

# ARCH 5362 Theory in Architecture

College of Architecture, Texas Tech University

Fall 2021  
MW 9.00-10.20am Room 102

Dora Epstein Jones, Ph.D.  
Chairperson and Associate Professor  
Dora.Epstein@ttu.edu



## Catalog Description:

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 Description:

At one point, not long ago, architecture went from "Architecture," one of the greatest marks of human achievement on the face of the earth, to "architecture," amounting to little more than a questionable, quavering, provisional and insecure set of defining characteristics. Everything is up for debate; hence, everything is more easily identified through its argument, or position, than through any a priori truth.

This course is dedicated to the explication of the architectural position – what it is, how it arose, why it is important to architectural culture, its various and evolving discourses, and the construction of the discipline itself. Most importantly, this course seeks to discover how positions operate as theories, and are enunciated through the presence of the work. This course prepares students to develop positions and/or make arguments in their work, to practice architectural theory today.

### Student Learning Objectives:

- To introduce students to the major theoretical discussions of architecture.
- To familiarize students with architecture that has emerged as canonical in this discussion (vernacular, historicist, quotidian works) as well as contemporary design work that manifests particular architectural arguments.
- To encourage students to understand the historical forces that have impacted the formation of theories over time.
- To instruct students how to identify and manifest arguments in built work.
- To prepare students for the discursive territories of their own work.

### Means of Evaluation:

This course will consist of 1 90-minute lecture per week and 1 90-minute reading discussion and/or review of visual work, for 14 weeks over the semester. The discussion may have in-class written and/or oral assignments. Attendance at all CoA lectures and classes is mandatory. NB. There may be a quiz.

More than 1 UNEXCUSED absence will be cause for failure. Attendance and participation in the weekly discussions/presentations will account for 20% of the total grade for the course.

This course will require 3 assignments culminating in a final paper based on readings, lectures, and outside research. The 3 assignments are listed below in the Course Schedule and due on the date they are listed. The 3 assignments will account for 60% of the total grade for the course.

This course requires a Course Symposium held in the last full week of the course. The Symposium will allow you to present your Final Paper draft and to receive feedback before the final due date. Your participation in the Symposium will account for 20% of total grade.

### Required Texts:

All readings will come from online handouts AND from the book, K. Smith, [Introducing Architectural Theory](#) (Routledge, 2012).

Please bring readings to class lectures and discussions in printed or electronic format. Please do not use your phones. Please complete readings prior to discussion times.

### NAAB Student Performance Criteria Met

SV.3 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

PC.4 History and Theory

## Course Schedule\*\*

\*\*These dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor and/or the College of Architecture.

- 8.23 Introduction to the Course
- 8.25 What Is Theory? What Is Theory in Architecture? A Map of Academic Knowledge

8.30/9.1 From Modernity On: The Critical Turn  
Readings: Colin Rowe, "Introduction," *Five Architects* (1972) (Handout)  
Joan Ockman, "Introduction," *Architecture Culture, 1943-1968* (1996) (Handout)

9.8 Postmodernism Considered

9.13/9.15 Function, Form, and "Deconstruction"  
Readings:  
Original: L. Sullivan, "The Tall Office Building Artistically Considered" (1896)  
Reflective: B. Tschumi, *Architecture and Disjunction* (1983)  
Reflective: P. Eisenman, "Post-Functionalism" (1976)  
Philosophical: A. Forty, "Function" (2000)  
Contemporary: F. Moussavi, *The Function of Form* (2009) (Handout)

**Paper Part 1 Due:** Identify a convention of architecture (e.g. the plan, the section, the elevation, the perspectival drawing, the wall, the door, the window, volume, massing, envelope, facade, surface, ornament, detail, decoration, structure, frame, roof, profile, figure, etc.) and write a coherent brief of how this convention has been conventionally understood in either Classicist architecture, Modernist architecture or vernacular architecture. Explain the TRADITION of architecture's orientation to the convention you have chosen. You must refer and cite at least three published sources in the body of your text. These texts should be considered canonical to the topic. **Due on Blackboard at 5pm on 9.17**

9.20/9.22 Simplicity and Complexity and the Turn Towards Inclusive Theory  
Readings:  
Original: M. Breuer, "Where Do We Stand?" (1935)  
Reflective: R. Venturi, "Complexity and Contradiction" (1966)  
Philosophical: V. Gregotti, "On Simplicity" (1996)  
Philosophical: G. Deleuze and F. Guattari, excerpt from "The Smooth and the Striated" (1981)  
Contemporary: Stan Allen, "Field Conditions" (1999) (Handout)

9.27/9.29 Body, Building, and Other Bodies  
Readings:  
Original: Vitruvius, *Ten Books*, excerpt (c.30BCE)  
Reflective: Le Corbusier, *Modulor* (1948)  
Philosophical: Michel Foucault, from *Discipline & Punish* (1977) (Handout)  
Critical: Donna Haraway, excerpt from "A Cyborg Manifesto" (1985)  
Contemporary: Sylvia Lavin, "Practice Makes Perfect" (2006) (Handout)

10.4/10.6 MIDTERMS: NO CLASSES: **Short Writings on Lectures Due on Blackboard on 10.8**

10.11/10.13 Ornament, Whiteness, and the Matter of Ethnicity

Readings:

Original: A. Loos, "Ornament and Crime" (1908)

Reflective: R. Banham, "Ornament and Crime" (1957)

Philosophical: J. Rykwert, "Ornament Is No Crime" (1975)

Contemporary: J. Kipnis, "The Cunning of Cosmetics" (2000) (Handout)

Critical: <https://www.architecturalrecord.com/articles/14738-three-architects-discuss-whiteness-and-racism-in-the-built-environment>

10.18/10.20 Plan and Organization

Readings:

Original: A. Palladio, *Quattro Libri* (1570)

Reflective: Le Corbusier, *The Plan of the Modern House* (1930)

Reflective 2: Colin Rowe, "The Mathematics of the Ideal Villa" (1947)

Critical: B. Colomina, "The Split Wall: Domestic Voyeurism" from *Sexuality & Space* (1996)

Contemporary: Greg Lynn, "Architectural Curvilinearity" (1993) (Handout)

10.25/10.28 Context and Building (Urbanism)

Readings:

Original: Le Corbusier, *The Radiant City* (1935)

Reflective: Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (1961)

Philosophical: T. Schumacher, "Contextualism" (1971)

Critical: Debate between M. Crawford and M. Speaks,

<https://taubmancollege.umich.edu/sites/default/files/files/MAP%20books/mud1.pdf>

Contemporary: Rem Koolhaas, *Junkspace* (2003) (Handout)

Paper Part 2 Due: Choose 1-4 significant contemporary architectural examples that challenge or engage differently the convention as it has been traditionally understood and transmitted throughout the canon and/or discourse. Provide images and explain exactly how and where the convention has been challenged in the contemporary example. If you choose fewer projects, you will need more details from that single project. Be specific! **Due on Blackboard at 5pm on 10.29**

11.1/11.3 Context and Building (Character)

Readings:

Original: Vitruvius, *Ten Books* (c.30BCE)

Reflective: Venturi, Scott-Brown, Rauch, *Learning From Las Vegas* (1972)

Philosophical: Adrian Forty, "Context" (2000)

Critical: WAI Architecture Think Tank, "Un-Making Architecture"

<https://www.archpaper.com/2020/06/un-making-architecture-an-anti-racist-architecture-manifesto/>

Contemporary: A. Vidler, "Architecture in the Expanded Field" (2005) (Handout)

11.8/11.10 Material and Immaterial: Phenomenology

Readings:

Original: Alberti, *Dieci Libri* (1486)

Reflective: Juhani Pallasmaa, excerpt from *The Eyes of the Skin* (1996)

Philosophical: M. Heidegger, *The Thing* (1940) (HANDOUT)

Critical: B. Norwood & S. Lally discuss Phenomenology <http://seanlally.net/bryan-norwood/>

Contemporary: A. Picon, "Architecture and the Virtual" (2004) (Handout)

11.15/11.17 Geometry, Geometries and the Explicit Formalism

Readings: Original: R. Wittkower, excerpt Architecture in the Age of Humanism (1946)

Reflective: Le Corbusier, "Poem to the Right Angle" (1947)

Philosophical: Deleuze & Guattari, excerpt from "Body Without Organs" 1000 Plateaus (1992 version)

Contemporary: Bernard Cache, excerpt from Earth Moves (1995)

11.29 Class Symposium

**Final Paper Due:** Combine paper parts 1 and 2, and use that analysis to stake a new position in the contemporary field. The new position that you stake must also be informed by some theoretical contribution outside of architecture, such as in art theory, philosophy, complexity sciences, information and media studies, etc.. The paper should list specific architectural effects of this new position, and use the examples to illustrate these effects. This paper should befit a research paper at a graduate level with at least 3 canonical sources, 1 external source, and at least 4 contemporary sources discussed, properly cited and noted in a short bibliography. **Due on Blackboard on 12.6 by 5pm.**

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## COVID-19 INFORMATION

**Face Covering Policy:** As of May 19, 2021, face coverings are now optional in TTU facilities and classrooms, and all other COVID-19 campus protocols have been lifted. It is highly recommended that those who have not been vaccinated for COVID-19 wear face coverings to help prevent the spread of the virus. I welcome masking.

**Seating Charts and Social Distancing:** There is no longer a mandated social distancing protocol for classroom seating, but diligence is encouraged when indoors. Group work may require a move to online interaction in this course.

**Illness-Based Absence Policy:**

All absences accompanied by a doctor's note are excused regardless of health condition or possible exposure. Take care of yourself first. They will provide you with a note.

**In-Person Office Hours:** Due to exposure, there will be no in-person office hours. Office hours are on Zoom from 11-12 Mondays and Wednesdays. All office hours are conducted on a drop-in basis.

**Personal Hygiene:** We all should continue to practice frequent hand washing, use hand sanitizers after touching high-touch points (e.g., door handles, shared keyboards, etc.), and cover faces when coughing or sneezing. Please be aware that we protect others who are more vulnerable.

**Potential Changes:** The University will follow CDC, State, and TTU System guidelines in continuing to manage the campus implications of COVID-19. Any changes affecting class policies or delivery modality will be in accordance with those guidelines and announced as soon as possible.

## PREVENTING COVID-19

### 1. *Vaccinations*

COVID-19 vaccinations are strongly encouraged by TTU and the CoA. The delta variant is spreading across our city and the country and the best way to protect your health and the health of others is to get vaccinated. The university also has a vaccine incentive program. See here for details: <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/communications/emergency/coronavirus/vaccination-incentives/>

Please go here to learn more about the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine:

<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/communications/emergency/coronavirus/vaccination-incentives/>

Where to receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

Off campus:

- Your local pharmacy
- Your physician
- The City of Lubbock is hosting several clinics: <https://ci.lubbock.tx.us/departments/health-department/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine>
- The City of Lubbock is hosting a pop up clinic Thursday-Sunday, from noon- close, inside the South Plains Mall- location D06 across from Claire's and Journeys Kidz

On campus:

- The Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) will operate a COVID-19 vaccination clinic from August 11-17 at the one-stop-shop back-to-school event at Holden Hall. After August 17th, vaccinations will be available on campus at Student Health Services.
- On August 20<sup>th</sup>, vaccinations will be available at 18<sup>th</sup> and Flint from 10.m. to 2 p.m. in a City of Lubbock Mobile Vaccination Bus
- On August 26<sup>th</sup>, vaccinations will be available at Memorial Circle from 10.m. to 2 p.m. in a City of Lubbock Mobile Vaccination Bus

Students should submit their COVID-19 vaccination record here:

<https://auth.medproctor.com/cas/login?service=https://secure.medproctor.com/casHandler>

2. **Masks**

Face coverings are welcome and encouraged to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Masks will be available in all College of Architecture classes.

**EXPOSURES AND SYMPTOMATIC COVID-19**

**Testing**

- Students that are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should contact Student Health Services immediately and schedule an appointment for testing. The cost for testing provided through Student Health Services will be billed to insurance for those students that are covered. Insurance pays 100 percent of the testing costs. The self-pay cost is \$40 and can be posted to a student's account through Student Business Services. To make an appointment, please call [806-743-2848](tel:806-743-2848).
- COVID-19 testing is also offered at numerous pharmacies across the City of Lubbock.
- The City offers testing sites found here: <https://ci.lubbock.tx.us/departments/health-department/covid-19/covid-19-testing-location>
- **Where to report a positive diagnosis:** <https://ttucovid19.ttu.edu/User/Consent>

**Quarantine and Isolation Procedures**

- Fully vaccinated students (including those with medical and religious exemptions) that aren't experiencing symptoms will not be required to **quarantine** following an exposure to a COVID-19 positive person, including roommates. Following a known exposure, students should monitor for **symptoms** over the course of 14 days and quarantine if symptoms develop.
- Fully vaccinated students that receive a positive diagnosis for COVID-19 will be required to **self-isolate**. Students that are vaccinated, including those with medical and religious exceptions, and live in university housing will be provided with a location to complete the self-isolation period. If an off-campus location is necessary, the university will cover the associated housing expenses.

- Unvaccinated or undisclosed students that have been identified as having a known exposure to a COVID-19 positive person will be required to [quarantine](#) for a minimum of 7 days or longer depending upon testing. If a student is unvaccinated and can prove a COVID-19 diagnosis and recovery in the last three months, quarantine will not be required.
  - Unvaccinated or undisclosed students that receive a positive diagnosis for COVID-19 will be required to [self-isolate](#). The university will offer information regarding off-campus options for unvaccinated students that reside in university housing to complete the self-isolation period but will not cover any associated expenses.
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#### 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, please contact Student Disability Services in West Hall or call 806-742-2405.

#### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT:

Academic integrity is taking responsibility for one's own class and/or course work, being individually accountable, and demonstrating intellectual honesty and ethical behavior. Academic integrity is a personal choice to abide by the standards of intellectual honesty and responsibility. Because education is a shared effort to achieve learning through the exchange of ideas, students, faculty, and staff have the collective responsibility to build mutual trust and respect. Ethical behavior and independent thought are essential for the highest level of academic achievement, which then must be measured. Academic achievement includes scholarship, teaching, and learning, all of which are shared endeavors. Grades are a device used to quantify the successful accumulation of knowledge through learning. Adhering to the standards of academic integrity ensures grades are earned honestly. Academic integrity is the foundation upon which students, faculty, and staff build their educational and professional careers. [Texas Tech University ("University") Quality Enhancement Plan, Academic Integrity Task Force, 2010]

#### RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY STATEMENT:

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code §11.20. A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. A student who is excused under section 2 may not be penalized for the absence; however, the instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily.

#### DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE STATEMENT:

Texas Tech University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from gender and/or sex discrimination of any kind. Sexual assault, discrimination, harassment, and other [Title IX violations](#) are not tolerated by the University. Report any incidents to the Office for Student Rights & Resolution, (806)-742-SAFE (7233) or file a report online at [titleix.ttu.edu/students](http://titleix.ttu.edu/students). Faculty and staff members at TTU are committed to connecting you to resources on campus. Some of these available resources are: TTU Student Counseling Center, 806-742-3674, <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/scc/> (Provides confidential support on campus.) TTU 24-hour Crisis Helpline, 806-742-5555, (Assists students who are experiencing a mental health or interpersonal violence crisis. If you call the helpline, you will speak with a mental health counselor.) Voice of Hope Lubbock Rape Crisis Center, 806-763-7273, [voiceofhopelubbock.org](http://voiceofhopelubbock.org) (24-hour hotline that provides support for survivors of sexual violence.) The Risk, Intervention, Safety and Education (RISE) Office, 806-742-2110, <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/rise/> (Provides a range of resources and support options focused on prevention education and student wellness.) Texas Tech Police Department, 806-742-3931, <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ttpd/> (To report criminal activity that occurs on or near Texas Tech campus.)

#### CIVILITY IN THE CLASSROOM STATEMENT:

Texas Tech University is a community of faculty, students, and staff that enjoys an expectation of cooperation, professionalism, and civility during the conduct of all forms of university business, including the conduct of student-student and student-faculty interactions in and out of the classroom. Further, the classroom is a setting in which an exchange of ideas and creative thinking should be encouraged and where intellectual growth and development are fostered. Students who disrupt this classroom mission by rude, sarcastic, threatening, abusive or obscene language and/or behavior will be subject to appropriate sanctions according to university policy. Likewise, faculty members are expected to maintain the highest standards of professionalism in all interactions with all constituents of the university ([www.depts.ttu.edu/ethics/matadorchallenge/ethicalprinciples.php](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ethics/matadorchallenge/ethicalprinciples.php)).

LGBTQIA SUPPORT STATEMENT:

I identify as an ally to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA) community, and I am available to listen and support you in an affirming manner. I can assist in connecting you with resources on campus to address problems you may face pertaining to sexual orientation and/or gender identity that could interfere with your success at Texas Tech. Please note that additional resources are available through the Office of LGBTQIA within the Center for Campus Life, Student Union Building Room 201, [www.lgbtqia.ttu.edu](http://www.lgbtqia.ttu.edu), 806.742.5433.”

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Within the Center for Campus Life, the Office serves the Texas Tech community through facilitation and leadership of programming and advocacy efforts. This work is aimed at strengthening the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA) community and sustaining an inclusive campus that welcomes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.