

Architectural Theory 1  
ARC2201, Fall 2019  
School of Architecture  
Dr. Hui Zou

Lecture/ T/ LIT101/ 3pm-4:55pm (by Dr Zou)  
Seminar/ R/ LIT101/ 4:05pm-4:55pm (by GTA)

## **Theoretical Horizons of the Art of Building**

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3 credits

### **Introduction:**

This course introduces fundamental theoretical issues, imaginations and theories in architecture. The weekly topics and readings include ancient Greek and Roman theories, Renaissance theories, and contemporary theories that hermeneutically interpret classic traditions, critically reflect on modern and postmodern realities, and creatively imagining the future of architecture. Paralleling with architectural theories, ancient Greek cosmology and modern philosophical theories on art are introduced to present a broad theoretical context of architectural concepts. The hermeneutic analysis of Eastern-Western concepts of architectural space and the theory of comparative architecture are introduced for the student to explore the cross-cultural architectural design approach. As a result of the course, the student is expected to develop his/her ability to theorize architectural issues and ideas for the design process and understand how critical theories intrinsically engage in history and design. This course is the first architectural theory course for architectural majors. It provides a constructive curriculum structure (lecture + seminar) for the student to learn how to interweave intellectual skills of architectural thinking (through reading and writing), imagination (through visualization and representation) and communication (through speaking) into a dynamic theoretical discourse that can open up the design process towards poetical and ethical architecture.

This course satisfies the university general-education-course requirements for humanities (H). The course consists of lectures, seminars, research papers and group presentations. The topic of each Tuesday lecture is specified in the syllabus, and each Thursday seminar is an expansion of the Tuesday topic through students' active participation in speaking and debating. The Tuesday lecture will highlight the main contents of the selected texts for reading assignments and interpret the texts' theoretical significance within architectural discourse. The Thursday seminar is specifically provided for the student to exercise and develop his/her theoretical thinking and speaking through "dialoguing" with the seminar instructor and other students. The reading materials for each week will be posted in the previous week on the Canvas course site. The student needs to read the assigned texts before attending the related lecture and seminar. Besides attending the class, the student is required to complete two papers and participate in one group presentation. The detailed paper assignments will be given during the class. The papers should explore the theoretical issues, ideas and concepts of architecture and are encouraged to be related to design thinking in the studio. The papers and group presentations will be graded by the GTA and graduate graders. Random attendance checks will occur throughout the course.

### **Class Regulations:**

Constant preparation, attendance, participation and interest are expected. Keeping a quiet class environment is important for the success of the whole class. No eating food, use of cell phones

(including the ringing of phones) or chattering will be tolerated in the classroom. In addition, you are expected to be in the classroom on time and remain in the classroom until the completion of the lecture. You are responsible for your own class attendance. The dates of the paper submissions are clearly marked in the syllabus, and no late submission will be accepted.

### **Email Policy:**

For email security and efficiency, all email communication to the instructor should go directly through the UF gatorlink accounts (but not through Canvas). Email can be used for quick and simple communication on a certain issue related to the course but cannot be used as the replacement for face-to-face discussions with the instructor and, most importantly, the class attendance and participation.

### **Course Evaluation:**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### **Weekly Topics:**

#### Week 1

T/ Course introduction; Vitruvius, "Book I," p. 3-32.

R/ Seminar (Introduction, formulating seminar/presentation groups)

#### Week 2

T/ Vitruvius, "Book II," p. 35-42; "Book III," p. 69-75; "Book IV," p. 101-9.

R/ Seminar

#### Week 3

T/ Vitruvius, "Book V," p. 137-53; "Book IX," p. 251-70.

R/ Seminar

#### Week 4

T/ Plato, ch. 9-ch. 26: p. 57-82.

R/ Seminar

#### Week 5

T/ Alberti, "Book I," p. 7-32.

R/ Seminar

#### Week 6

T/ Yates, "Camillo's Theater," p. 129-59.

R/ Seminar

#### Week 7

T/ Vesely, "Architectonics of Embodiment," p. 28-43; Harries, "Representation and Re-Presentation," p.118-133.

R/ Seminar

Week 8

T/ Pérez-Gómez, “Chora,” p. 1-34.

R/ Seminar (Paper 1 due by 5 pm, 10/10/2019, Thursday on Canvas)

Week 9

T/ Heidegger, “Building Dwelling Thinking,” “Art & Space.”

R/ Seminar

Week 10

T/ Gadamer, “The Relevance of the Beautiful” (1), p. 3-31.

R/ Seminar

Week 11

T/ Gadamer, “The Relevance of the Beautiful” (2), p. 31-53.

R/ Seminar

Week 12

T/ Holl, “Intertwining,” with Pérez-Gómez’s “Introduction;” Frascari, “The-Tell-The-Tale-Detail;” Steven Holl Architects: Ex of In House (video on Youtube).

R/ Seminar

Week 13

Vesely, “Toward a Poetics of Architecture,” p. 355-389 (E-book, access through UF library online catalogue).

R/ Seminar

Week 14

(No class; design juries)

Week 15

T/ Perez-Gomez, “Architecture and *Spiritus* in the Twenty-First Century,” p. 215-233; Zou, “Dao and Chora.”

R/ (No class; Thanksgiving)

Week 16

Paper 2 due by 5 pm, 12/5/2019, Thursday on Canvas.

**Textbook (required):**

Vitruvius, *The Ten Books on Architecture* (Dover, 1960 or reprints).

**References (scanned articles posted weekly on Canvas):**

Leon B. Alberti, *On the Art of Building in Ten Books* (1996).

Marco Frascari, “The-Tell-The-Tale-Detail.”

Hans-Georg Gadamer, “The Relevance of the Beautiful,” *The Relevance of the Beautiful and Other Essays* (1986).

Karsten Harries, “Representation and Re-Presentation,” *The Ethical Function of Architecture* (1998).

Martin Heidegger, “Building Dwelling Thinking,” *Basic Writings* (1993).

-----, “Art & Space” (online).

Steven Holl, *Intertwining* (1996).

Alberto Pérez-Gómez, “Chora: The Space of Architectural Representation,” in *Chora 1: Intervals in the Philosophy of Architecture* (1994).

-----, Ch. 8 “Architecture and *Spiritus* in the Twenty-First Century,” *Attunement* (2016).

Plato, *Timaeus and Critias* (1977).

Dalibor Vesely, “The Architectonics of Embodiment,” *Body and Building* (2002).  
 -----, Ch. 8 “Toward a Poetics of Architecture,” *Architecture in the Age of Divided Representation* (2004).

Frances A. Yates, “Camilo’s Theater,” *The Art of Memory* (1966).

Hui Zou, “Dao and Chora: The Echoes of Empty Mountains,” *Vorkurs 3* (2019).

-----, “Poetical Meandering of Comparative Architecture,” *Architecture, Culture, Interpretation* (2015).

**Grading:**

1) Paper 1: 30%;

2) Paper 2: 30%;

3) Participation: 40%

--Lecture attendance: 20%

--Seminar attendance: 10%

--Group presentation: 10%

You can find the university grading policy at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Numeric Grade	95	90	87	83	80	77	73	70	67	63	60	0
Quality Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0

**Office Hours:** 12:30 pm-2:30 pm, Thursday (please email for appointment)

**Contact:**

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**GTA:** Edward Ke Sun ([ksun2014@ufl.edu](mailto:ksun2014@ufl.edu)) (please email for appointment)

**Disclaimer:** This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

**UF Policies:**

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking

the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>.

Netiquette: Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Refer to the university policy at: <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

Sakai Help: For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Sakai, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.