedar Rapids) which made it hard while the other groups in the class had a smaller area like Mount Vernon or Cornell College. Those were more convenient for interviewing and narrowing down a topic. I'm not saying that it's impossible or we were incapable of getting this done but I definitely feel like there's a lot more environmentally going on in the city of Cedar Rapids than in Mount Vernon or Cornell College.

8. In this setting I felt like we were able to try and be creative to try and solve real world problems which made it that more interesting to me.

9. I took an anthropology course last block and obviously this block and I've learned a lot over the course of the past two blocks. This class helped open my eyes to yet ANOTHER side of the environmental crises we're facing in today's world that I was not so aware of. I also felt like I was able to learn and grow with the knowledge I gained because I didn't have to just learn something for a test or quiz. I think the Human Centered Design project was very cool in the idea that it can be applied to almost anything, anywhere, and with any problem. That's a cool concept to me.

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1. Nope! I have never worked with this before.
2. Yes, I thought that the Human-Centered Design process was introduced pretty well. I liked learning about it and doing an example at the same time, I thought that really helped.
3. On the first day we felt a little bit rushed since it was a new process. It was hard to know when we came up with enough ideas before picking a how might we question or a prototype.
4. I was a little bit confused when we worked in our group starting the process, because we were not able to do all of the steps. It was kind of tricky to know what we would actually be able to do and what we wouldn't be able to do.
5. I thought our group did well at collecting the data, we were all very active in the interview with the public health department. We had to sort of rush the data dump and themes, so we may have benefited from more time since we had our interview so late in the process. We did well at picking the how might we questions, but we only really had time to design one prototype and get feedback. We didn't really have time to expand.
6. The biggest challenge would probably be time. This project requires more time than just a week to actually be able to get everything done. It was tricky because we couldn't do any of the other work until we had done the interview, and they were busy the entire 2nd week of the block, so we didn't get started until Tuesday of 3rd week.
7. Possibly having more contacts? We don't really know who is from Cedar Rapids, and I was the only one with a car so it was a challenge to get there anyways. It could be helpful to show an example of a paper like this, I know that I was stressed out because I had never written a paper like this before (format).
8. Yes, I really like this process, I think it is really organized and helps flow the information learned in a smart and cohesive way.

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1. Before taking this class I did not have any experience with the HCD research process.
2. After the HCD process was introduced I would say that yes the concepts were adequately explained.
3. During the first day my group did not get to work together because of schedule conflicts, but we did divide tasks and each of us got to do them individually.
4. Yes, after discussing the expectations of the project more in depth, I feel like my group knew what we needed to complete.
5. Overall I think that my group was very successful in the HCD process. We followed it very closely and came up with some good ideas.
6. We had a hard time communicating with informants in some cases. It took some of them a while to respond to some of our questions. I would also say that writing a rough draft without completing the process entirely was a challenge. I had to go back and make a lot of changes because key information was missing.
7. More time would have allowed us to talk to all of the informants in person, but overall we used the information we had and came up with a feasible prototype.
8. I think the HCD process helped me slow the research process down, and allowed me to focus on the important information. I am also someone who is really organized so the steps made me feel comfortable. It was also easy to work with a group because of how structured the steps were.
9. I really enjoyed this assignment, and liked that it helped us implement ideas we were learning in class to contemporary issues people face on a daily basis.

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- 1). Yes, but very little exposure. In my ENV chemistry class we discussed it briefly when tackling a class project on the Mount Vernon watershed.
- 2). I believe it was as best as could be explained walking through the process in an example ironed out areas where students were unclear.
- 3) I believe we had enough time to work on things, more time would of allowed for more observations ,but we still got the basics. Obviously not enough time for a solution but that was to be as expected.
- 4). Yes it was adequately explained
- 5). I think my group did very well in terms of collecting data as we interviewed two people across campus that oversee most of the students. Data dump was very smooth and easy and common themes were noticeable. How might we questions were not and issue as most of them were the same with different wording. I believe our prototype was good for the time constraint on the project it is the lowest cost with the furthest potential out reach.
- 6) Challenges we faced was time. While we got two great interviews one more would of made our case stronger. Also our prototype could of been more advanced had we had more time to get student groups on campus involved.
- 7). I think starting the project the very first week would of allowed for some groups to get more interviews or solutions.
- 8). I really liked the Human Centered Design process. While some aspects don't fit my strong suits it allowed me to think fully about what our problem and solution was. For example when first coming up with a solution you might not realize areas where you are lacking or other problems that could occur. The process made me realize that humans arent as straight forward as we would like them to be.
- 9). I think it would be cool to start this first week and maybe have the whole class tackle one problem given the extra time the class could have time to test different solutions and get other groups involved for more of a lasting affect. The class has taught me not to judge things right of the bat. To look holistically at a problem or past what preconceived notions about a topic are. Also most of the topics in class we talked about I am fairly passionate about and having the ability to talk with other peers who share these interests was fun and was really engaging.

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1. I think I may have heard of HCD but had no experience with it.
2. Yes! The handouts were really helpful.
3. Yes-- we weren't sure if we needed to interview as a group or if we could split up, but it was a good intro project.
4. I was somewhat confused about how many data dumps and HMW questions to do as a group, but I think part of this was related to our difficulty interviewing our original person.
5. The data dump was easy enough, and developing HMW questions was simple because our topic was fairly narrow (bees on campus/in town). Proto-types were more difficult because I couldn't tell how specific or broad they needed to be.
6. Finding peer reviewed articles etc. that related well to our bee focus was hard. A lot of research is very specific and technical, so there was a gap in my own understanding of science stuff and finding what we needed about general bee health.
7. Timing was hard, but again that had more to do with outside circumstances than the actual class.
8. Yes! I definitely had to slow myself down. I had great ideas out of no where and had to take a step back to make sure they were well grounded in our research.
9. Prof. Mouton was interested in whether or not we would be implementing our ideas-- so it would be cool if we could have a plan for pitching these ideas to student senate or someone at the end of the course.

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1. Before this class I did not have any exposure to human centered design ideas.
2. When Human Centered Design process was introduced it was explained adequately and the worksheets were helpful
3. Yes we had enough time
4. Yes the research processes were adequately explained and we knew how to follow the steps (from our workshop Design experience).
5. Overall I think our group did a very good job in collecting data, coming up with themes and asking the How Might We questions and designing prototypes. We were able to come up with good research and further our understanding by designing the prototypes
6. Challenges we faced included determining which problem to tackle since they were all important. Also with a time limit we had to create a simple prototype to implement here on campus. To do it more thoroughly, we would need funding.
7. Things that would improve the process/ outcome is having more examples of how HCD has been used before and if the designs have been beneficial. That would encourage students to initiate or use this process in other areas, not just in the classroom. Student groups may be able to use this to come up with a solution to campus problems (like Environmental Club or BACO.)
8. Yes the human centered design process helped me think differently about methods of tackling complex human problems. Without the Human Centered Design process, I would be lost in how to handle a problem and come up with a solution. The process helps in clearly stating these steps and serves as a guide.
9. I'd like to know more about how this process evolved and how it is similar/ different from anthropological research methods.