



Jordan University of Science and Technology
Faculty of Architecture And Design
Architecture Department

ARCH748 Architectural Theory And Criticism
Second Semester 2023-2024

Course Catalog
3 Credit Hours. The course covers recent urban design theory and criticism, and traces its origins in the post-war reaction against orthodox modernism. The approach emphasizes the mutual influences between architectural and urban design theory, and the plurality of values underlying current approaches. The course is widely illustrated with examples of both built and inbuilt projects of varying urban scales.
Teaching Method: Blended

Text Book	
Title	INTRODUCING ARCHITECTURAL THEORY DEBATING A DISCIPLINE
Author(s)	KORYDON SMITH
Edition	1st Edition
Short Name	INTRODUCING ARCHITECTURAL THEORY
Other Information	

Course References

Short name	Book name	Author(s)	Edition	Other Information
Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture	Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture" by Robert Venturi	Robert Venturi	2nd Edition	
The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses"	The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses" by Juhani Pallasmaa	Juhani Pallasmaa	3rd Edition	
Architecture and Disjunction	Architecture and Disjunction	Bernard Tschumi	1st Edition	
Theory and Design in the First Machine Age"	Theory and Design in the First Machine Age"	Reyner Banham	1st Edition	

Instructor	
Name	Dr. Laith Obeidat
Office Location	-
Office Hours	Sun : 09:30 - 11:30 Mon : 09:30 - 11:30 Tue : 09:30 - 11:30 Wed : 09:30 - 11:30
Email	lmobeidat@just.edu.jo

Class Schedule & Room
Section 2: Lecture Time: Mon : 11:30 - 13:30 Room: LAB

Tentative List of Topics Covered		
Weeks	Topic	References
Week 1	Introduction	From INTRODUCING ARCHITECTURAL THEORY , From Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture , From The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses" , From Architecture and Disjunction , From Theory and Design in the First Machine Age"
Week 2	SIMPLICITY AND COMPLEXITY	From INTRODUCING ARCHITECTURAL THEORY , From Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture
Week 3	ORNAMENT AND AUSTERITY	From INTRODUCING ARCHITECTURAL THEORY , From Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture , From The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses" , From Architecture and Disjunction , From Theory and Design in the First Machine Age"

Week 4	HONESTY AND DECEPTION	From INTRODUCING ARCHITECTURAL THEORY , From Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture , From The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses ", From Architecture and Disjunction , From Theory and Design in the First Machine Age "
Week 5	MATERIAL AND IMMATERIAL	From INTRODUCING ARCHITECTURAL THEORY , From Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture , From The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses ", From Architecture and Disjunction , From Theory and Design in the First Machine Age "
Week 6	FUNCTION AND FORM	From INTRODUCING ARCHITECTURAL THEORY , From Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture , From The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses ", From Architecture and Disjunction , From Theory and Design in the First Machine Age "
Week 7	FUNCTION AND FORM (PART 2)	From INTRODUCING ARCHITECTURAL THEORY , From Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture , From The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses ", From Architecture and Disjunction , From Theory and Design in the First Machine Age "
Week 8	Midterm Proposal Discussion	From INTRODUCING ARCHITECTURAL THEORY
Week 9	BODY AND BUILDING	From INTRODUCING ARCHITECTURAL THEORY , From Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture , From The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses ", From Architecture and Disjunction , From Theory and Design in the First Machine Age "
Week 10	PROPORTION AND ORGANIZATION	From INTRODUCING ARCHITECTURAL THEORY , From Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture , From The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses ", From Architecture and Disjunction , From Theory and Design in the First Machine Age "
Week 11	CONTEXT AND BUILDING	From INTRODUCING ARCHITECTURAL THEORY , From Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture , From The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses ", From Architecture and Disjunction , From Theory and Design in the First Machine Age "
Week 12	CONTEXT AND BUILDING (PART 2)	From INTRODUCING ARCHITECTURAL THEORY , From Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture , From The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses ", From Architecture and Disjunction , From Theory and Design in the First Machine Age "
Week 13	NATURAL AND CONSTRUCTED	From INTRODUCING ARCHITECTURAL THEORY , From Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture , From The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses ", From Architecture and Disjunction , From Theory and Design in the First Machine Age "
Week 14	NATURAL and CONSTRUCTED (PART 2)	From INTRODUCING ARCHITECTURAL THEORY , From Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture , From The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses ", From Architecture and Disjunction , From Theory and Design in the First Machine Age "
Week 15	Final Presentations for Midterm Papers	
Week 16	Final Exam & submission of the final paper	

Mapping of Course Outcomes to Program Outcomes	Course Outcome Weight (Out of 100%)	Assessment method
Students will gain a foundational understanding of key architectural theories, movements, and critical debates within the discipline. [1A.A2, 1A.A3, 1A.A8]	10%	
Students will develop the ability to critically analyze architectural works and theories, using various critical frameworks and perspectives.	20%	
Students will learn to apply architectural theories to the analysis and critique of architectural designs, both historical and contemporary.	10%	
Students will cultivate the skill to evaluate architectural theories and practices, assessing their relevance and impact on contemporary architectural discourse.	20%	
Encourage students to synthesize knowledge and critical perspectives to formulate their own arguments and theories within the field of architectural criticism	40%	

Relationship to Program Student Outcomes (Out of 100%)																									
A.A1	A.A2	A.A3	A.A4	A.A5	A.A6	A.A7	A.A8	B.B1	B.B2	B.B3	B.B4	B.B5	B.B6	B.B7	B.B8	B.B9	B.B10	C.C1	C.C2	C.C3	D.D1	D.D2	D.D3	D.D4	D.D
	3.33	3.33					3.33																		

Policy

Attendance and Participation:	Regular attendance is essential for success in this course as it involves complex theoretical discussions and interactive critiques. Active participation is expected in all class sessions to enhance the learning experience and contribute to group discussions.
Reading and Preparation:	Students are required to complete all assigned readings prior to each class to fully engage in discussions. Guidance questions may be provided to facilitate critical thinking and preparation.
Assignments and Deadlines:	All assignments must be submitted by the specified deadlines. Late submissions will incur a grade penalty unless prior arrangements are made for extenuating circumstances. Details of assignments and the penalties for late submissions will be outlined in the course schedule.
Academic Integrity:	This course strictly adheres to the university's academic integrity policy. Students must submit original work and properly cite all sources. Instances of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will be addressed according to university regulations.
Use of Technology:	Students are permitted to use laptops or tablets for note-taking and other course-related work during class. However, the use of mobile phones is discouraged unless required for class activities.

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