

College of Architecture, Texas Tech University

Spring 2021

Monday/Wednesday, 10:30 – 11:50 am

ONLINE ONLY

Ersela Kripa, Assistant Professor

Acting Director – El Paso CoA

Ersela.kripa @ ttu.edu



SANAA installation – Barcelona Pavilion

Catalog Description:

Covers critical works from architecture and other related disciplines; traces how different systems of ideas have transformed architectural production from antiquity to today.

Course Description:

This course surveys critical discussions in architecture. It frames these critical discussions according to a history of the discipline and field of architecture. The course therefore creates narratives around contemporary thinking in architecture that establish likely foundations and trajectories, as well as manifestations of thinking within the built environment and particular architectural projects. Students will learn how to “break open” contemporary discussions in order to gain their own perspective and develop their own stake.

Student Learning Objectives

- To understand basic critical thinking in architecture with a special emphasis on the critical project from the postwar period onward.
- To understand and unpack critical concepts in contemporary architectural thinking with an understanding of the concept’s history and lineage.
- To provide a framework of architectural thinking for use in design studio and architectural discourse.
- To further develop the architectural vocabulary within the acculturation of the student of architecture.

Student Performance Objectives

- To read primary texts and to understand them within their historical contexts.

- To fully comprehend the architectural implications of words and meanings in architecture socially, politically and culturally.
- To meaningfully connect texts, words and intentions to building and design projects over time.
- To write short analyses that merge precedent study with the ideas that drive their disciplinary and professional significance.

Means of Evaluation

1. PRESENTATION:

Students will thoroughly present each week’s essays on the first day of that week per the schedule below. Presentations will be visual, and must include an in-depth synthesis of the essays, illustrated with buildings built during the essay’s period and including an architectural critique/explanation of them.

2. SYNTHESIS:

All students will write a 200-word (1 paragraph) summary of one essay each week and will upload it on Blackboard by 11:30pm on the date shown in the schedule.

3. DISCUSS:

Students must be ready to discuss the submitted synthesis summaries in class. Everyone will participate.

Grading Criteria:

PRESENTATION = 28% of total final grade (28 points)

SYNTHESIS = 39% of total final grade (13 summaries, 3 points each)

DISCUSSION = 33% of total final grade (11 discussions, 3 points each)

Course Schedule:

Week	Essay	Cultural Moments	Architectural Implications
<u>1</u> Jan 25 Present Jan 26 Submit Jan 27 Discuss	A. The Education of an Architect, The Fundamental Principles of Architecture, The Departments of Architecture, 3-9, Vitruvius. (25 B.C.E.) B. Notes of the Virginia Capitol: Nation, Race, and Slavery in Jefferson’s America, 23-34. Mabel Wilson. (2020) Collin + Karina	Classicism – societal and intellectual hierarchies, invention of class	A. Orders, Disciplinarity B. Labor, Exclusion
<u>2</u> Feb 1 Present Feb 2 Submit Feb 3 Discuss	A. Renaissance and Baroque Ideals: from The Art of Building, Alberti, 26-27, 32-35. (1443-52) B. The Geometrical Data Structures of Links, Jose Sanchez, 72-82. (2021) Oscar + Diego	Rebirth of Ideals, Absolutisms of Beauty/Aesthetics	A. Renaissance Style, Primary Geometric Ordering Systems B. Discretization, Relationship of Parts
<u>3</u> Feb 8 Present Feb 9 Submit Feb 10 Discuss	A. The Baroque, Isabelle Hyman, 335-37, 346-349. (1986) B. Animate Form, Greg Lynn, 9-15. (1999) Tristan + Marcus	Human/subjective approach to beauty, Revolt against societal hierarchies	A. Questions Ordering Systems, Secondary Geometries, Complexity B. Non – Cartesian Thinking, Contextual Specificity

<p><u>4</u></p> <p>Feb 15 Present</p> <p>Feb 16 Submit</p> <p>Feb 17 Discuss</p>	<p>A. 1. Towards a New Architecture Guiding Principles, Le Corbusier, 59-62. (1920)</p> <p>2. The Athens Charter excerpt, Le Corbusier, 250-251. (1943)</p> <p>3. The Sociological Foundations of the Minimum Dwelling, Walter Gropius, 226-227. (1929)</p> <p>B. Race and Modern Architecture, Cheng, Davis II, Wilson (2020)</p> <p>Samira + Andrea</p>	<p>Modernism</p>	<p>A. Construction of agenda for social housing and affordability</p> <p>B. Archiving + Methods</p>
<p><u>5</u></p> <p>Feb 22 Present</p> <p>Feb 23 Submit</p> <p>Feb 24 Discuss</p>	<p>A. The Tall Office Building Artistically Considered, Louis Sullivan, 126-127. (1896).</p> <p>B. Urban Reidentification, Alison & Peter Smithson, Gillian & William Howel, Ohn Voelcker. 322-3/ (1953)</p> <p>C. Erecting the Skyscraper, Erasing Race, Adrienne Brown (2020)</p> <p>Jayke + Ian</p>	<p>High Rise Urbanism</p>	<p>A. Efficiency, Mechanization</p> <p>B. Cultural Ignorance / Erasure</p>
<p><u>6</u></p> <p>Mar 1 Present</p> <p>Mar 2 Submit</p> <p>Mar 3 Discuss</p>	<p>A. In The Nature of Materials: A Philosophy, Frank Lloyd Wright, 31-34. (1943)</p> <p>B. XRay Architecture, Beatriz Colomina (2019)</p> <p>Marco + Eduardo</p>	<p>Technology in Service of Architecture</p> <p>The Body, Fitness, Healthcare</p>	<p>A. Material Innovation</p> <p>B. Floor Plan</p>
<p><u>7</u></p> <p>Mar 8 Present</p> <p>Mar 9 Submit</p> <p>Mar 10 Discuss</p>	<p>A. Design with Nature, Ian McHarg, 363-364. (1969)</p> <p>B. 1. Can you Believe the Weather We're Having? The Politics of the Weather Report, Phu Hoang (2016)</p> <p>2. Exhaust, David Gissen (2009)</p> <p>Osbaldo + Julio</p>	<p>Environmental Awareness</p> <p>Subnatures</p>	<p>A. Ecosystems</p> <p>B. Enclosures</p>
<p><u>8</u></p> <p>Mar 15 Present</p> <p>Mar 16 Submit</p> <p>Mar 17 Discuss</p>	<p>A. 1. Complexity And Contradiction, Robert Venturi (1966)</p> <p>2. On Ducks and Decoration, Denise Scott Brown, Robert Venturi, (1968)</p> <p>B. Object Oriented Ontology: A New Theory of Everything. Log33. Graham Harman, Tod Gannon, Tom Wiscombe, David Ruy, 73-81 (2015)</p> <p>Angela + Brian</p>	<p>Post-Modernism</p> <p>Non-Anthropocentric Worlding</p>	<p>A. Complexity</p> <p>B. Object Oriented Ontology (OOO)</p>
<p><u>9</u></p> <p>Mar 22 Present</p> <p>Mar 23 Submit</p> <p>Mar 24 Discuss</p>	<p>A. The Architecture of The City, Aldo Rossi, 386-388. (1966)</p> <p>B. Life and Death of The American City, Jane Jacobs, 339-341 (1989)</p> <p>C. Changing the Subject: Race and Public Space, Mabel Wilson (2020)</p> <p>Danna + Sergio</p>	<p>Urban Formations</p> <p>Urban Density</p> <p>Profession / Gentrification</p>	<p>A. Function Independent of Form</p> <p>B. Self-Organization / Agency</p> <p>C. Public Space</p>

<u>10</u> Mar 29 Present Mar 30 Submit Mar 31 Discuss	A. Field Conditions, Stan Allen (1985) B. 1. From Site to Territory, Lola Sheppard. (2013) 2. Powers of Ten, Eames Domonique + Cassandra	Vernacular Conformity Politics of Practice	A. Context B. Site
<u>11</u> Apr 7 Present April 11 Submit Apr 12 Discuss	A. Scale in Global Digital World, Saskia Sassen (2006) B. Race After Technology, Ruha Benjamin (2019) Beiry + Jessica	Globalization Data	A. Scale B. Design Bias
<u>12</u> Apr 14 Present April 17 Submit	A. The Second Digital Turn, Mario Carpo (2017) B. A Call For a Post-2008 Architecture, Jose Sanchez (2020) Itzel + Daisy	The Web Platform Capitalism	A. Craft B. Participatory Systems
<u>13</u> Apr 19 Present Apr 30 Submit	Notes on the Activist Tradition in Architecture, Lola Sheppard, Mason White, (2020) Alfonso	Responsibility	Activism

Grading

Grading is determined by one’s engagement of the ideas that underlie architectural thinking and how those ideas have changed over time in our field and in our discipline. Students will be rewarded for their demonstrated ability to read and understand buildings and other examples of architecture manifested in drawings, plans, designs, and so on; as well as their ability to communicate their understanding in written form. If writing is a difficulty for you for any reason, please reach out to the instructor right away to find ways to work around any possible disadvantages or bias.

TTU OP. 34.12 on Grading

<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/opmanual/OP34.12.pdf>

http://arch.ttu.edu/Grade_Definitions/

Submittal of Late Work

All assignments and projects are due on the day and at the time specified by the instructor. Assignments submitted late without prior notice to the Instructor may receive an F. Late submittals will only be accepted with prior notice to the instructor. However, the grade for the late submission will be reduced 10 points for every 24 hours the project is late. If a student consistently turns in late work the instructor reserves the right to refuse the work and encourage the student to drop the class. (Additional policies may be set by your individual instructor).

Attendance Policy

The College of Architecture follows the class attendance policy set out in the Undergraduate/Graduate Catalog, 2015-2016. The college supports the definition of three absences as being excessive and constitutes cause for having the student drop the class or receive a grade of "F". Students in the college are expected to attend all scheduled class meeting times and activities (lectures & lab/studio sessions) for their full duration. Failure to work in class with undivided attention, any tardiness, leaving early, lack of participation, walking in and out of the classroom space, excessive socializing and disruptive behavior will count as absences. Whether an absence is excused or unexcused is determined by the instructor, with the exception of absences to religious observance and officially approved trips according to guidelines specified in the TTU Catalog. Students are expected to comply with TTU rules for reporting student illness requiring absence from class for more than one week, or immediate family deaths.

Refer to the university's policy, procedures, and dates on dropping a course. See your academic advisor for additional information.

Absence due to officially approved trips

The Texas Tech University Catalog states that the person responsible for a student missing class due to a trip should notify the instructor of the departure and return schedule in advance of the trip. The student is responsible for any work or exam missed during the absence. Trips sponsored by the CoA must be approved by the Director of the El Paso CoA.

If a student is absent because of official University or College approved trips, the student must not be counted absent, but The Instructor responsible for the student's absence must notify the student's instructors of the departure and return schedules in advance of the trip. The instructor so notified must not penalize the student. Students who are absent because of University or College business must be given the same privileges as other students (e.g., if other students are given the choice of dropping one of four tests, the students with excused absences must be given the same privilege).

Department chairpersons, directors, or others responsible for a student representing the university on officially approved trips should notify the student's instructors of the departure and return schedules in advance of the trip. The instructor so notified must not penalize the student, although the student is responsible for material missed. Students absent because of university business must be given the same privileges as other students (e.g., if other students are given the choice of dropping one of four tests, then students with excused absences must be given the same privilege).

Additional Attendance Policy may be set by your personal instructor.

Illness-Based Absence Policy

If at any time during this semester you feel ill, in the interest of your own health and safety as well as the health and safety of your instructors and classmates, you are encouraged not to attend face-to-face class meetings or events. Please review the steps outlined below that you should follow to ensure your absence for illness will be excused. These steps also apply to not participating in synchronous online class meetings if you feel too ill to do so and missing specified assignment due dates in asynchronous online classes because of illness.

1. If you are ill and think the symptoms might be COVID-19-related:
 - a) Call Student Health Services at 806.743.2848 or your health care provider.
 - b) Self-report as soon as possible using the ttuovid19.ttu.edu management system. This website has specific directions about how to upload documentation from a medical provider and what will happen if your illness renders you unable to participate in classes for more than one week.
 - c) If your illness is determined to be COVID-19-related, remaining documentation and communication will be handled through the Office of the Dean of Students, including notification to your instructors.
 - d) If your illness is determined not to be COVID-19-related, please follow steps 2.a-d below.

2. If you are ill and can attribute your symptoms to something other than COVID-19:

- a) If your illness renders you unable to attend face-to-face classes, participate in synchronous online classes, or miss specified assignment due dates in asynchronous online classes, you are encouraged to visit with either Student Health Services at 806.743.2848 or your health care provider. Note that Student Health Services and your own and other health care providers may arrange virtual visits.
- b) During the health provider visit, request a "return to school" note;
- c) E-mail the instructor a picture of that note;
- d) Return to class by the next class period after the date indicated on your note.

Following the steps outlined above helps to keep your instructors informed about your absences and ensures your absence or missing an assignment due date because of illness will be marked excused. You will still be responsible to complete within a week of returning to class any assignments, quizzes, or exams you miss because of illness.

UNIVERSITY REQUIRED STATEMENTS:

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. 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 (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).

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, 806.742.5433."