

University of Calgary / Faculty of Environmental Design

EVDS 683.79
Advanced Special Topics in EVDS:
Current Themes in Architectural History

Winter 2018, Wednesdays 0930-1220, PF 4140

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Introduction

This course allows students to pursue reading and research into current themes in architectural history, to a depth that is not possible in the broader architectural history survey courses.

Course Objectives

- To develop knowledge of the history and significance of built environments in different eras and places in the world, in relation to cultural values and practices.
- To engage with and deploy in research and writing current theoretical and methodological approaches in architectural history.
- To develop and refine skills in research; critical thinking, reading and discussion; synthesis of ideas; visual analysis; and oral and written communication.

Teaching Approach

This course is a seminar in which we will read selections from a range of architectural history, present and discuss their approaches and ideas, and apply them in research about specific historic buildings, sites, etc. More specifically, the course is organized as a reverse seminar: students will develop a research topic of interest early in the semester, and then later in the semester they will examine and re-think their topic through the lens of the varied readings we will be doing. The current themes in architectural history, thus, will inform the final results of their research such that the research becomes an iterative process. Students will reflect on the process in their final presentations and papers.

Topic Areas

Evidence and intention in architectural history
The spatial turn in architectural history
Architectural history in/for the Anthropocene
Gender
Queer theory
Critical race studies
Postcoloniality/Global Studies

Means of Evaluation

- (20 percent) Participation/discussion/in-class assignments and group work/attendance
- (20 percent) First presentation of research
- (20 percent) Presentation of readings (in groups)
- (20 percent) Second presentation of research
- (20 percent) Final reflective paper (10-15 pages)

NOTE: you *must* complete all assignments in order to pass this course.

The first presentation of the research, after Block Week, will be a report on research progress to date, and briefly explaining how your building or site or landscape or architectural issue has been written about by others.

Each week a group of students will present the readings for our discussion, looking into the context, theory, methods, and other aspects of the assigned readings, thus enriching our understanding of their approaches and implications.

Each student will make a second presentation of their research topic, now viewed through the lens of one or more of the approaches to architectural history we have studied in the course.

The last deliverable is a short paper encompassing the original topic development and literature review, and an application of the course readings to the topic.

Participation grade reflects engagement in large and small group discussions in class, and in group work when assigned. Although attendance is not taken, note that absent students cannot participate in the above in-class activities, and this will be noted.

Final grades will be reported as letter grades, with the final grade calculated according to the 4-point range. Assignment(s) xxx will be evaluated by percentage grades, with their letter grade equivalents as shown.

Grading Scale

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies

C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	All final grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
C	2.00	1.85-2.14	60-64.99	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	

Readings

Readings will be shared through persistent links on the course D2L site. There is no text to purchase for this course.

Notes

Written work, term assignments and other course related work may only be submitted by e-mail if prior permission to do so has been obtained from the course instructor. Submissions must come from an official University of Calgary (ucalgary) email account.

Academic Accommodations. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the designated contact person in EVDS, Jennifer Taillefer (jtaillef@ucalgary.ca). Students who require an accommodation unrelated to their coursework or the requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Vice-Provost (Student Experience). For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/

Plagiarism - Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:(a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),(b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,(c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,(d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course(although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved. While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. It is recognized that clause (d) does not prevent a graduate student incorporating work previously done by him or her in a thesis. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean, and dealt with as per the regulations in the University of Calgary Graduate Calendar.

Information regarding the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>) and how this impacts the receipt and delivery of course material

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>)

Safewalk information (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>)

Contact Info for: Student Union (<https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/contact/>); Graduate Student representative (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>) and Student Ombudsman's Office (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/>).