

Architectural Theory II SYLLABUS

Term: Fall 2022

Course Information

Course Title: VIA Architectural Theory II

Course Number: ARC 4220

Section Number: 0406

Credits: 3

Classroom Location: University of Florida, Vicenza Institute of Architecture, Contrà SS. Apostoli 51, Vicenza – Italy 3600

Meeting times: Mondays 2:45PM-5:15PM

Instructor: Michael Montoya

Instructor Email: michael2086@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Due to the travelling nature of term, students will email instructor with a request for office time, when desired.

Office location: 3rd floor VIA building, Vicenza, Italy.

Course Description

The objective of this course is to continue the process (begun in Theory I) of reading, writing, and discussing intellectual precedents for contemporary architectural praxis. In Theory II, lectures, discussion sessions, and readings frame the problematics and poetics of architectural theory in the 20th and 21st centuries. The course seeks to foster the continued development of students as architectural critics, to prepare undergraduates for critical discourses encountered in graduate school, and to advance levels of discourse for graduate students.

Working chronologically, Theory II discusses how architectural theoretical ideas have evolved through the twentieth century, and how that evolution influences architectural work.

The class will focus analytically in two lines of thought

First, using the following as a conceptual idea for the class, Ignasi de Sola Morales dictum, that “Every architectural change in architectural theory direction was the result of historical events”, the students will be asked to consider how the specific historical background of the exact moment in time during when the writing was completed, may have influenced the particular writing.

Second, the students will try to distinguish how diverse authors choose one or more themes for consideration. The basic theme categories that we will consider in the class are:

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Course Format and Requirements

The course meets once a week on Monday afternoons from 2:45 to 5:15 PM.

In the first part of each session, the instructor will introduce the texts of the week briefly. Student-team groups will both present the historical and biographical context for the readings. A question and answer session, and then collective discussion will follow.

Apart from this direct engagement of student presentations, the course will have two required written components, one of them a formal paper, within the standard UF paper writing requirements.

Required Textbook

All readings will come from the required textbook, one that each student must purchase in advance to the trip to Italy and brought with you in your luggage:

Programs and Manifestoes on 20th-Century Architecture

by Ulrich Conrads (Editor) MIT Press, Paperback: 192 pages ISBN-13: 978-0262530309.

<https://www.amazon.com/Programs-Manifestoes-20th-Century-Architecture>

Additional readings will supplement the required text as necessary to augment and inform the conversation. The instructor will provide PDFs to the students of any supplemental texts prior to their class discussion.

SCHEDULE

Class 01 WHAT IS ARCHITECTURAL THEORY

Page 11 Foreword of Programs and Manifestoes on 20th-Century Architecture, Ulrich Conrads

Part 1 The New Century – 3 Weeks

Part 2 After WWI – 4 Weeks

Part 3. After WWII – 4 Weeks

Student-Team Groups

Each class starting in class 02, a group of two (or three) students will prepare a presentation with both the historical and biographical context for the weekly readings. They will always consider in which of the following themes of the class the reading fits:

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Required Weekly Questions

A question and answer session, and then collective discussion will follow. The Instructor will distribute the weekly class group assignments the first day of classes. Each student is required to come to class having fully read the text(s) and with three questions focusing on the conceptual structure of the readings. The questions will have in mind, again, which amongst the particular themes of the class the reading fits:

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Written Exercises (Timeline and Paper)

Each student must individually complete two written exercises, one a conventional 4000-word paper, and the second the complex timeline described later in this syllabus. Both exercises will synthesize the material from the readings and class conversations, explaining the development of theoretical positions in 20th century architecture from 1900 to 1980. The objective of this written work is to provide a framework for students as architectural theorists, as active critics within the process of thinking about and making architecture. The students must not see the two papers as independent exercises, but as part of an interrelated unique presentation.

In the Timeline, in written and graphic form, the students will summarize CHRONOLOGICALLY by decades the readings from the class with the author

Contemporaneous Fundamental historical background figures and/or events

Contemporaneous Fundamental Buildings

Contemporaneous Essential ART pieces

In the Paper

The student will summarize all authors covered in the class, describing both the fundamental contribution to the author to architectural theory and for each, categorizing the main preoccupations of the particular author according to the concepts for the class

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Attendance

There is no possibility to make up fully for a missed class session. Notes from other students will never account for the class interaction, and although a long conversation with a fellow student will help you begin to figure out what to do to prepare for the next session, it can never make up the learning. A session with your professor may or may not be possible and cannot duplicate the collective conversation. As a result, our policy on attendance, especially with the limitations of a study abroad term is extremely strict:

ANY justified absence must be explained, via email to your professor, explaining and documenting the circumstances, preferably before the class. It is your responsibility to get the assignments from your fellow students. Un-excused absences will adversely affect your grade and more than one unexcused absence can result in an incomplete or failing grade. The number of absences adversely affecting your grade is at the discretion of the professor. Lateness is not permitted, if not justified. Unless distressing circumstances, it is never permissible to be late or to leave early.

If something is seriously wrong, please do not hesitate to talk to your professor about it. The Instructor will "always" make the necessary arrangements to cope with any student serious illness, family or personal crises.

Grading

20% = Group Presentation

20%= Class participation (Active involvement in discussion sessions, handing in written questions, and general attendance)

20% = Timeline

40% = Final Paper

Grading Scale

A	Outstanding work only A- Close to outstanding B+ Very Good Work
B	Good Work
B-	Good work with some problems
C+	Slightly Above Average Work
C	Average Work
C-	Average Work with some problems
D+	Poor Work with some effort
D	Poor Work
E	Inadequate Work

Regarding accommodations for students with disabilities

"Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.