RESEARCH METHODS FOR ARCHITECTURE
ARCH 622 (4 credits)
Fall 2018
Prof. Annmarie Adams
Fridays 2:30-5:30
Room 207

Phone: 398-2915
Email: annmarie.adams@mcgill.ca

Teaching assistant: Ipek Mehmetoglu, yildiz.mehmetoglu@mail.mcgill.ca
Office hours: Fridays, 1:30-2:30

Course description:
This introductory course in research methods is intended for students enrolled in professional and post-professional (History/Theory) programs in the School of Architecture. The three major goals of the course are (1) to get familiar with architectural research (2) to learn how to construct thesis-driven arguments and (3) to understand how to use design as evidence. The course surveys methods commonly used to describe, analyze and interpret the built environment, with a focus on the procedures of architectural research. What are our most useful interpretive tools for understanding architecture? How do we gather architectural information? What is a valid architectural research question? What is design research?

Readings:
ARCH 622 is a seminar course based on collective readings and discussion. Our selection of readings is wide-ranging, touching on major and current themes in architectural research. Note that sometimes we begin by reading a summary or reference piece on the subject. Two books may be worth buying: Ray Lucas, Research Methods for Architecture, and Adrian Forty Words and Buildings, available at The Word bookstore, 469 rue Milton. If you are new to architectural theory, a handy reference book is Phil Hubbard et al, Key Thinkers on Space and Place. Note that most of the readings are posted on myCourses, except for excerpts from Forty and other books widely available. The Lucas textbook is particularly helpful for the five minor assignments.

Assignments:
Minor assignments in this course are intended to guide you through the steps towards a successful research proposal. The final assignment is a research proposal, presented in the form of a lightning talk (in conjunction with ARCH 627 and 711, Nov. 30). Students are also responsible for leading the seminar for one class (likely in pairs) and everyone is expected to say something about the readings each week. Assignments should be submitted on myCourses.

Evaluation:
5 minor assignments 50%, 5 x 10%
Lightning talk 20%, Nov. 30
Leading discussion 20%, dates to be assigned
Weekly participation 10%, if you miss a class please submit your commentary in writing by e-mail within 24 hours
**Assignment 1:** what is your topic? Due Oct 5. Describe your research topic in two paragraphs and cite one model for your project.

**Assignment 2:** research question Due Oct 19. Submit your main research question (more than one is okay too).

**Assignment 3:** title Due Nov 2. What is the title of your project? A good title indicates both the subject and the perspective.

**Assignment 4:** argument Due Nov 9. State the hypothetical argument of your proposed work.

**Assignment 5:** abstract Due Nov 23. Write a 250-word abstract of your proposal, including topic, model, question, title, argument, and methodology.

**Late and absentee 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 an “A-”; work graded as “A” but handed in two days late will receive a “B+.”

**CACB Student Performance Criteria:**

A.1 Design Theories, Precedents, and Methods
B.1 Critical Thinking and Communication
B.2 Architectural History
B.3 Architectural Theory

**McGill policy statements:**

Language of Submission:

“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. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.” (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 - see also the section in this document on Assignments and Evaluation.)

Academic Integrity:

“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)

Additional Statements

- "As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the Office for Students with Disabilities, 514-398-6009.”

- “McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.”

- Guidelines for the use of mobile computing and communications (MC2) devices in classes at McGill have been approved by the APC. Consult the Guidelines for a range of sample wording that may be used or adapted by instructors on their course outlines.
Proposed Schedule

1: Sept 7: Introduction and what is architectural history?
   o Adrian Forty, “History,” 196-205.

2: Sept 14: Formalism/Architecture as Art
   o Adrian Forty, “Form,” Formal,” 149-73.
   o James S. Ackerman, “Style,” in Distance Points, 3-19.

   Discussion book: Banister Fletcher, A History of Architecture

3: Sept 21 Function
   o Dell Upton, “Signs taken for wonders,” chapter 7 in Relearning from Las Vegas

   Discussion book: Sigfried Giedion, Space, Time and Architecture

4: Sept 28: Structure and library workshop with David Greene [4:30-5:30]
   o “Structuralism,” in Leach, 163-64.
   o Henry Glassie, chapter 4, Folk Housing in Middle Virginia

   Discussion Book: Henry Glassie, Folk Housing in Middle Virginia

5: Oct 5: Obsolescence
   o Adrian Forty, “Memory,” 206-19.
   o Annmarie Adams, “Reviving the Dead,” Fuse Magazine 27, No. 2 (June 2004), 16-23.
   o Daniel Abramson, chapter 5, Obsolescence

   Discussion Book: John Ruskin, Seven Lamps of Architecture

6: Oct 12: Foucault, Power-Knowledge-Space
   o Michel Foucault, “Panopticism” and “Space, Knowledge, and Power,” in Leach
   o Michel Foucault, “Docile Bodies,” in Discipline and Punish, 135-69
   o “Space, Knowledge, and Power: An Interview with Michel Foucault by Paul Rabinow,” Skyline (March 1982), http://www.mara-stream.org/wp-

Discussion Book: Thomas Markus, *Buildings & Power*

7. Oct 19: Experiential and ethnographic methods
   (Students should attend Prof Nik Luka’s class, ARCH 627)
    7a. Experiential approaches to urban design, housing, and landscape studies
        o Andrew Butler *et al.*, “Landscape identity, before and after a forest fire”, *Landscape Research* 43 no. 6 (2018), 878-89.
        o Kevin Thwaites and Ian Simkins, excerpts from *Experiential landscape: an approach to people, place and space*
    7b. Surveys, questionnaires, and in-depth interviews

8: Oct 26: Everyday life
   o Mary McLeod, "Henri Lefebvre’s Critique of Everyday Life: An Introduction,” in Harris and Berke, 9-29

Discussion Book: Spiro Kostof, *A History of Architecture*

9: Nov 2: Gender
   o Joan Wallach Scott, “Excerpts from ‘Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis,” in Rendell, 74-87.

Discussion books: Leslie Kanes Weisman, *Discrimination by Design* or Dolores Hayden, *Grand Domestic Revolution*

10: Nov 9: Queer

Discussion book: Aaron Betsky, *Queer Space*

11: Nov 16: Social class
o Willis, “Form Follows Finance” in The Landscape of Modernity, eds. Ward and Zunz, 160-87.
o Dianne Harris, “Private Worlds,” in *Little White Houses*, 111-57.


12: Nov 23: Biography-Material Culture
o Dana Arnold, "(Auto)biographies and space," in *Biographies and Space*, 6-16.
o Dell Upton Monticello,
https://www.pbs.org/jefferson/archives/interviews/Upton.htm

Discussion book: Dell Upton, *Architecture in the United States*

13. Nov 30, Annual Student Conference, times TBD: Lightning talks with ARCH 627 (Luka) and ARCH 711 (Turell)
Useful how-to books:


Bernard, *Now all we need is a Title* (1994).


Useful reference books:


