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 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 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.

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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
10 September INTRODUCTION

Week 2
17 September INTRODUCTION PART 2
a) Martin Heidegger, “The Question Concerning Technology.”


AESTHETICS


Week 3
24 September CONSCIOUSNESS
a) René Descartes, Meditation 6, Meditations on First Philosophy.


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 PAPER PROPOSAL DUE; email PDF; hardcopy in mailbox room 201
15 October BODIES
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.


Week 5 22 October SPACE
b) Doreen Massey, “Space, Place, and Gender,” Space, Place, and Gender (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1994), 185-90.

Week 6
29 October

ETHICS
a) Iris Murdoch, “The Sovereignty of Good Over Other Concepts”

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


Week 7
5 November

COMPUTATION


Week 8
12 November

ANT

**Week 9**

19 November

SR/OOO


**Week 10**

26 November

DATA


**Week 11**

3 December

HISTORIANS AND THEORY


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