

Arch 684 Course Description

Arch 684, 'Topographies of Contemporary Architecture.'

Winter Term 2010, Rome Studio Location: Seminar room

Instructor: Professor Ryszard Sliwka: contact rsliwka@uwaterloo.ca

Seminar Format; duration 3 hours, presented twice weekly for the first half of the term. Tues. 9.30am -12.30pm and Thurs 9.30 – 12.30pm.

The series of round-table seminars is intended to assist students in the preparation and development of their own thesis position – to locate their work in the contemporary discourse on architecture.

The discussions and presentations are derived from three strands of inquiry. Ignasi de Sola Morales' collection of essays titled '**Differences**' constitutes the first strand. This is complemented by a second strand of Selected Readings that combine together in a sequence broadly assembled under the categories of (a) **Object, Space and Identity** (b) **Place, Space and Event** and finally (c) "**The act of Swallowing**" (a term borrowed from the Dutch architect, Viny Maas) which encompasses the newest thoughts techniques and aesthetics that challenge authenticity, originality and the role of the architect. A third strand of inquiry consists of **individual research** selected and presented by students as part of their thesis concerns. Finally we will evaluate collectively the objectives and benefits of a **Field Trip** experience that is the culmination of the seminar. The sequence of Readings is intended to parallel and complement the changing scale and focus of research derived from the Design exercises in Arch 692.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Participation, familiarity and command of material (10%)
- 2) Presentation of Selected book to Seminar Group. You will introduce and run this part of the Seminar and provide appropriate images and a critical portion/ chapter for the rest of the class to read in advance. Evaluation based on the succinct nature and clarity of presentation, organisation of material & use of preparatory material and visual aids, ability to respond to questions. (Max. 20 min presentation) (20%)
- 3) Submission of a critical essay/review of selected Reading material (selected book + other related material) approximately 1500 words in length Please include appropriate images and footnotes to support your argument. (20%)
- 4) Pecha Kucha Presentation of 20 Slides and 500 words documenting a project or event of your choice selected from the Field trip indicating its possible relationship to your thesis interests. Time 20 seconds per slide Total 6 minutes 40 seconds (10%)

5) An Essay (1500 words) that draws on material covered in the term (other than your Book Review). This is intended to formulate a coherent introduction to your specific thesis investigations. (40%)

All work must be completed on the assigned presentation dates and submitted before May 27, 2010. A 5% penalty per month is applied to each paper received beyond the deadline

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/] to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances) (other than a petition) or Policy 71 (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals) www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm.

Note for Students with Disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic

accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Ryszard Sliwka Jan 24, 2010