

ARCH 5362-001: THEORY in ARCHITECTURE – CoA – TTU – Fall 2011 – SYLLABUS

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY - COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE

Tuesday & Thursday: 9:30 - 10:50 AM

Room 102 – Ground Floor Architecture

Instructor

Hendrika Buelinckx, PhD

Associate Professor

Office room 710 Office Hours: W 12:00-1:00, TT 11:00 to 12:00, and by appointment.

Please do contact me at h.buelinckx@ttu.edu.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

ARCH 5362. Theory in Architecture (3:3:0). Examination of theoretical issues in architecture through critical reading of texts selected from Vitruvius to the most contemporary thinkers in relation to emerging design challenges.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Critically thinking about architecture is essential to the discipline. Since Vitruvius, many scholars have sought to describe architecture or to define a direction for architectural design. Designers need theory to carve out a position for themselves and to establish a foundation for design. During the first part of the semester, we will study the history of architectural theories from Vitruvius until the early 20th Century. During the second part of the semester, we will examine some of the major tenets and concepts running through architectural discourse. And during the third part of the semester we will discuss some of the challenges that architectural theory may face in the future.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Students are expected to have a good working knowledge of historical and contemporary buildings. In addition to having an inquisitive mind, to think critically, to work hard, and to aspire to academic excellence and integrity.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will have:

1. a working knowledge of the most relevant—past, present, future—architectural theories,
2. the ability to research and critically assess, discuss, and document theoretical concepts and tenets against a general theoretical framework
3. the ability to develop their own personal approach towards architectural design theory.

NAAB CRITERIA

1: SPEAKING AND WRITING SKILLS: (Ability to read, write, listen, and speak effectively.)

Students are required to orally present their research to the class, to write several short papers and a term paper that critically evaluates an architectural theory/tenet/concept. Impromptu in class writing assignments assesses their listening and writing skills.

2. CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS: (Ability to raise clear and precise questions, use abstract ideas to interpret information, consider diverse points of view, reach well-reasoned conclusions, and test them against relevant criteria and standards.)

This is the most important objective of this course. Students are encouraged to be critical and to look for alternate descriptions and explanations of architecture. In class, they critically evaluate a variety of historically significant architectural theories and develop their own positions through discussions and writing.

4: RESEARCH SKILLS: (Ability to gather, assess, record, and apply relevant information in architectural Coursework)

Projects are based on individual research that is conducted for the term project. It mainly consists of collecting, critically evaluating, and diagramming both literary and visual resources.

12. HUMAN BEHAVIOR: (Understanding of the theories and methods of inquiry that seek to clarify the relationship between human behavior and the physical environment)

Class lectures deal with architectural theories as they have developed over time. They consider the changing modes of thought and their reflection in architectural thinking.

COURSE LOGISTICS

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is mandatory. No more than one absence will be excused. For each unexcused absence 5% will be deducted from the final grade. MORE than 4 absences (excused or unexcused) will result in a failing grade.

Withdrawing from Class

Please withdraw on or before the University drop date. Please do not request a grade of I without documented reasons allowed by the university. See- <http://www.ttu.edu/it4students/add-drop.phpg.php>

Electronic Mail

Announcements and other information will be sent to your eRaider_email account and will be considered 'official' notification. All students should update their official TTU email account and check it daily.

Writing Intensive Courses

Students may seek writing assistance by contacting the University Writing Center, 175 English/Philosophy Complex.

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism

Academic integrity is taking responsibility for one's own work, being individually accountable, and demonstrating intellectual honesty and ethical behavior. Students are expected to be aware of TTU's policy in this respect. See <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentjudicialprograms/academicinteg.php>

ADA Statement

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, you may contact the Student Disability Services office in 335 West Hall or 806-742-2405.

Contact <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/students/sds/>

REQUIRED BOOKS & READINGS

1. Krufft, Hanno-Walter. **A History of Architectural Theory, From Vitruvius to the Present**, Princeton Architectural Press, 1994. (Further referred to as R1)
2. Nesbit, Kate. **Theorizing a New Agenda for Architecture An Anthology of Architectural Theory 1965-1995**, Princeton Architectural Press, 1996. (Further referred to as R2)
3. Additional Readings will be assigned and made available as e-Readers.

REQUIREMENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

Students are required to attend all classes, **study all assigned readings prior to class**, submit weekly assignments on time, actively participate in class discussions, successfully pass two exams, make oral presentations, and carry out one term project.

Specific Requirements for each Assignment will be discussed in class.

1. WEEKLY WRITINGS & PARTICIPATION in CLASS DISCUSSION– 20% of final grade

Specific writing and diagramming exercises based on the readings will be given weekly. Each will be submitted both electronically and in printed form at the beginning of each class period. Late submissions will not be accepted. These are individual assignments. The eight best of these will be counted towards your final grade.

2. TWO EXAMS – each 20 % of final grade

Both a mid-term exam and a final exam will be given. The content of the exams will be cover material from lectures and required readings discussed thus far. Each of the topics covered during the lectures will be represented in the exams. NOTE: Careful note taking during lectures and on the readings will be indispensable for the success in the exams.

3. ORAL CLASS PRESENTATIONS – 10% of final grade

Each student will conduct one or more oral presentations. This might be an individual or a team presentation.

4. TERM PROJECT – 30 % of final grade

During this semester you will be continuously working on an individual; Term Project. This project will explore one of the central tenets, concepts of architectural discourse. This project will be discussed in detail during class 2 (see schedule and topics). Intermediate deadlines for submission are indicated on the Schedule below.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Writings-Discussion		20 %
Exams	Mid Term	20 %
	Final	20 %
Oral Presentation		10 %
Term Project	Paper I Book	30 %

GRADING POLICY

A: Superior work - Exceptional performance strongly exceeding requirements of assignments; initiative proving independent resourcefulness; strong positive attitude toward the work; a growing level of improvement.

B: Good, above average - Adequate performance above the norm, accurate and complete, beyond requirements of assignments: good initiative; positive attitude toward the work; improvement showing marks of progress.

C: Average - Mediocre or conservative performance, satisfying all requirements of assignments with a neutral and ordinary level of initiative, attitude, and performance.

D: Not Acceptable - Performance not meeting the passing standards of the course. Initiative unacceptable. Work below standard.

F: Failing - Ineffective performance not satisfying the requirements of the assignments to an extreme degree. Level of initiative, attitude, and improvement non-existent.

A student who has shown clear and successful improvement throughout the semester may be given the advantage in final grade.

A final grade will be assigned based on the following numbering system:

A+ = 97-100, A = 93-96, A- = 90-92, B+ = 87-89, B = 83-86, B- = 80-82, C+ = 77-79, C = 73-76, C- = 70-72, D+ = 67-69, D = 63-66, D- = 60-62. F = below 60

TERM PROJECT TOPICS

Students may select anyone of the following **TENETS I CONCEPTS**

1. Agoraphobia and Claustrophobia
2. Ambiguity
3. Beauty
4. Body
5. Complexity and Contradiction
6. Conceptual Design
7. Contextual Design
8. Diagramming
9. Dimensionality of Space
10. Empathy
11. Hapticity, Materiality, Corporeality
12. Order and Chaos
13. Type and Typology
14. Transparency
15. Language and Grammars
16. Linguistics: Syntax, Semantics, and Pragmatics
17. Male and Female Archetypes in Architecture
18. Metaphor and Mapping
19. Morphology
20. Order and Chaos
21. Place
22. Proportion
23. Space
24. Sublime
25. Symmetry

Other topics may be selected if approved by the instructor.

TERM PROJECT SCHEDULE

Intermediate submission due dates are listed on the SCHEDULE (see below).

ARCH 5362-001: THEORY in ARCHITECTURE – H.BUELINCKX – CoA – FALL 2011 – SCHEDULE

1	aug 25 tr	INTRO Review of Syllabus, Schedule, and Course Requirements Assessment of Students Level	
2	aug 30 tu	ARCHITECTURAL THEORY, TENETS and CONCEPTS Introduction to Term Project and Selection of Topics	
Topic TP due	sept 1 tr	WHAT is THEORY? Read <input type="checkbox"/> R1_Introduction <input type="checkbox"/> R2_Introduction (up to part II A) Search Browse "Architectural Theory" in Encyclopedia Britannica and others. See Encyclopedias under Reference Tools at http://library.ttu.edu/u/ .	
3	sept 6 tu	LIBRARY RESEARCH DEMONSTRATION in the Main Library Building 3 rd Floor Room 309	
Bib due	sept 8 tr	1ST CENTURY_ ITALY: VITRUVIUS: THE FIRST THEORIST _ CLASSICAL WORLD Read <input type="checkbox"/> R1-Chapter 1: <i>Vitruvian tradition and architectural theory in Antiquity.</i> Recommended R1_Chapter 2: <i>The Vitruvian tradition and architectural theory in the Middle Ages.</i> Original Treatise-on Reserve ARCH LIB Morgan M.H., Vitruvius <i>The Ten Books on Architecture</i> , Dover Publications, 1960.	
4	sept 13 tu	15TH CENTURY ITALY: ALBERTI (1404-72) – RENAISSANCE & HUMANISM Read <input type="checkbox"/> R1_Chapter 3 : <i>Leone Battista Alberti.</i> Browse 'Renaissance' and 'Humanism' in Encyclopedia Britannica and others. Original Treatise-on Reserve ARCH LIB <input type="checkbox"/> Leon Battista Alberti, <i>On the Art of Building in Ten Books</i> , Rykwert, Leach, Tavernor ed. MIT Press, 1988, (Read 'Prologue' and 'Introduction' by Joseph Rykwert) 16th CENTURY ITALY: PALLADIO (1508-80) <input type="checkbox"/> R1_Chapter 7: <i>Palladio and the North Italian Humanists</i> Strongly Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> R1_Chapter 5 and 6 (for Background) Original Treatise- on Reserve ARCH LIB <input type="checkbox"/> Andrea Palladio, <i>The Four Books of Architecture</i> , Dover Publications, 1965	
Ann Bib due	sept 15 tr	17th CENTURY FRENCH: PERRAULT (1613-88) –LAUGIER (1713-69)_AGE OF REASON <input type="checkbox"/> R1_Chapter 12 & 13 Strongly Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> R1_Chapter 10 and 11(for Background) and DELORME (1510-70) Browse <input type="checkbox"/> Browse 'Enlightenment' in Encyclopedia Britannica. Original Treatise- on Reserve ARCH LIB <input type="checkbox"/> Laugier, <i>An Essay on Architecture</i> , trans. by W. & A. Herrmann	
5	sept 20 tu	19th CENTURY FRANCE: DURAND (1760-1834), QUATREMER DE QUINCY (1755-1849), VIOLET LE DUC (1814-79), CHOISY (1831-1909) Read <input type="checkbox"/> R1_Chapter 21: <i>Nineteenth century France and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts.</i>	
Outline due	sept 22 tr	19TH CENTURY GERMANY: SCHINKEL (1781-1841)_ SEMPER(1803/79)_ WAGNER (1841_1918) Read <input type="checkbox"/> R1_Chapter 22: <i>Germany in the nineteenth century.</i> Original Treatise- on Reserve ARCH LIB <input type="checkbox"/> Semper, Gottfried. <i>The four elements of Architecture and other Writings</i> , translated by Mallgrave and Herrmann, Cambridge, pp. 101-110	

6	sept 27 tu	19th CENTURY ENGLAND: PUGIN (1812-1852)-RUSKIN (1819-1900)-MORRIS (1834-96) <input type="checkbox"/> R1_Chapter 23: <i>England in the nineteenth century</i> . Original Treatise- on Reserve ARCH LIB Ruskin, John. <i>Seven Lamps of Architecture</i> , 1849. Ruskin, 'On the Nature of Gothic' in <i>Stones of Venice</i>	
Final Outline due	sept 29 tr	20th CENTURY MODERNISM: LE CORBUSIER (1887-1965) _ LOOS (1870-1933) <input type="checkbox"/> R1_Chapter 26: <i>France :1900-1945</i> <input type="checkbox"/> R1_Chapter 25: <i>Germany and its neighbors: 1890s-1945</i> Original Treatise- on Reserve ARCH LIB <input type="checkbox"/> Le Corbusier, <i>Towards a New Architecture</i> , Praeger Publishers, 1960.	
7	oct 4 tu	20th CENTURY MODERNISM: FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT (1867-1959) _ MODERNISM <input type="checkbox"/> R1_Chapter 29: <i>The United States in the first half of the twentieth century</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> R1_Chapter 24: <i>The United States: from Thomas Jefferson to the Chicago School</i> . (for Background)	
	oct 6 tr	MID_TERM EXAM during regular scheduled class time	
8	oct 11 tu	No Class	
Draft 1 due	oct 13 tr	20th CENTURY MODERNISM versus POST-MODERNISM <input type="checkbox"/> R1_Chapter 30: <i>Since 1945</i> <input type="checkbox"/> R2_Chapter 1_ R. Venturi 1965- P. Eisenman 1976-M. Graves 1982 - D. Porphrios 1989 Draft 1 review –In Class discussion	
9	oct 18 tu	TENETICONCEPT 1 & 2 <input type="checkbox"/> TBA	
	oct 20 tr	TENETICONCEPT 3 & 4 TBA	
10	oct 25 tu	TENETICONCEPT 5 & 6 TBA	
	oct 27 tr	TENETICONCEPT 7 & 8 TBA	
11	nov 1 Tu	TENETICONCEPT 9 & 10 TBA	
	nov 3 tr	TENETICONCEPT 11 & 12 TBA	
12	nov 8 tu	TENETICONCEPT 13 & 14 TBA	
Draft II due	nov 10 tr	TENETICONCEPT 15 & 16 TBA	
13	nov 15 tu	TENETICONCEPT 17 & 18 TBA	
	nov 17 tr	TENETICONCEPT 19 & 20 TBA	

14	nov 22 tu	REVIEW	
	nov 24 tr	NO CLASS _ THANKSGIVING	
15	nov 29 tu	FUTURE CHALLENGES to ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN THEORY I □ R2_Chapter 8_pp. 392-408_ K. Harris 1975 – W. McDonough 1990s □ TBA	
	dec 1 tr	FUTURE CHALLENGES to ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN THEORY 2 □ TBA	
16	dec 6 Tu	NO CLASS _ COLLEGE _ END OF SEMESTER _ STUDIO REVIEWS	
Term Project due	dec 7	LAST DAY of CLASS	
17	dec 14 Wed	FINAL EXAM Wednesday, December 14 from 7:30 a.m. to 10: 00 a.m. Room 102	