McGill University
School of Architecture

ARCH 652
Architectural History and Theory Seminar 2
Fall 2017
Wednesday and Friday 15:30–17:30 Room MH 207

Instructor
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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: 10% (pass/fail)
   Note-taking/bibliography requirement will be discussed in class
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 18 October.
   b) Critical summary (précis) of the book: 10%. Due 1 November.
   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.

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**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+.”

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**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.

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**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 1
6 September INTRODUCTION
8 September a) Martin Heidegger, “The Question Concerning Technology.”

Week 2
13 September AESTHETICS
15 September Mini-seminar with two students in preparation for the following week

Week 3
20 September CONSCIOUSNESS
22 September Mini-seminar

Week 4
27 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.

29 September

Week 5

4 October  EMBODIMENT


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

Bring two copies of the draft for your proposal.

Week 6

11 October  SPACE


13 October  Mini-seminar

Week 7  PAPER PROPOSAL DUE; email PDF; hardcopy in mailbox

18 October  BODIES

a) David Valentine, Chapter 4, Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category (Durham: Duke UP, 2007), 143-72.

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

20 October

**Mini-seminar**

**Week 8**

25 October

**ANT**


27 October

**Mini-seminar**

**Week 9**

1 November

**COMPUTATION**


3 November

**Mini-seminar**

**Week 10**

8 November

**SR/OOO**


Artspac 21 May 2016: 
http://www.artspace.com/magazine/interviews_features/the_big_idea/a-guide-to-object-oriented-ontology-art-53690
Extra) Graham Harman, brief SR/OOO Tutorial, 

10 November 
Mini-seminar 

Week 11 
15 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.
  c) Susan S. Fainstein, “Spatial Justice and Planning”], spatial justice no. 01 (September 2009): http://www.jssj.org 

17 November 
Mini-seminar 

Week 12 
22 November 
HISTORIANS AND THEORY 

24 November 
Mini-seminar 

Week 13 
29 November 
TBA 
1 December 

Week 14 
6 December 
STUDENT PRESENTATIONS 
Last Class PAPER DUE