

ARC 3243 5249 Introduction to Design Theory

Critical Theory in Architecture

Instructor: W. Elysse Newman, Associate Professor
wenewman@fiu.edu

Office Hours: Tues 12:30-2:00 or by appointment, PCA376B

Teaching Assistants: Hermann Gonzalez hgonz017@fiu.edu, Valentina Nahon vnaho001@fiu.edu, Aileen Garrido agarr006@fiu.edu

URL TO COURSE CONTENT WEBSITE (CLICK ON COURSE NAME OR NUMBER)

<http://designtheory.fiu.edu>

also available through: <http://wenewman.fiu.edu>

LECTURE/DISCUSSION SECTIONS: Tues/Thurs 12:30-1:45

PC 310

Fall 2011

COURSE OUTLINE

Synopsis:

The introductory course in Design Theory explores themes in architecture and urbanism after World War II focusing on select movements and figures whose work defines the late modernist and post-modernist discourse. Building on the ARC 5744/4783 History of Design from the Nineteenth Century to the Present and the previous history courses, Introduction to Theory analyzes specific movements and projects during the decades after the war culminating in the contemporary condition. Significant changes in the social, political and technological conditions prevailing after the war exerted pressures on architectural ideologies and practices emerging around the world. The major themes addressed include: cultural concerns (architect's renewed interest in regionalism and the vernacular and related concerns in sustainable practice); the role of technology in the rapidly growing post-war, post-Fordist economies of consumption; political ideologies (changing strategies of territorialization in the city, decolonization and the crisis of architecture, identity and representation); and the new philosophies and scientific advancements influencing how architects and urban designers shaped the material environment.

Content and Organization:

The course meets twice a week including lectures and a discussion section meeting every third lecture on alternating weeks: attendance to both is mandatory. This course has a writing requirement and directs assignments toward helping students develop the necessary skills to analyze, synthesize, and communicate ideas in architecture history and theory. Introduction to Design Theory is a continuation of the history/theory sequence whose aim is to develop student's capacity for reflective thinking to ensure that they are able to do research on focused topics and to formulate concepts in architecture clearly in writing. Please note: readings are the basis for lectures and discussion in section and should be completed *before* lectures. Assignments include weekly one-page responses and a research project that includes a 2,500-word paper and analytical model. The paper requirement for graduate students is 4,000 words and an analytical model. The term project is an exhibition titled "Synthetic Ideologies: The Post-War Architecture Machine" and will be done in teams of two students.

Requirements:

Regular attendance is mandatory and active participation in discussions is required. Short papers and questions to facilitate class discussion are required in the discussion sections.

NOTE: Copies of the readings are available on 2-HR reserve at the library or as downloadable electronic files on the course website: <http://designtheory.fiu.edu>

Student Rights and Responsibilities: "Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an

equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook."

Policies on academic misconduct, sexual harassment, and religious holidays, and information on services for students with disabilities: Please refer to University policies in the FIU Student Handbook.

Student Work: The School of Architecture and the Department of Architecture reserve the right to retain any and all student work for the purpose of record, exhibition and instruction. All students are encouraged to photograph and/or copy all work for personal records prior to submittal to instructor.

Students with Special Needs: Students who may need auxiliary aids or services to ensure access to academic programs should register with the Office of Disability Services for Students.

Participation and Attendance: Class and section attendance and punctuality is mandatory. There is no distinction between unexcused and excused absences. All students expected to arrive on time and stay for the duration of the lecture. Each student is allowed **two** unexcused absences. At the third unexcused absence, the grade for the semester drops by one whole letter grade. At the fourth absence, the student receives a failing grade in the course. Attendance will be checked at each class and recorded. A note from an authority accepted by university policy (eg. medical doctor, judge, police officer, etc.) must accompany excused absences. Tardiness to class is unacceptable and late arrivals or early departures will be noted and may be counted as absences.

Work in the course is subject to all university rules on academic misconduct. Plagiarism, the use of ideas or words of another person as if they were one's own or without crediting the source, is strictly forbidden. Arrangements for late submission of work must be made in advance and will be at the discretion of the instructor.

Grading

Participation in Section	30%
Writing Assignments/Analysis	20%
Research Paper/Model	50%

Grades

94-100= A	90-93= A-	87-89= B+	84-86= B	80-83= B-	77-79= C+
74-76= C	70-73= C-	67-69= D+	60-63= D-	64-66= D	0-59= F

Deadlines

Late work will be lowered 1/2 letter grade for each day beyond the deadline except in the case of ill health or extenuating circumstances. Papers are submitted electronically to the section Teaching Assistant and are due according to the time indicated. Because of the required review and revision process, maintaining a schedule insures adequate time for writing fellow review, instructor review and student response. This course places an emphasis on process and therefore requires multiple revisions and work submitted on time.

Submittals

All assignments to be submitted electronically to the TA according to Sections. Uploaded filenames should be labeled as follows:

A1 _seminar TA name _student name
For example,
WA1_miller_smith

This represents Assignment 1, Miller seminar section, Smith student name

NB: All assignments to be submitted at noted in the schedule.

All other assignments to be submitted as directed during the semester.

READINGS There is not a textbook for this class. All readings for the course are listed on the syllabus. Readings are available **online** through the course website and the FIU Library and are accessible to registered FIU students from any computer with Internet capacities and at any time. Questions about accessing the readings should be directed to librarians at the FIU Libraries.

Contact Information

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Schedule and Required Readings

w01 - 08.23.11 – 08.25.11

L-01 Introduction

L-02 Mechanics of Analysis

w02 - 08.30.11 - 09.01.11

L-03 Surfaces

Disc-01 Modernisms

w03 - 09.06.11 – 09.08.11

L_04 Representation01a

L_05 Representation01b

Reading:

Giedion, Sigfried, Fernand Leger, and Jose Luis Sert. "Nine Points on Monumentality," in *Architecture Culture 1943-1968: A Documentary Anthology*, edited by Joan Ockman and Edward Eigen, (New York: Rizzoli, 1993.): 27-30.

Giedion, Sigfried, "The Need for a New Monumentality," in Zucker, Paul. *New Architecture and City Planning, a Symposium*. (New York: Philosophical Library, 1944): 549-569.

Lyotard, F., *The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge*. Trans. Geoffrey Bennington and Brian Massumi. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1984).

TEAM Proposals DUE: 5:00pm

w04 - 09.13.11 – 09.15.11

L_06 Representation 02

Disc_02 Collective Memory

Reading:

Belluschi, Pietro. "The Meaning of Regionalism in Architecture," *Architectural Record* (1955): 131-39.

Frampton, Kenneth, excerpt from "Towards a Critical Regionalism" (1981): 1-6

Bernard Rudofsky, *Architecture without architects, an introduction to non-pedigreed architecture*. (New York,: Museum of Modern Art; distributed by Doubleday, Garden City, N.Y., 1964): 1-13.

Recommended:

Mumford, Eric. *The CIAM Discourse on Urbanism, 1928-1960*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2000: 131-215.

w05 - 09.20.11 – 09.22.11

L_07 Technoculture01a

L_08 Technoculture01b

Reading:

Alison and Peter Smithson, "The 'As Found' and the 'Found,'" in *The Independent Group: Postwar Britain and the Aesthetics of Plenty* ed. David Robbins (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1990): 201-203

Alison and Peter Smithson, "But Today We Collect Ads," in *L'Architeure d'Aujord'Hui* Vol. 344 (2003) orig. pub. in *Ark*, No. 18 (London: Royal College of Art, 1956).

Mellor, David. "A Glorious Technoculture" in, *The Independent Group: Postwar Britain and the Aesthetics of Plenty*, ed. David Robbins (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1990).

Robbins, David. "The Independent Group: Forerunners of Postmodernism?" in, *The Independent Group: Postwar Britain and the Aesthetics of Plenty*, ed. David Robbins (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1990): 229-236.

REVISED Proposals DUE: 5:00pm

w06 - 09.27.11 - 09.29.11

L_09 Technoculture02

Disc_03 Signs

Reading:

Steiner, Hadas. "Introduction: The Image of Change" in *Beyond Archigram: The Structure of Circulation*, Steiner, Hadas. (Routledge:New York, 2009): 1-37

Lobsinger Mary Louise, "Cybernetic Theory and the Architecture of Performance: Cedric Price's Fun Palace", in Williams Goldhagen Sarah, Legault Réjean, *Anxious Modernisms: Experimentation in Postwar Architectural Culture*, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Canadian Centre for Architecture, MIT Press, 2000, pp. 119-137.

Recommended:

Martin, Reinhold. "Were We Ever Modern?"

w07 - 10.04.11 – 10.06.11

L_10 Post-Geographic01a

L_11 Post-Geographic01b

Reading:

Kishō Kurokawa, Kisho Kurokawa. *The Philosophy of Symbiosis* / (New York: Rizzoli., 1988)

Noriaki. Kurokawa, "The architecture of action," *Architectural Design*, 34:12, no. Dec.,1964: 603-613; with illus.

Jameson, Fredric. "From Metaphor to Allegory," in Cynthia Davidson, ed. *Anything* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2001): 24-36.

w08 - 10.11.11 – 10.13.11

L_12 Post-Geographic02a

Disc_04 Identities

Reading:

Debord, Guy. Chap. 2, "The Commodity as Spectacle," in *The Society of the Spectacle*. (Detroit: Black & Red, 1983)

Ivain, Gilles [Chhtcheglov, Ivan]. "Formulary for a New Urbanism" (167-171) and Lefebvre, Henri, "The Right to the City" in *Architecture culture, 1943-1968: a documentary anthology*, Columbia books of architecture ([New York]: Rizzoli,1993).

Wollen, Peter, et. al. "Bitter Victory: the art and politics of the Situationist International," in *On the passage of a few people through a rather brief moment in time: the Situationist International, 1957-1972*, (Boston, Mass.: Institute of Contemporary Art): 20-61.

DRAFT01 Outline DUE: 5:00pm

w09 - 10.18.11 – 10.20.11

L_13 Mannerism_a

L_14 Mannerism_b

Reading:

Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown, Steven Izenour. *Learning from Las Vegas: the forgotten symbolism of architectural form* / Edition [Rev. ed.] Published Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, c1977. Part I pg. 3-18, all of Part II pg. 88-89.

Robert Venturi & Denise Scott Brown. *Architecture as Signs and Systems: for a Mannerist Time*, Cambridge, Mass.; London, Eng.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2004.
Chap. 1: Architecture as Sign rather than Space: New Mannerism rather than Old Expressionism / Robert Venturi, pg. 73-92.

w10 - 10.25.11 – 10.27.11

L_15 Nature01

Disc_05 Signifiers

Reading:

Frei Otto, "Ethics, Aesthetics And Innovation" in, *Frei Otto: Complete Works: Lightweight Construction, Natural Design*. Edited by Winfried Nerdinger; in collaboration with Irene Meissner, Eberhard Möller, Mirjana Grdanjski. Basel; Boston: Birkhäuser, c2005. p.124-128.

Nerdinger, Winfried, Frei Otto: Working for a Better "Earth for Mankind," in *Frei Otto: Complete Works: Lightweight Construction, Natural Design*. Edited by Winfried Nerdinger; in collaboration with Irene Meissner, Eberhard Möller, Mirjana Grdanjski. Basel; Boston: Birkhäuser, c2005 p. 8-14.

DRAFT02 Paper Draft DUE: 5:00pm

Recommended:

Frei Otto. *Lightweight Structures*, Univ. of California Department of Architecture

w11 - 11.01.11 – 11.03.11

L_16 Mediation01a

L_17 Mediation01b

Reading:

Marshall McLuhan, "The Medium is the Message," in Marshall McLuhan *Understanding Media* (Corte Madera, CA: Ginko Press, 2005): 7-21.

Somol Robert E., "Dummy Text, or The Diagrammatic Basis of Contemporary Architecture", in Peter Eisenman, *Diagram Diaries*, London, Thames and Hudson, 1999, p. 6-25.

Recommended:

Wigley Mark, "Network Fever," in Grey Room, n° 4, Summer 2001, 82-122.

w12 - 11.08.11 – 11.10.11

Lecture TBD

Disc_06 Work Session/Models

w13 - 11.15.11 – 11.17.11

L_18 Digitality01

L_19 Digitality02

Reading:

Mike Silver, "Towards a Programming Culture in the Design Arts", in Mike Silver (ed.), "Programming Cultures: Art and Architecture in the Age of Software," *Architectural Design* (London: Wiley-Academy, 2006), pp. 5-11.

Foster, Hal. "Introduction," in *The Return of the Real: Art and Theory at the End of the Century*, The MIT Press: 1996: ix-xix.

ReSEARCH Paper/Model DUE: 5:00pm

w14 - 11.22.11 – 11.24.11

L_20 **No Class**

L_2x **THANKSGIVING**

w15 - 11.29.11 - 12.01.11

L_21 Futurisms (D_07_ **Final Lecture Day**)

Disc_07 Work Session

Note: Final Research Paper/Model DUE, Nov. 18, 5:00pm

Recommended Bibliography

- K. Michael Hays. *Architecture theory since 1968* / (Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press,).
- Eric Paul Mumford, *The CIAM discourse on urbanism, 1928-1960* / (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press,).
- Joan Ockman. *Architecture culture, 1943-1968 : a documentary anthology I*, Columbia books of architecture ([New York] :: Rizzoli,, 1993).
- David Dunster, *Key Buildings of the Twentieth Century* (New York: Rizzoli, 1985).
- Richard Weston, *Key Buildings of the Twentieth Century: Plans, Sections, and Elevations*, 1st ed. (New York: W.W. Norton, 2004).
- Colin Davies, *Key Houses of the Twentieth Century: Plans, Sections and Elevations*, 1st ed. (New York: W.W. Norton, 2006).
- Henry A Millon, *Key Monuments of the History of Architecture*, Text ed. (Englewood Cliffs, N.J: Prentice-Hall, 1964).
- Rob Gregory. *Key Contemporary Buildings* (New York:W.W. Norton, 2008).