Course Description

The Florida &M University Catalog describes the Advanced Architectural Theory and Philosophy course in the following manner:

Review of the concepts, elements, roles and significance of theories of architecture as related to the understanding and appreciation of works of architecture, architectural design and practice, and architectural education. Overview of the major architectural theories through history. In-depth study and discussion of selected historical and contemporary issues, contributions, and positions with respect of the theory of architecture, formulation of coherent personal positions with respect to the theoretical basis of the architectural work.

The course is designed to engage the student in a philosophical analysis of architecture, exploring the different theories and paradigms and how they express and impact the intersection between society (culture) and architecture. The main goal is to help students understand the philosophical and theoretical landscapes that currently shape architecture. A secondary one is to cultivate new perspectives in order to enhance mental skills. One of the most relevant goals of this course is to augment the number of personal tools in order to empower reason, perception, and the imagination of future architects by increasing the “conduits to freedom in the design process.” (Hearn: 79)

Course Objectives

1. To present a broad overview of theoretical systems and how these intersect architecture.
2. To explore contemporary architectural philosophical paradigms.
3. To comprehend and appreciate diverse systems of thought that shape architectural and urban artifacts.
4. To generate a knowledge base for critical analysis (verbal and written) of architectural issues.
5. To interpret architectural and urban theories as reflections of varied human behavior and philosophical approaches that directly relate to Western and non-Western cultural diversity.

Course Outcomes

Students completing this course are able to:

1. Assess theoretical systems and explain how these intersect architecture.
2. Judge and compare historic and contemporary architectural philosophical paradigms.
3. Evaluate diverse systems of thought that inform architectural and urban artifacts.
4. Critically and philosophically evaluate theoretical architectural issues.
5. Appraise how human behavior and cultural diversity (Western and non-Western) impact architectural and urban theories.

Pedagogical Approach, Course Requirements and Class Format

The course is given following a lecture/seminar format. All relevant topics are presented via Power Point presentations. Because there is no single text source, students are advised to attend class every day and take notes. They are also expected to contribute to class discussion. In other words, students need to both attend class and participate on a daily basis. Additionally, each participant needs to be fully engaged in the course’s daily evolution. Students will present a number of position papers (which may include graphic presentations) related to the course content. Detailed information on required work will be given and/or posted during the semester. Topics usually deal with contemporary issues.

Grading/Evaluation

All students are required to demonstrate ability to engage in both commentary and critical debate by means of written, oral and graphic presentations, as well as class participation. They will be evaluated for their ability to demonstrate critical thought and creativity.
Positions papers, counting 70% of the grade, will be evaluated for their completeness and professional quality. The final special project at the end of the semester counts 20% and class participation 10%. Daily class assistance is part of the course requirements and is a most important factor regarding class evaluation.

Grades will be earned by students according to FAMU grade scale:

- 100-90 A
- 89-80 B
- 79-70 C
- 69-60 D

Students need to be aware that passing grade for graduate level courses is B or higher.

Under no circumstances will presentations or handing in of assignments be rescheduled for students who fail to show up (or present) on scheduled dates. Students are advised that cheating, plagiarism, and other practices inconsistent with academic pursuits will be rigorously punished to the fullest extent of the law possible. In other words: DON’T DO IT!!!!

Office Hours
My office (SOA 312) hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. I will be glad to schedule meetings at different times upon request. Students should note I am unable to check my phone messages (x-3155) every day. The same applies to my e-mail. E-mail addresses are: arleen.paboncharneco@famu.edu and arleenpabon@yahoo.com. Students are requested to send electronic messages to both accounts. All need also be aware that I may be unable to check accounts outside office hours. Important information needs to be discussed personally.

ADA (American with Disabilities Act) and Special Needs
It is the policy of Florida A&M University to guarantee each member of the University community is permitted to work or attend classes in an environment free from any form of discrimination including race, creed, color, age, disability, sex, marital status, national origin, veteran status and sexual harassment as prohibited by state and federal statutes. This includes applicants for admission to the University and employment. Questions concerning this policy and procedures for filing complaints under the policy should be directed to: University EOP Officer, Equal Opportunity Programs, 401 Lee Hall, Tallahassee, FL 32307. The phone number of this office is (850) 599-3076.

Any student requiring special needs to notify me in writing during the first week of class. They may be required to support their request (i.e. medical written explanation).

NAAB Student Performance Criteria
The course complies with the following NAAB student performance criteria: 12.1 Verbal and Writing Skills; 12.2 Graphic Skills; 12.3 Research Skills; 12.4 Critical Thinking Skills; 12.7 Human Behavior; 12.8 Human Diversity; 12.10 Western Traditions; 12.11 Non-Western Traditions; 12.12 National and Regional Traditions; and 12.30 Context of Architecture.

Academic Honesty
Academic honesty policy shall be adhered to by all Florida A&M University students and applies to all academic work, both inside and outside of class.

Florida A&M University is committed to academic honesty and its core values, which include scholarship, excellence, accountability, integrity, fairness, respect, and ethics. These core values are integrated into this academic honesty policy. Being unaware of the Academic Honesty policy is not a defense for violations of academic honesty. In cases, where the incident involves academic honesty violations and violations of the student code of conduct found in FAMU BOT Regulation 2.012, the case will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution and FAMU BOT Regulations 2.012 and 2.013 will apply.

Details of the Academic Honesty policy are available on the SAET website.
Course Content

No course is immutable and eternal. On occasion, changes are needed in order to better adapt the content to a group’s élan and personality. Because of this and in an effort to offer the best course possible, I retain the right to make minor changes and adjustments during the semester.

Chapter 1: Introduction
- Defining Learning Objectives
- On Architecture: Place and Dwelling
- The Tēchne/Sophia Paradigm
(Time frame: Approximately two weeks)

Chapter 2: The Fountainhead: Greece
Analysis of historic philosophical perspectives using examples from all ages.
- Sophist Perspective
- Socratic Perspective
- Platonic Perspective
- Aristotelian Perspective
- Hellenistic Perspective
(Time frame: Approximately two weeks)

Chapter 3: Après the Greeks, an Overview
- Introduction
  A Architectural Theoretical Perspectives
  B Metaphysical Interpretation of Architecture
- Structure of Architectural Theories
- Evolution of Architectural Theories
- Reality Check
(Time frame: Approximately two weeks)

Chapter 4: Contemporary Discourse and the Phenomenology Paradigm
- Introduction
- Phenomenology and Architecture
Ample discussion of the paradigm and related topics with use of images of historic and contemporary examples.
(Time frame: Approximately two and a half weeks)

Chapter 5: Contemporary Discourse and the Aesthetics of the Sublime Paradigm
- Introduction
- The Beautiful, the Picturesque and Architecture
Use of historic and modern examples to analyze the paradigm.
(Time frame: Approximately one week)

Chapter 6: Contemporary Discourse and the Linguistics Paradigm
- Introduction
- Architectural Semiotics
- Architectural Structuralism
- Architectural Post Structuralism
- Architectural Deconstruction
All discussions framed by the interpretation of historic and contemporary architectural examples.
(Time frame: Approximately two and a half weeks)

Chapter 7: Contemporary Discourse and the Marxist Paradigm
- Introduction
- Marxism and Architecture
- Architectural and Superstructures
Topics are presented and analyzed using historic and contemporary architectural examples.
(Time frame: Approximately two weeks)

**Chapter 8: Contemporary Discourse and the Feminist Paradigm**
- Introduction
- Feminism and Architecture
- The Other in Architecture
- African Americans and other minorities and Architecture

Use of historic and contemporary examples to illustrate ideas.
(Time frame: Approximately two weeks)

**Selected Bibliography**

Because of the nature of the course content, no single, authoritative textbook exists. The following are recommended as sources. I will be glad to provide both individual guidance and additional references upon request.

**Selected Sources**

**General (Selected) Sources**
________. The Birth of the Clinic An Archaeology of Medical Perception.
________. The Order of Things An Archaeology of the Human Sciences.
________. Madness and Civilization A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason.
________. “What is an Author?,” 1969.
Kant. “What is Enlightenment?” 1784.
Le Corbusier. Towards a New Architecture.
________. “Conversations with the Past Rehabilitating and Interpreting Landscapes of Labor” (Presented at Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Meeting, Delray Beach, Florida, 2004)
________. “A Landscape of Labor Tallahassee and the Persistence of Urban Memory” (Presented at ACSA Annual Meeting, Miami, Florida, 2004)
_________.  “‘A place where desire can live’: The genius loci and Antoni Gaudí” (Presented at Art History Department, Florida State University, 2003).

Pugin.  Contrasts . . .
Ruskin.  The Seven Lamps of Architecture.
Slaton and Shiffer (Editors),  Preserving the Recent Past!  Department of the Interior; National Park Service, 1994.
Vasari.  The Lives of the Most Eminent Italian Architects, Painters, and Sculptors from Cimabue to Our Times, 1550.
Winckelmann.  The History of Art of Antiquity (aka History of Ancient Art), 1764.