
McGill University

Peter Guo-hua Fu School of Architecture

ARCH 652

Architectural History and Theory Seminar 2

Fall 2018

Monday 13:35–17:25 Room MH 207

Instructor

David Theodore

david.theodore@mcgill.ca

514-398-6706; office hours; casual or by appointment

Room 309, Macdonald-Harrington Building

Calendar Description

Arch 652

Second of four intensive seminars on the thematic study of modern architecture and its theoretical underpinnings as a response to technological, cultural, environmental, and philosophical challenges. Historiographical and design approaches to architectural problems encountered from the pre-industrial age to contemporary post-industrial expansion.

Course Objectives

There are three skills students will develop in this seminar: reading, talking, and writing. None of these are trivial. Your grade will be based on both your speaking and your writing. There's enough reading every week that you'll have to learn how to distill a large number of pages down to a few important arguments and pieces of evidence. In each of our class meetings, you'll also have to speak with confidence and engage your classmates as peers.

In terms of content, we want to understand the engagement of theory and architecture. We will be looking at how architectural theory depends on what Catherine Ingram calls the "import export" business: how, in doing architectural theory, scholars "expand into different domains, then return to architecture with an argument in hand (good or bad) like a brace of pheasant's shot on somebody else's property." Theory, in this case, will be drawn from philosophers; explications of philosophical ideas; and from the methodologies of architectural historians.

Requirements

i) Note-taking/bibliography: 10% (pass/fail)

Note-taking/bibliography requirement will be discussed in class

ii) Mini-seminars: 10% (pass/fail)

Each student will prepare and lead discussion twice in a smaller group in cooperation with me. In the week preceding the respective session, the three

(or four) of us will meet to discuss the key issues to be addressed and plan the seminar session.

iii) In-class, ten-minute paper presentation 10%

iv) Term paper. The paper will explore a recent book of theory, summarizing and elucidating it, and then suggesting how the theory could engage architecture (i.e. topics such as buildings, architects, architectural education, history, architectural tourism, preservation, design and construction, and ethics).

The paper has four components (see assignment sheet for further explanation):

- a) Proposal: 10%. Due 9 October.
- b) Outline summary of the book: 10%. Due 15 October.
- c) Critical summary (précis) of the book: 10%. Due 5 November.
- d) Final paper: 40%. Due last day of class, 4 December (5,000 to 7,500 words including references). Optional review of draft of final paper: date to be determined.

Late Policy

Grades for late work will be penalized at one grade level per day. For example, work graded as "A" but handed in in one day late will receive a "A-"; work graded as "A" but handed in two days late will receive a "B+."

Ethics

Please note that all projects dealing with human subjects require ethics review and approval before research can begin. For more information, see:
<http://www.mcgill.ca/research/researchers/compliance/human>

If you have questions, please see the Director of the School of Architecture.

McGill Policy Statements

The following two statements must be included in all course outlines, in keeping with various Senate resolutions:

"McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures" (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information). (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003.)

"In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded." (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 - see also the section in this document on Assignments and evaluation.)

"In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change."

Schedule and Required Readings

This schedule and list of required reading are subject to change.

Students without any background in architectural theory may wish to consult:

- C. Greig Crysler, Stephen Cairns, Hilde Heyne, eds., *The SAGE Handbook of Architectural Theory*, (London and Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2012).
K. Michael Hays, ed., *Architecture Theory since 1968* (Cambridge, MA: MIT, 1998).
Neil Leach, ed., *Rethinking Architecture: A Reader in Cultural Theory* (New York: Routledge, 1997).
Kate Nesbitt, ed., *Theorizing a New Agenda for Architecture: An Anthology of Architectural Theory, 1965-1995* (Princeton: Princeton Architectural Press, 1996).
Joan Ockman and Edward Eigen, ed., *Architecture Culture, 1943-1968: A Documentary Anthology* (New York: Rizzoli, 1993).

Week 1

10 September INTRODUCTION

- a) Nikolaus Pevsner, "Introduction," *An Outline of European Architecture* (Thames, 1942), xix-xxi.

Week 2

17 September INTRODUCTION PART 2

- a) Martin Heidegger, "The Question Concerning Technology."
b) Ethan Kleinberg, Joan Wallach Scott, and Gary Wilder, "Theses on Theory and History," *Theoryrevolt.com*, May 2018; also available at <https://www.versobooks.com/blogs/3893-theses-on-theory-and-history>

Suggested reading: Lee Braver, *Heidegger's Later Writings: A Reader's Guide* (Continuum: London, 2009).

AESTHETICS

- a) Robert L. Wicks, "The Art of the Time Image: Gilles Deleuze," in *European Aesthetics: A Critical Introduction from Kant to Derrida* (Richmond: Oneworld, 2011), 289-308. Only the beginning is required: pp. 289-91.
b) Mary Devereaux, "Feminist Aesthetics," *The Oxford Handbook of Aesthetics*, ed. Jerrold Levinson (Oxford University Press, 2003); Oxford Handbooks Online.

Suggested reading: Roger Scruton, *The Aesthetics of Architecture*, 2nd edition (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2013).

Week 3

24 September CONSCIOUSNESS

- a) René Descartes, Meditation 6, *Meditations on First Philosophy*.
b) Frank Jackson, "Epiphenomenal Qualia," *The Philosophical Quarterly* 32, no. 127 (Apr. 1982): 127-36.

- c) W. E. B. Du Bois, "Strivings of the Negro People," *The Souls of Black Folk* (Cambridge, MA: A.C. McClung, 1903), 1-12.

Suggested Reading: Peter Godfrey-Smith, *Other Minds: The Octopus and the Evolution of Intelligent Life* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016).

Week [~] no class (Provincial Election)
1 October

Week [~] no class (Thanksgiving)
8 October **BOOK OUTLINE SUMMARY DUE 9 October; email PDF; hardcopy in mailbox room 201**

Week 4
15 October **PAPER PROPOSAL DUE; email PDF; hardcopy in mailbox room 201**
BODIES

- a) David J. Chalmers and Andy Clark, "The Extended Mind," *Analysis* 58, no. 1 (1998): 7-19.
- b) Lucas Cassidy Crawford, "Derivative Plumbing: Redesigning Washrooms, Bodies, and Trans Affects in ds+r's Brasserie," *Journal of Homosexuality* 61, no. 5 (2014): 621-35.
- c) Iris Young, "Throwing Like a Girl: A Phenomenology of Feminine Body Comportment, Motility, and Spatiality," in *Throwing Like a Girl and Other Essays in Feminist Philosophy and Social Theory* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1990), 141-159.
- d) David Theodore, "Turning Architecture Upside-Down," *Log* 42 (Winter/Spring 2018): 116-126.

Suggested Reading: Tim Armstrong, *Modernism, Technology, and the Body: A Cultural Study* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998).

Week 5
22 October

- SPACE
- a) Adrian Forty, "Space," *Words and Buildings: A Vocabulary of Modern Architecture* (London: Thames and Hudson, 2000).
 - b) Doreen Massey, "Space, Place, and Gender," *Space, Place, and Gender* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1994), 185-90.
 - c) M. Pearce and R. Louis, "Mapping Indigenous Depth of Place," *American Indian Culture & Research Journal* 32, no. 3 (2008), 107-26.

Suggested Reading: Henri Lefebvre, *The Production of Space* (1974), trans. David Nicholson-Smith (Cambridge, MA: Basil Blackwell, 1991).

Week 6

29 October

ETHICS

- a) Iris Murdoch, "The Sovereignty of Good Over Other Concepts"
- a) Sven Beckert, "History of American Capitalism," in *American History Now*, ed. Eric Foner and Lisa McGirr, 314–35 (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2011).
- b) Derek Parfit, "Energy Policy and the Further Future The Identity Problem," In Stephen Mark Gardiner, ed., *Climate Ethics: Essential Readings* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010); online version.
- c) Amia Srinivasan, "Does Anyone Have the Right to Sex?" *LRB*, Vol. 40 No. 6 · 22 March 2018; <https://www.lrb.co.uk/v40/n06/amia-srinivasan/does-anyone-have-the-right-to-sex>

Suggested Reading: John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1971).

Week 7

5 November

PAPER PRÉCIS DUE; email PDF; hardcopy in mailbox

COMPUTATION

- a) Peter Galison, "War Against the Center," *Architecture and the Sciences Exchanging Metaphors*, ed. Antoine Picon and Alessandra Ponte (Princeton: Princeton Architectural Press, 2003), 196-227.
- b) Alise Uptis, "Alexander's Choice: How Architecture Avoided Computer-Aided Design c. 1962," in *A Second Modernism: MIT, Architecture, and the "Techno-social" Moment* (Cambridge, MA, MIT Press, 2013), 474-505.
- c) John Searle, "Minds, Brains, and Programs," *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 3, no. (1980): 417-24.

Suggested reading: Friedrich Kittler, *Gramophone, Film Typewriter*, trans. Geoffrey Winthrop-Young and Michael Wutz (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1999).

Week 8

12 November

ANT

- a) Bruno Latour, "Drawing Things Together," *Representation in Scientific Activity*, ed. Michael Lynch and Steve Woolgar (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1990), 19-68.
- b) Bruno Latour and Albena Yaneva, "'Give Me A Gun and I Will Make All Buildings Move': An Ant's View of Architecture," *Architectural Theories of the Environment: Posthuman Territory*, (Routledge, Taylor & Francis Books Ltd.): 107-115.
- d) Albena Yaneva, "Reconnecting Practice," RIBA Research Symposium 2009: Changing Practices.

Suggested reading: Brian Epstein, *The Ant Trap: Rebuilding the Foundations of the Social Sciences* (London: Oxford University Press, 2015).

Week 9

19 November SR/000

- a) Graham Harman, *Speculative Realism: An Introduction* (London: Polity, 2018).
 - b) David Ruy, "Returning to (Strange) Objects," *tarp Architecture Manual* (2012): 38-42.
 - c) Katherine Behar, "An Introduction to OOF," *Object-Oriented feminism* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2016), 1-36.
- [Additional reading: Dan Zahavi, "The End of What? Phenomenology vs. Speculative Realism," *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 24, no. 3 (2016): 289-309.]

Suggested reading: Jane Bennett, *Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2010).

Week 10

26 November DATA

- a) d. boyd & Crawford, K., "Critical Questions for Big Data," *Information, Communication & Society* 15, no. 5 (2012): 662-679.
- b) Christine L. Borgman, C., *Big data, Little Data, No Data: Scholarship in the Networked World* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2015), chapters 1-4 only.
- c) Richard White, "What Is Spatial History?" Stanford Spatial Lab, 2010, http://www.stanford.edu/group/spatialhistory/cgi-bin/site/pub_toc.php.

Suggested reading: Lorraine Daston and Peter Galison, *Objectivity* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2007).

Week 11

3 December HISTORIANS AND THEORY

- a) Louis Martin, "Against Architecture," *Log* 16 (Spring/Summer 2009): 153-67.
- b) Peggy Deamer, "Architecture's Desire: Reading the Late Avant-Garde," *The Journal of Architecture* 17, no. 1 (2012): 151-154.
- c) Mark Jarzombek, "The Disciplinary Dislocations of (Architectural) History," *SJAH* 58, no. 3 (1999): 488-93.

Suggested reading: C. Greig Crysler, Stephen Cairns, Hilde Heyne, eds., *The SAGE Handbook of Architectural Theory* (London and Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2012).

Week 12 **FINAL PAPER DUE email PDF; hardcopy in mailbox**
4 December STUDENT PRESENTATIONS