

**University of Waterloo  
Department of Architecture**

**ARCH 342 Modern Architecture**

**Winter 2021**

**Wednesday 3:00-6:00 PM**

**Friday 2:00 - 5:00 PM**

**Meetings held on MS TEAMS**



**Instructor and T.A. Information**

**Instructor: Dr. Tara Bissett  
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Poorna Patange  
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## **Modernisms**

“Our image of history is indissolubly bound up with the image of the past.”

--Walter Benjamin *Theses on the Philosophy of History*

“To create is first and foremost to create time,”

--Achille Mbembe

“Imperialism leaves behind germs of rot which we must clinically detect and remove from our land but from our minds as well.”

--Frantz Fanon *The Wretched of the Earth*

This course, Modern Architecture, would be better titled as “Modernisms” and conceptualized as a platform for exploring multiple perspectives and discourses on global architectural culture since 1850. In this course, we will analyze these fragmented, but often connected modernisms, through various media: architecture, material culture, films, dance, music, and literary texts. Tracing major events and new global alignments since the industrial revolution in Europe, our class discussions will centre on the social and political forces for change associated with global modernity. This theme-based course is organized so as to consider modern life through specific lenses, including the perseverance of craft, the spectre of hygiene and illness, affordable housing, and architecture by and for women. We will analyze the complex relationships between colonial powers in Europe and countries like Algeria, Morocco, Nigeria, Mexico, and India by considering how cultural information about housing, memory, and urban infrastructure is transferred and, sometimes, rejected in complex contexts. The role of political movements in Mexico, France, and America will take the focus of the latter part of the course. The course will finish with analysis and class discussion about the practice of architecture within increasingly globalized economies.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

### Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Annotated Biblio/Diagram	Feb 5	15%
Short Essay or Timeline	Mar 3	25%
Group: Modernism and Care Ethics	Apr 9	25%
Reading Assignments	Weekly X 10	20%
Participation (and Journal)		15%

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## Course Schedule

**\*No Class January 13\***

### Week 1 Jan 15

### Beyond the Nation State: Global Modernisms

- Mark Jarzombek & Alfred B. Hwangbo, "Global in a Not-so-Global World," *Journal of Architectural Education*, 59-65, 2011. Vol 64. Issue 2.
- Duanfang Lu, "Introduction: architecture, modernity, and identity in the Third World," *Third World Modernism: Architecture, Development, and Identity*. Ed. Duanfang Lu. (New York: Routledge, 2009) 1-28.

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### Week 2

### Labour and Craft

Jan 20

Lecture

Jan 22

Film: Metropolis, Fritz Lang, 1927

- William Morris, "The Lesser Arts of Life" (Speech, 1882).  
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/morris/works/index.htm>
- Sôetsu Yanagi, "The Way of Craftsmanship," Republished in *The Craft Reader*. Ed. Glenn Adamson. Berg. Oxford, New York: 2010, 167-176.
- Karl Marx, Excerpt from *Capital*, Vol. 1 Chapter 15 (Machinery and Modern Industry),  
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch15.htm#S3>

#### Supplementary

- Walter Gropius, "Program of the Staatliche Bauhaus in Weimar" [1919], Walter Gropius, "The Viability of the Bauhaus Idea," [1922], Hannes Meyer, "Building," [1928], and Mies van der Rohe, "Announcement to the Students of the Dissolution of the Bauhaus," [1933] in *The Bauhaus*, ed. Hans M. Wingler (Cambridge, 1978), pp. 31-33, 51-53, 106-108, 153-154, 189.

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### Week 3

### Hygiene Discourse and the Making of Modernism

Jan 27

Lecture

Film: Historic CBC Film on Africville

Jan 29

FILM: *Masaan*, Neeraj Ghaywan, 2015

- Le Corbusier, Excerpts, "Mass" and "Surface" from *Toward an Architecture*, Getty, Los Angeles, 2007. Originally 1923, (21-42).
- Le Corbusier, "It is a Savage City," and "The Streets are at Right Angles to Each Other and the Mind is Liberated," *When the Cathedrals were White*, 46-51.
- Mabel O. Wilson "Black Bodies/White Cities: Le Corbusier in Harlem," *ANY: Architecture New York*, 1996, No. 16, Whiteness: WHITE FORMS, FORMS OF WHITENESS (1996), pp. 35-39

#### Supplementary

- Susan Sontag, "Selections", *Illness as Metaphor*, Picador, New York, 1978, (3-42)
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### Week 4

#### Women, Space, Domesticity

Feb 3

##### Lecture

**Guest Lecture: Mayuri Paranthahan**

##### Films

*Saute ma ville* (dir. Chantal Akerman, 1968, 13m)

*Semiotics of the Kitchen* (dir. Martha Rosler, 1975, 6m)

Feb 5

**Film:** *Push*, Leilani Farha, 2019

<https://www.tv.org/video/documentaries/push-feature-version>

##### Supplementary Films

*Black Girl* (dir. Ousmane Sembène, 1966, 1h20m)

*Jeanne Dielman, 23 Commerce Quay, 1080 Brussels* (dir. Chantal Akerman, 1975, 3h45m)

- Sherry Ahrentzen, "The F Word in Architecture: Feminist Analysis in/of/for Architecture," in Thomas Dutton and Lian Hurst Man, *Reconstructing Architecture: Critical Discourses and Social Practices* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996), pp. 71-118.
- Dolores Hayden, 'What Would a Non-sexist City Be Like? Speculations on Housing, Urban Design and Human Work' *Gender, Space, Architecture*. Routledge, New York, 2000, 266-281.

#### Supplementary

- Ellen Lupton, "Process of Elimination," *The Bathroom and the Kitchen and the Aesthetics of Waste*. The Center; Distributed by Princeton Architectural Press, New York: 1992.
- Esther de Costa Meyer, "La Donna e Mobile: Agoraphobia, Women and Urban Space," in *The Sex of Architecture*, ed. Diana Agrest, Patricia Conway, Leslie Kanes Weisman (New York Harry N. Abrams Inc., 1996), 141-156.
- Daphne Spain, "The Chicago of Jane Addams and Ernest Burgess. Same City Different Visions," *The City Revisited*. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 2011, 51- 64.

**Podcast:**

- The Kitchen Debates

<https://99percentinvisible.org/article/the-nixon-and-khrushchev-kitchen-debates-from-1959/>

**Feb 5 Assignment One: 15%**

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**Week 5**

**Habitat: Northern Africa and Paris Suburbs**

**Feb 10**

**Lecture**

**Feb 12**

**Film:** *La Haine*, Mathieu Kassovitz, 1995

- Fathy, Hassan. Selections from *Architecture for the Poor. An Experiment in Rural Europe*. University of Chicago Press, 1973.
- Frantz Fanon, "On Violence," *The Wretched of the Earth*. Grover Press, New York. 1963. 2004.

**Supplementary**

- Zeynep Celik, "The Ordinary and the Third World at CIAM IX,"
- CIAM 9 - Doorn Manifesto (January 29-31, 1954), Bakema, Van Eyck, van Ginkel, Hovens-Greve, Smithson, Voelker, (1954) rpt. in *Architecture Culture 1943-1968. A Documentary Anthology* ed. J. Ockman, E. Eigen (New York: Columbia Books of Architecture/Rizzoli, 1993), pp. 181-183.
- Oren Yiftachel, "Colonial City and "Gray Space": Mobilization of the Colonized," *Cities for People. Not for Profit*. Ed Neil Brenner, London. Routledge, 2012.

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**READING WEEK: FEB 15-19**

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**Week 6**

**Housing the Public (Global North)**

**Feb 24**

**Lecture**

**Feb 26**

**Film:** Jean-Luc Godard, *2 or 3 Things I know about Her*

- Kenny Cupers, "Building the Banlieue," *The Social Project. Housing postwar France*, University of Minnesota Press, 2014, XI-XXVII
- Eve Blau, "ISOTYPE and Architecture in Red Vienna: The Modern Projects of Otto Neurath and Josef Frank," *Austrian Studies* 14 (2006): 227-259.

**Supplementary**

- Gregory Bracken, "Intro" *The Shanghai Alleyway House. A Vanishing Urban Vernacular*. London, Routledge: 2013.
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## **Week 7**                                      **Revolution and Renewal: Brazil and Mexico**

**Mar 3**                                      **Film:** *Cidade de Deus*, Brazil, 2002

**Mar 5**                                      **Lecture**

- Octavio Paz, "Olympics and Tlatelolco," and "Mexico and the United States," in *The Labyrinth of Solitude*. Grove Press, Inc. NY: 1985 (221-238 & 355-376).
- Luis Castaneda, "Beyond Tlatelolco: Design, Media, and Politics at Mexico '68," Grey Room 40, Summer 2010, pp. 100–126.

### **Supplementary**

- Sarah Lopez, "Mexican Remittance Architecture: Building Neoliberal Subjectivities in the Spaces of Migration," in *Neoliberalism on the Ground: Architecture and Transformation from the 1960s to the Present*, edited by Kenny Cupers, Catharina Gabrielsson, and Helena Mattson (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2020): 315-336.

**Mar 3**                                      **Assignment Two: 25%**

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## **Week 8**                                      **Systems and Ecology**

**Mar 10**                                      **Lecture**

**Mar 12**                                      **Film:** *Reyner Banham Loves Los Angeles*, 1972  
**Workshop:** Final Assignment Workshop

- Gordon Pask, "The Architectural Relevance of Cybernetics," (Architectural Design, Sept.1969), rpt. in *Cyber Reader* ed. Neil Spiller (London: Phaidon, 2002), pp. 76-82.
- Reyner Banham. "Alternative Networks for the Alternative Culture," *Design Participation*.
- *Proceedings of the Design Research Society's Conference* ed. Nigel Cross (London: Academy Editions, 1971), pp. 15-18.
- Tomoko Tamari, "Metabolism: Utopian Urbanism and the Japanese Modern Architecture Movement," *Theory, Culture & Society*, 2014, Vol. 31(7/8) 201–225

### **Supplementary**

- Beatriz Colomina, "Information Obsession: the Eameses' multiscreen architecture," *Journal of Architecture* vol. 6 no. 3 (2001), 205-223.
- Donella Meadows, "Introduction" and "Technology and the Limits to Growth," *The Limits to Growth*, (New York, Universe Books, 1972), 17-24 & 129-155.

- **Link:** If the World were 100 People: <https://usm.maine.edu/international/if-world-were-village-100-0>
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## **Week 9** **Post-War America**

**Mar 17** **Lecture**

**Mar 19** **Film:** Pruitt-Igoe Myth, Chad Freidrichs, 2012

- W.E.B Du Bois, Excerpts from *The Philadelphia Negro* (1899), *The City Reader*. 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Ed. Richard T. Gates and Frederic Stout. Routledge, London & New York, 1996. [Please keep the context of the writer and the time period when reading this piece and its use of language that is difficult to read today].
- bell hooks, "Class Claims: Real Estate Racism," *Where we Stand: Class Matters*. Routledge, 2000, 140-150.
- Fred Moten, "Nowhere, Everywhere," *Black and Blur*, Duke University Press, 2017

### **Supplementary**

- Elizabeth Guffey, "Knowing their Space. Signs of Jim Crow in the Segregated South," *Design Issues* Spring 2012, Vol. 28, No. 2 (Spring 2012), pp. 41-60 The MIT Press.
- Mable O Wilson, "Between Rooms 307," *Sites of Memory. Perspectives on Architecture and Race*, (13-26).
- Mike Davis: "Fortress LA" *City of Quartz. Excavating the Future in Los Angeles*, Verso, London. New York. 1990, 2006 reprint, 221-264.

Highly Recommended NPR Podcast:

- <https://www.npr.org/2017/05/03/526655831/a-forgotten-history-of-how-the-u-s-government-segregated-america>

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## **Week 10** **African Modernism**

**Mar 24** **Lecture**

**Mar 26** **Film:** *Last Angel of History*: John Akomfrah, 1996  
**Recorded Guest Lecture:** Natasha Henry, 2020

- Achille Mbembe, "Aesthetics of Superfluity," *Johannesburg: The Elusive Metropolis*. Ed. Sarah Nuttal & Achille Mbembe. Duke University Press. 2008, 46-76.
- Hilton Judin, "Unsettling Johannesburg. The Country in the City," *Other cities, other worlds: urban imaginaries in a globalizing age*. Andreas Huyssen ed. Durham: Duke University Press, 2008 (122-146).

### **Supplementary:**

- Abdou Maliq Simone, "Too Many Things to Do: Social Dimensions of City-Making in Africa," *The Arts of Citizenship in African Cities*. Ed. Mamadou Diouf & Rosalind Fredericks. Palgrave. MacMillan. New York, 2014.
- Ananya Roy, "The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Metropolis: New Geographies of Theory," *Regional Studies*, Vol. 43.6, pp. 819–830, July 2009.
- Bernard Rudofsky, *Architecture Without Architects: A Short Introduction to Non-Pedigreed Architecture*. Albuquerque, NM: The University of New Mexico Press, 1964, reprinted in 1988. [Short Excerpts.]
- Rosalind Fredericks, "The Old Man is Dead: Hip Hop and the Arts of Citizenship of Senegalese Youth," *The Arts of Citizenship in African Cities*. Ed. Mamadou Diouf & Rosalind Fredericks. Palgrave. MacMillan. New York, 2014, 137-157.

Watch: Rem Koolhaas interview about his project in Lagos.

- <https://vimeo.com/97503875>
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## Week 11

## South Asia: Building in the Kinetic City

Mar 31

Lecture

Apr 2

No Class: Good Friday

- Rahul Mehrotra, "Negotiating the Static and Kinetic Cities." *Other cities, other worlds: Urban imaginaries in a globalizing age*. Andreas Huyssen ed. Durham: Duke University Press, 2008, 205-221
- Ananya Roy, "Slumdog Cities: Rethinking Subaltern Urbanism," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, Vol. 35.2. March, 2011.

### Supplementary

- Anooradha Iyer Siddiqi, "Architecture Culture, Humanitarian Expertise: From the Tropics to Shelter, 1953–93," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 76, no. 3 (September 2017), 367–384.
  - Gyan Prakash, "Mumbai: The Modern City in Ruins," *Other cities, other worlds: urban imaginaries in a globalizing age*. Andreas Huyssen ed. Durham: Duke University Press, 2008, 181-203.
  - Arjun Appadurai, "Spectral Housing and Urban Cleansing. Notes on Millennial Mumbai," *Public Culture*. Vol. 12, No. 3, Fall 2000 (627-651)
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## Week 12

## Centre and Periphery

Apr 7

Lecture

Guest Lecture: Poorna Patange

Apr 9

Workshop: Final Project Workshop

- Giorgio Agamben, "The Camp as the 'Nomos' of the Modern," in *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*, trans. Daniel Heller-Roazen (Stanford: Stanford University Press,



1998), Excerpts.

- Angie Morrill, Eve Tuck and the Super Futures Haunt Collective, "Before Dispossession, or Surviving it," *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies* Vol. 12, No. 1 (2016)
- Achille Mbembe, "The Universal Right to Breathe," *Critical Inquiry*, 2020

### Supplementary

- Kamal Al-Solaylee, "Qatar: Between Men," in *Brown. What Being Brown in the World Today Means to Everyone*. Harper Collins, 2016.
- Jane M. Jacobs "Urban Dreamings. The Aboriginal Sacred in the City", *Edge of Empire: Postcolonialism and the City*. Routledge, London and New York, 1996.
- Eve Tuck, Marcia McKenzie & Kate McCoy (2014) Land education: Indigenous, post-colonial, and decolonizing perspectives on place and environmental education research, *Environmental Education Research*, 20:1, 1-23.
- Libby Porter, "Unlearning Privilege: Towards the Decolonization of Planning," *Unlearning the Colonial Cultures of Planning*. Routledge, London, 2010

### Podcast

The Henceforward

- <http://www.thehenceforward.com/episodes/2020/4/21/episode-28-i-dont-know-if-a-city-can-be-liveable-an-interview-with-nasma-ahmed>
- <http://www.thehenceforward.com/episodes/2018/9/25/episode-25-gentrification-in-toronto>

## April 9: Final: Course Book Project: Modernism and Care Ethics 25%

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### Weekly Reading Assignments (Total of Ten to be submitted by the end of term).

Please complete at least one reading response before the beginning of each class on Wednesday, 3pm. Hand it in to Learn.

Instructions:

- 1) Read the article.
- 2) Take a step back and write a digested summary of the main argument (roughly 300 words)
- 3) In a few more sentences, explain what you agreed/ disagreed with in the article. You might also comment on the author's methodology/voice/ perspective or the author's perceived aim for writing the article.

Grading of Reading Responses accord with specifications grading. Specifications grading means that you will receive a pass/fail on individual assignments based on detailed specifications (below). You decide what grade you would like to achieve in the reading responses

Assessment Pathways to Specific Grades

55%

Complete 4 Reading Assignments

60%

Complete 5 Reading Assignments

65%

Complete 6 Reading Assignments

70%

Complete 7 Reading Assignments

75%

Complete 8 Reading Assignments

80%

Complete 9 Reading Assignments

85%

Complete 10 Reading Assignments

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**Assignment One: Annotated Bibliography, Description of Research Project, Thesis Statement**

**February 5**

**15 %**

- 1) Choose your topic. You may select a topic from the list of themes or from the themes accorded to the course lectures. You may also choose your own topic that interests you.
- 2) Give your research project a provisional title.
- 3) Write 3-6 sentences describing your research project and how it reflects the theme on the list. What broader issues emerge?
- 4) Provide a provisional thesis statement.  
<https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/planning/thesis-statements/>
- 5) Generate a bibliography from a variety of sources:
  - A. At least 10 scholarly sources (journals and books from the library)  
**-Annotate 5 of these sources**
  - B. online or non-textual sources: websites, podcasts, films, etc. Not Wikipedia.
- 6) Include images to support your work. They may be inserted in line with the text or separately.

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**Assignment Two: Short Research Essay OR Interactive Diagrammatic Timeline**

**March 3**

**30%**

### **Essay**

Write an essay on a topic that interests you. In Assignment One, you will already have chosen your topic and provided a bibliography, title, and brief description of the subject.

I recommend that your topic include both a greater theme and a case-study or two. I.e, if your theme is Posthumanism, your case study might be the Eastgate Centre, Zimbabwe. Or if your theme is Death, your case study might be the city of Varanasi.

The essay should be 4-5 pages double-spaced (2000-2500 words, not including citations and illustrations).

Please include illustrations/ digital images/ photos.

### **Content**

1. Your goal in this project is to produce a paper from your research that speaks to important modern and contemporary themes in architecture.
2. Why is your topic interesting? Important?
3. Develop an angle. What is the state of current research on your topic? What have others written about it? Do you agree or disagree with their analyses?
4. Once you have read a few books and articles about your topic, create a list of the narratives about it that jump out at you. Choose one and follow it to make an exploratory argument. Note: you are not expected to make a persuasive argument or critique. This is an exploration.

### **Structure**

1. Write your introduction last. Keep it short. It should read as a road map to your essay.
2. Develop themes for your paragraphs so that they fit together and speak to your overall argument.
3. Essay structuring guide: <https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/planning/>

**OR**

### **Diagrammatic Timeline or Constellation of Events**

Create a diagrammatic timeline or constellation of events, buildings, and people related to your central theme. I have provided an example for guidance, though it is not a required template.

- 1) Write one or two paragraphs summarizing your topic
- 2) Give it a title.
- 3) Begin by brainstorming six thematic categories that pertain to your topic.
- 4) Under these thematic categories, list 5 or more buildings, events, or artefacts, or people that correspond to the themes. For each building/event/artefact write 200 words of *relevant* description or summary. Note that this should be more than mere describing the formal aspects of the building and should link the themes with the building or event.
- 5) For each thematic Category, include one main image that best represents the theme.

- 6) Thoughtfully consider the design of your timeline.
- 7) Useful Source (Scroll to the bottom of the page to see the constellation):  
<https://www.spatialagency.net/database/groupe.detudes.darchitecture>

### **Example of Themes**

\*Topic:

Informal Housing

\*Themes:

Cooperative Living----Participatory Design----Prefabrication----Incremental Building

\*Under each of these themes write the text that corresponds to both the themes (coop living, Part. Design, Prefab, Incremental building) and the initial topic (Informal Housing).

### **SOURCES: for both the Essay and the Diagram**

1. Cite at least four academic sources. All other sources, including websites and others, must also be cited.
2. Source type: You may use traditional Endnotes/Footnotes or MLA style for citation.
3. You may use the course readings, but only if they are relevant to your topic.

Helpful writing guide: <https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/documentation/>

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### **Assignment Three: Care Ethics and Modernism (Instructions on LEARN)**

**Apr 9**

**25%**

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### **Participation 15%**

The participation grade includes the following (10% possible for course reflection and 5% for having a presence in the course discussions, attendance, etc)

Hand in a course journal at the end of the course. Note that this is distinct from the reading responses. The lecture responses are worth 1% each week with a total of 10%. The other 5% is for course presence (asking questions, chat, engaging in discussions, obvious class attendance).

These should comprise a (roughly) half-page single space set of questions, or reflection pertaining to 10 weeks of lecture. This should take you ten minutes after each lecture. Hand it in at the end of the term.

1. they should speak to two of the following.  
-course lectures

-reflection on subject matter as it links to studio, coop, work, or anything outside of this course

-films

-podcasts

2. Attending class on Teams synchronously (unless your time zone or extenuating circumstances prevent you from doing so).
3. Participating in class discussions.
4. Discussions with me or the TAs about course materials may also be included in participation grades.