NJ School of Architecture Syllabi   NJIT Syllabi

Fall 2024

Arch 531-001: History of Modern Architecture

Ersin Altin

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.njit.edu/arch-syllabi

NJIT FALL 2024
INSTRUCTOR: DR. ERSIN ALTIN

ARCH 531: HISTORY OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE

W: 6:00 - 8:50PM CKB 341
Professor Ersin Altin
Email: ersin.altin@njit.edu
Office Hours: By appointment (in-person or through Zoom)

COURSE OVERVIEW:

A still from *Playtime*, 1967. Dir. Jacques Tati.

Prerequisite: ARCH 210 and ARCH 211. Elective course (3 credits) meets once a week (3 contact hours). ARCH 531 aims to analyze and understand dynamics of modern architecture within the historical milieu it was produced in. We will learn and think about the perception, utilization and evolution process of modern architecture in time and its relationship with other fields such as art, design, and engineering. Although the emphasis will be on modern architecture, urbanism and the built environment, and how they varied in time and in different contexts, the course aims to develop a more holistic and a global approach tying modern practices to older and *other* architectural traditions. This helps us to (re)define modern architecture and to underscore and challenge its Western-centric history (that is tied to the Industrial Revolution and its legacy) by diversifying sources and by developing a global perspective.

This course will provide an overview of significant economic, cultural, political, social, stylistic, and technological shifts that have contributed to the development of architecture both as a historical and contemporary practice. It takes a critical approach to the history of architecture through an exploration of the power dynamics, interests, and other factors that define the field.

Lectures revolve around the problems and/or themes which scrutinize the role and identity of the architect/designer; processes of spatial production; debates about the machine; the relationship of architecture to markets and economies; labor and the human connection. We will tackle issues of race, class, gender, sexuality; accessibility; social, economic and environmental sustainability in relation with architecture and built environment.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of this class are multifold:

- **Recognize** how architecture reflects the cultural developments of the period,
- **Discuss** the relationship between architectural & urban forms and social & political systems as well as the relationship between design & cultural theory and design & cultural practice,
- **Analyze** programmatic and formal precedents and conceptual design solutions to assist in the development of studio projects,
- **Use** formal and technical vocabulary of architecture and planning to describe the defining characteristics of a building or other large-scale design,
- **Develop** critical thinking and analytical skills to apply to architectural forms and ideas, and
- **Construct** a vocabulary for discussing an architectural work's medium.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Note that the overall grade shown on Canvas might not be accurate until all grades are posted. Refer to the following percentages when calculating your overall grade:

- Alert attendance at weekly meetings (grade lowered for poor attendance, see Attendance)
- Class participation and contribution 10% of final grade
- Research #1, 15% of final grade
- Research #2, 25% of final grade
- Class Presentation/Seminar Chair, 20% of final grade
- Field Trip, 10% of final grade
- Design Project, 20% of final grade

    Subject to change during the semester

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and will be checked. Absence of synchronous sessions will be penalized: each absence will lower your **overall** grade by 5%. Four absences from asynchronous sessions will lower a student's final grade by a half letter. You must notify the instructor in advance, in writing if you plan to miss class for religious holiday. Attendance is required at all exams, presentation sessions too. (https://www.njit.edu /registrar/policies/attendancepolicy.php)

Participation: All students are expected to read the texts (see class schedule) and submit their responses to Weekly Exercises before class time.

Class Presentation: Students will be required to give a presentation and lead the discussion for the week/discuccion topic of their selection.

Site Visit: Students will a building, site or a museum or gallery of their selection and submit a visual + written report that documents and evaluates their visit.

Design Project / Architectural Thesis: Students will tackle an issue/design problem, conduct a detailed analysis on that problem by utilizing the relevant literature extensively.

Extra Credit Opportunities: Extra credit is given only to students who have taken all exams and attended class consistently. You will have the opportunity to obtain extra credit by visiting selected museums and/or writing short reports about an assigned building/city/time period and/or answering additional questions during exams. Consult with me if you wish to do this.

Grading: The grading matrix for each assignment is provided in the detailed requirements posted on Canvas. You will receive numerical grades for each individual assignment and these, with weighted percentages, determine your final letter grade, as set by NJIT policy. A =90-100, B+=85-89, B=80-84, C+=75-79, C=70-74, D=60-69, F= 59 or below.

To pass this class, you must complete EVERY assignment, but completion of an assignment does not guarantee a passing grade. You can track your grade on Canvas but note that the overall grade that is shown on Canvas is not accurate. Refer to the percentages above when calculating your overall grade.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Recommended books (on reserve at the Littman Library, Weston Hall)

- Curtis, William J. Modern Architecture since 1900. Third Edition, Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 1996.
- Ching, Frances, Mark Jarzombek, and Vikramaditya Prakash. *A Global History of Architecture*. 3rd Edition. New York: Wiley, 2017.
- Frampton, Kenneth, *Modern Architecture: A Critical History.* 5th Edition, London: Thames & Hudson, 2020.
- Colquhoun, Alan, *Modern Architecture.* Oxford University Press, 2002.

Primary Readings: Students are responsible for a series of short, primary readings by significant architects and theorists from the late 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. These include texts by many of the designers whose work is discussed in lectures and textbooks. Careful reading of these essays, short treatise, and excerpts from longer works reveals the link between theory and practice and between cultural developments and architectural developments.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY & CONDUCT IN CLASS:

Grading: The grading matrix for each assignment is provided in the detailed requirements posted on Canvas. You will receive numerical grades for each individual assignment and these, with weighted percentages, determine your final letter grade, as set by NJIT policy. A =90-100, B+=86-89, B=80-85, C+=76-79, C=70-75, D=60-69, F= 59 or below. To pass this class, you must complete EVERY assignment, but completion of an assignment does not guarantee a passing grade.

Policy for Late Work: You must notify me in advance, if you plan to be late with assignments, and I will determine if this tardiness will be excused. If you submit your work without any notification, for the first 24 hours after the deadline, a 10% penalty will be applied. The penalty will be 25% after 48 hours. Any work 5 days (120 hours) after a deadline will not be accepted. Special circumstances should be discussed with me.

Academic Integrity: Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: NJIT Academic Integrity Code.

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu"

Generative AI: Student use of artificial intelligence (AI) is permitted in this course for certain assignments and activities. It is not permitted to be used in the following assignments, as doing so would undermine student learning and achievement of course learning outcomes: X, Y, Z. Additionally, if and when students use AI in this course, the AI must be cited as is shown within the NJIT Library AI citation page for AI. If you have any questions or concerns about AI technology use in this class, please reach out to your instructor prior to submitting any assignments.

COMMUNICATION:

Dr. Ersin Altin
Email: ersin.altin@njit.edu

Students' emails will be responded within 24 hours. Students can also meet me individually through Google Meet, please email me to set an appointment.

RESOURCES FOR NJIT STUDENTS:

Technology Support: IST Service Desk

The IST Service Desk is the central hub for computing information and first point of contact for getting help and reporting issues related to computing technology at NJIT. Students can put in a ticket with the service desk: https://servicedesk.njit.edu/CherwellPortal/IST or call (973) 596-2900 Monday - Friday from 8:00am - 9:00pm.

Academic Advising Success Center

"...assist in the advisement of students who are undecided in their major, transitioning into another major at NJIT, and those students who need additional support to graduate successfully and in a timely manner."

Click here to access NJIT's Academic Advising Success Center.

Academic Support and Student Affairs

"From questions about becoming a student at NJIT - to student engagement - to searching for information on career development, the Division of Academic Support and Student Affairs Staff is here to help."

Click here to access Academic Support and Student Affairs.

Tutoring Centers

Click here to access NJIT's Learning Center website for tutoring centers, or jump to:

- Math Learning Center
- Chemistry Learning Center
- The Writing Center
- CS Tutoring (ACM)
- Physics Learning Center

Bookstore

"Show your New Jersey Institute of Technology pride all year long with our authentic assortment of New Jersey Institute of Technology collegiate apparel...Plus, our selection of textbooks, computers, and supplies will ensure every New Jersey Institute of Technology student is prepared for success."

Click here to visit the NJIT Bookstore online.

Center for Counseling and Psychological Services

"The NJIT Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (C-CAPS) is committed to assisting students in the achievement of their academic goals as well as benefiting from their personal experience on campus. College life can be personally challenging and stressful at times. We believe that the educational process is an important component of the development of the individual as a whole person. Our goal is to optimize the college experience and improve the quality of the lives of our students by promoting their mental health and facilitating students' personal, academic and professional growth."

Disability Support Services

"The Disability Support Services office works in partnership with administrators, faculty and staff to provide reasonable accommodations and support services for students with disabilities that have provided our office with documentation to receive services."

The Learning Center

"Our mission is to assist students both in the classroom and beyond by providing tutorial services, academic coaching, academic and personal enrichment workshops and staff and peer support so students can meet the demands of their coursework and are prepared for life after graduation."

Click here to access The Learning Center online.

Canvas Help Page

Click here to access the tutorials for students.

Robert W. Van Houten Library

"The Van Houten Library offers electronic and print resources essential to the mission of New Jersey's science and technology university, including a core collection of academic books, databases, and journals, as well as research and consultation services."

Student Financial Aid Services

"Student Financial Aid Services (SFAS) at NJIT is committed to providing you with every opportunity to obtain funding to support your undergraduate educational costs at NJIT."

SCHEDULE:

Week	Date	Lecture Topics, Reading Assignments
1	9/4	**Introduction to course** **Key concepts, course material & requirements** **Goals and objectives**
2	9/11	**Modernity and/or Modernities** • Raj Patel and Jason W. Moore, "Cheap Nature," in A History of the World in Seven Cheap Things (2017), pp. 44-63. • Anthony D. King, "The Times and Spaces of Modernity," in Spaces of Global Cultures : Architecture, Urbanism, Identity (2004), pp. 65-80.
3	9/18	**Modern Metropolis** • Georg Simmel, "The Metropolis and Mental Life" (1903) in Metropolis: Centre and Symbol of Our Times.(1995), pp. 11-19. • David Harvey, "The Political Economy of Public Space," in The Politics of Public Space (2006), pp. 17-34.
4	9/25	**Commodity** • Karl Marx, "the Fetishism of the Commodity" and "The Capitalist Character of Manufacture" in Capital: A Critique of Political Economy, v. 1 (1867). • Frank Lloyd Wright, "Art and Craft of the Machine," Brush & Pencil 8 no. 2 (1901): 77-81.
5	10/2	**Assignment 1 Due. Discussion.**
6	10/9	**Colony** • Alexis de Tocqueville, "Second Letter on Algeria, 22 August 1837" and "Notes on the Voyage to Algeria in 1841," in Writings on Empire and Slavery, pp. 36-37, 59-66. • Irene Cheng, "Structural Racialism in Modern Architectural Theory," in Race and Modern Architecture (2020), pp. 134-152. • Zeynep Celik, "Learning from the Bidonville"
7	10/16	**Gendered Space** • Judy Attfield, "FORM/female FOLLOWS FUNCTION/male: Feminist Critiques of Design" [1989] • Elizabeth Grosz, "Women, Chora, Dwelling" [1994]

		• Jacques Derrida, "Point de Folie — Maintenant L'Architecture and Bernard Tschumi, "La Case Vide — La Villette"
8	10/23	**Architecture of Encounter** • Jun'ichirō Tanizaki, In Praise of Shadows [1933], pp. 1-42. • Vikramaditya Prakash, "Introduction: The 'East-West' Opposition in Chandigarh's Le Corbusier," in Chandigarh's Le Corbusier: The Struggle for Modernity in Postcolonial India (2002), pp. 3-30. • Richard Ingersoll, "The Birth of the Third World- Experiments in Postcolonial Architecture," in World Architecture: A Cross-Cultural History (Oxford University Press, 2013), 873-888.
9	10/30	**Participation** • Hassan Fathy, "Prelude to Dream and Reality," in Architecture for the Poor: An Experiment in Rural Egypt (1973), pp. 1-18. • Guy Debord, "Theory of the Derive," (1956) Internationale Situationniste 2 (Dec. 1958). • Samuel Mocbee, Rural Studio, 2000.
10	11/6	Game and Space: Gamification of Space • Homo Ludens: The Architecture of Play • Charles Jencks, "Architecture Becomes Music" • How Video Game Architecture is Speaking to You • Edgard Varèse - *Poeme Electronique* **Assignment 2 Due.**
11	11/13	**Energy** • Daniel Barber, "Visualizing Renewable Resources," in Architecture and Energy: Performance and Style (Routledge, 2013), pp. 164-180. • Dan Chodorkoff, "Alternative Technology and Urban Reconstruction," in The Anthropology of Utopia (New Compass Press, 2014), pp. 81-120. • William McDonough and Michael Braungart, "Waste equals Food," in Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things (North Point Press, 2002), 92-117.
12	11//20	**Digital Architecture** • Greg Lynn, "Animate Form," in Animate Form (1999), 8-43. • Patrik Schumacher, The Autopoeisis of Architecture, 2002. • Reinhold Martin, "Critical of What? Toward a Utopian Realism," Harvard Design Magazine 22 (Spring/ Summer 2005). • Saskia Sassen, "Scale and Span in a Global Digital World," (2001), in Constructing a New Agenda: Architectural Theory, 1993-2009 (2010), pp. 176-187.
13	11/27	No class. Friday classes meet Happy Thanksgiving!
14	12/4	**Final Project + Site Visit due**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:
Canvas Accessibility Statement

Requesting Accommodations: If you need accommodations due to a disability please contact Scott Janz, Associate Director of the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services, Kupfrian Hall 201 to discuss your specific needs. A Letter of Accommodation Eligibility from the office authorizing student accommodations is required.

General Resources for NJIT Students (including technical support)