McGill University
School of Architecture

ARCH 652
Architectural History and Theory Seminar 2
Fall 2016
Monday and Wednesday 8:30–10:30 Room MH 207

Instructor
David Theodore
david.theodore@mcgill.ca
514-398-2862; office hours; casual or by appointment
Room 301, 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 distil 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 will seek to understand the engagement of theory and architecture. 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 + questions: 10% (pass/fail)
   Each student will hand in a question that could form the basis of discussion for each reading each week (e.g. week 4 has 4 readings; therefore, four questions). Questions are to be posted in the Discussion Forum on MyCourses by 6 pm Sunday the night before the related seminar. Note-taking requirement will be discussed in class and (Week 5)

ii) Participation: 10%

iii) 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.

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

v) 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 three components:
   a) Paper proposal: 10%. Due 17 October.
   b) Critical summary (précis) of the book: 10%. Due 26 October.
   c) Final paper: 40%. Due 7 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 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:

**Week 0**
2 September  First class

**Week 1**
5 September  No class: Labour Day
7 September  INTRODUCTION
   a) Martin Heidegger, “The Question Concerning Technology.”

**Week 2**
12 September  AESTHETICS

14 September  Mini-seminar with two students in preparation for the following week

**Week 3**
19 September  CONSCIOUSNESS
   d) René Descartes, Meditation 6, *Meditations on First Philosophy*.

21 September
Mini-seminar

**Week 4**

26 September PHENOMENOLOGY


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.

28 September

Mini-seminar

**Week 5**

3 October EMBODIMENT


5 October

NUTS AND BOLTS: writing, note-taking, reading.

Bring two copies of the draft for your proposal.

**Week 6**

10 October No Class (Thanksgiving)

12 October

Mini-seminar

**Week 7**

17 October PAPER PROPOSAL DUE; email PDF; hardcopy in mailbox

SPACE


19 October
Mini-seminar

**Week 8**
24 October
BODIES


c) J. Kent Fitzsimons, “Seeing Motion Otherwise: Rethinking Architecture through the Differently Sensing and Mobile,” *Space and Culture* vol. 15 no. 3 2012.


26 October
Mini-seminar

**Week 9**
PAPER PRÉCIS DUE; email PDF; hardcopy in mailbox
31 October
ANT


2 November
Mini-seminar

**Week 10**
NEGATIVE THEORY
7 November


9 November

Mini-seminar

Week 11

14 November

SR/OOO


16 November

Mini-seminar

Week 12

21 November

SPATIAL

a) Henri Lefebvre, excerpts from Production of Space (Hays reader).

b) Lucasz Stanek, Chapter 3, “Critique: Space as Concrete Abstraction,” Henri Lefebvre on Space: Architecture, Urban Research, and the Production of Theory (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011), 133-64.


23 November

Mini-seminar

Week 13

28 November

HISTORIANS AND THEORY


30 November

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Week 14

5 December

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Last Class PAPER DUE