

# **Contemporary Philosophy of Architecture**

**PHI 4013 / PHI 6013**

**ARC 4333 / ARC 6333**

Dr. Michael Clifford / Dr. Rachel McCann

Fall Term

**Course objectives.** For students to arrive at a basic understanding of modern and postmodern philosophical ideas and to examine connections between modern and postmodern architecture and philosophy. For students to gain a deeper critical understanding of the intentional and unintentional societal role of architecture and urban design.

**Course topics.** **MODERNISM** (response to global modernization, transcendental homelessness, alienation); **PHENOMENOLOGY** (meaning, situated space, lived depth); **STRUCTURALISM** (semiology, reading architecture); **POSTMODERNISM** (architectural forms as epiphenomena of social forces); **POSTSTRUCTURALISM** (questioning authority of architectural form and primacy of the physical).

**Course organization.** The course meets Tuesday/Thursday 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. in 122 Giles Hall (Fazio Jury Room). Weekly homework is due at the beginning of each Tuesday class meeting.

**PHI 4013 / ARC 4333 REQUIREMENTS: Weekly Homework.** There are 12 homework assignments, due each Tuesday at the beginning of class, typewritten or neatly printed. You may discuss strategies for the answers with your classmates, but each final answer should be your own. Your highest 10 homework grades will make up your final homework score, which counts 20% of your final grade. **Take-Home Midterm Assignment** will count 30% of your final grade. **Term Paper or Final Project**, 3000-word paper or 15-minute presentation, will count 50% of your final grade. **PHI 6013: Term Paper** will have 5000 words and include original research. **ARC 6333: Final Project** will be a 25-minute presentation that includes original research.

**Texts.** Neil Leach, ed. *Rethinking Architecture: A Reader in Cultural Theory*. London: Routledge, 1997. Other readings as assigned.

**Self-motivation.** In a university setting, you should be learning because you want to. To succeed in this course, you will need to possess the self-discipline to keep up a steady pace of work, a passion for learning, and a willingness to chart your own course. This is an opportunity for you to tailor your education to your own interests. Bring your questions and observations to the classroom and speak up. Don't be afraid to ask when you don't know and to speak out with confidence when you do. You must learn to live with the uncertainty of not receiving quick and easy answers and be willing to work through the uncertainty through focused attention and honest discussion. A sustained record of engaged class discussion has the potential to raise a borderline final grade, and a lackluster record of class discussion can lower your final grade.

**Attendance policy.** You are allowed two unexcused absences without penalty. Each unexcused absence after that will lower your final grade for the course by 5 points. Two partial absences (arriving late or leaving early) equal one unexcused absence.

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**MSU Honor Code.** "As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do." <http://www.honorcode.msstate.edu/policy/>

**MSU Attendance Policy.** Upon registration, the student accepts the responsibility of attending all classes and doing any work the instructor may prescribe. When absence from class is essential, the student is responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to the instructor to substantiate the reason for absence. The student is also responsible for making arrangements that are satisfactory to the instructor in regard to work missed. These arrangements should be made prior to the absence when possible. Among the reasons absences are considered excused by the university are the following: participation in an authorized university activity; death or major illness in a student's immediate family (spouse, parent, step-parent, sibling, child, step-child, grandchild, grandparent, son- or daughter-in-law, mother- or father-in-law, or brother- or sister-in-law); illness of a dependent family member; participation in legal proceedings or administrative procedures that require a student's presence; religious holy day; illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class; required participation in military duties; mandatory admission interviews for professional or graduate school that cannot be rescheduled. It is the student's responsibility to secure documentation of an illness from a physician. The documentation must contain the date and time the student sought treatment. Based upon the documentation, the instructor will decide whether makeup work will be allowed. Because absence from class is detrimental to the learning process, faculty may choose to penalize the student for excessive absences, which may result in a lower grade. <http://www.msstate.edu/dept/audit/1209.html>

**MSU Maroon Alert.** <http://www.emergency.msstate.edu/txtmsg.php>

**MSU Student Support Services office.** <http://www.sss.msstate.edu/>

PHI 4013/ARC 4333	semester calendar
<p>Aug</p> <p>Fri 24 Aug / last day to drop without a grade</p> <p>Mon 27 Aug / last day to add / last day to request academic forgiveness</p>	<p>21 / 23 WEEK 1 Course Introduction. Overview of principles and history of philosophy and architecture.</p> <p>28 / 30 WEEK 2 <b>Leach</b> / Modernism. <b>Adorno</b> / Functionalism Today. <b>Benjamin</b> / On Some Motifs in Baudelaire. Paris, Capital of the Nineteenth Century.</p>
<p>Sep</p> <p>Mon 03 Sep / holiday</p>	<p>04 / 06 WEEK 3 <b>Kracauer</b> / The Hotel Lobby. <b>Simmel</b> / Bridge and Door. The Metropolis and Mental Life. <b>Bataille</b> / Architecture. Slaughterhouse. Museum.</p> <p>11 / 13 WEEK 4 <b>Edmund Husserl</b> / Phenomenology. (from handout) Recommended supplement: <b>David Abram</b>, <i>Spell of the Sensuous</i>, chapter 2 part I.</p> <p>18 / 20 WEEK 5 <b>ARCHITECTURE FIELD TRIP WEEK</b> No class. No readings due.</p> <p>25 / 27 WEEK 6 <b>Heidegger</b> / Building, Dwelling, Thinking. Poetically Man Dwells. Midterm Assignment handed out.</p>
<p>Oct</p> <p>Mon 01 Oct / last day to drop with a "W"</p> <p>Thu-Fri 04-05 Oct / holiday</p> <p>Fri 19 Oct / midterm grades due</p>	<p>02 / 04 WEEK 7 Tues: <b>Maurice Merleau-Ponty</b> / The World of Perception, chapters 5 and 6. Recommended supplement: <b>David Abram</b>, <i>Spell of the Sensuous</i>, chapter 2 part II. Thurs: <b>FALL BREAK</b></p> <p>09 / 11 WEEK 8 Tues: continue discussion of Merleau-Ponty Thurs: No readings due. <b>Midterm Assignment due.</b></p> <p>16 / 18 WEEK 9 <b>Lefebvre</b> / The Production of Space. <b>Vattimo</b> / The End of Modernity, The End of the Project?</p> <p>23 / 25 WEEK 10 <b>Habermas</b> / Modern and Postmodern Architecture. 2 <b>Baudrillard</b> / The Beaubourg-effect: Implosion and Deterrence. America. <b>Lyotard</b> / <i>Domus</i> and the Megalopolis.</p>
<p>Nov</p> <p>Thu 15 Nov / last day to withdraw from university</p> <p>Wed-Fri 21-23 Nov / holiday</p>	<p>30 / 01 WEEK 11 <b>Jameson</b> / The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism. Is Space Political?</p> <p>06 / 08 WEEK 12 <b>Foucault</b> / Of Other Spaces: Utopias and Heterotopias. Panopticism.</p> <p>13 / 15 WEEK 13 <b>Eco</b> / Function and Sign: The Semiotics of Architecture <b>Derrida</b> / Architecture Where the Desire May Live. Point de Folie – maintenant l'architecture.</p> <p>20 / 22 WEEK 14 <b>Irigaray</b> / This Sex Which Is Not One. Women on the Market. <b>No class Thursday: THANKSGIVING BREAK</b></p> <p>27 / 29 WEEK 15 <b>Deleuze</b> / Postscript on the Societies of Control. <b>Deleuze and Guattari</b> / City/State. <b>Virilio</b> / The Overexposed City.</p>
<p>Dec</p> <p>final arc projects due Tue 2 Dec Tue 04 Dec / last day of classes Wed-Thu 05-06 Dec / reading day Fri 07 Dec, Mon-Thu 10-13 Dec / final exams</p>	<p>04 WEEK 16 <b>Final project presentations / term paper due.</b></p> <p>13 EXAM WEEK <b>FINAL EXAM PERIOD</b> 3-6 p.m.</p>

