The Experience is Everything
The hypothesis for this studio is that experience is key to changing how we think about the environment.

The main assumption is that the visceral experience of water is an essential part in creating a shift in people’s understanding of this natural resource.

To truly transform our relationship to water, we must first develop a deep appreciation of water through touching, feeling, smelling and tasting water. Only an inherent appreciation of our natural resources will shift the challenge of climate change from an abstract responsibility to a visceral belief, and create lasting and measurable political, social and technological progress.

The studio will explore design environments that not only change how we use water, but also how we fundamentally think and care about water.

The design process will be driven by the refinement of an experiential concept. In parallel to the site and programmatic research and architectural design development, students will be asked to create an experiential collage/ sketch each week.

Schedule
First day of studio - January 19th
Mid Review - week of February 27th
Final Review - week of April 24th

Program
The program of the studio is a “Water Center” - a building or campus focused on bringing together all aspects of water - recreation, health, science, policy and industry - with the singular intention of changing how the public understands the very natural resource that physically defines New York City (and 90% of the largest cities in the world). A place for all things water.
The space program includes:
- Swimming Pools and Facilities
- Marine Biology and Hydrology Labs
- Boat Building Workshop and Storage
- Classrooms
- Lecture Halls
- Galleries
- Event Space
- Public Lobby
- Administrative Offices
- Restaurant
- Cafe
- Garden
- Water Center Store
- Library and Research Center

The 300,000sf program includes 100,000sf of student-chosen program. A detailed program table will be provided at the beginning of the studio.

**Site**
The site is the southern half of Governor’s Island, non-historic part.

**Readings and References**
Mapping Three Decades of Global Water Change
Photographing the Impact of California’s Water Crisis
Food Water Footprint
http://graphics.latimes.com/food-water-footprint/
From the gutter: How your litter ends up in the ocean
Christo - A Walk on Water
https://www.nytimes.com/video/arts/design/100000004476178/a-walk-on-water.html
Moses Bridge
Rain Room by Random International
The Weather Project Olafur Eliasson
James Turrell
Dream House - Mela Foundation NY
Marina Abramovic Institute - OMA
Spa Castle
Chelsea Piers
Lincoln Center
Rolex Learning Center SANAA
Therme Vals - Peter Zumthor

**Relevant Water Organizations**
River Project
Harbor School
Waterfront Alliance
Columbia Water Center (part of the Earth Institute)