Premise: Architecture is not only about buildings, technology, drawings and models, etc. but also about discursive ideas, concepts, and meanings, in other words: theory. Theory can be used as premise, as propaganda, as discursive tactic, a set of guiding principles, as a space for debate and as an architectural project itself.

This course will examine the significant developments in Architectural Theory from the last six decades, that is from the 1950s to the present. We will look at architecture from a critical perspective, and situate its production within the political, ideological, economic, aesthetic, and cultural context of its time.

Through close readings of significant texts, we will delve into the complex dynamics between the material conditions (physical, cultural, social, and technological) and the ideologies that affect the production of architecture. Under this analytical framework, the discipline of architecture, and its distinct discursive theories, is situated in uneasy relations with other spheres of cultural production, such as art, philosophy, technology, and politics.

This course is organized around thematic concerns that explore topics such as space and power, language and semiotics, autonomy and ideology, materiality and immateriality, affect and atmosphere, image and subject, bodies and senses. Each theme will be closely examined through selected critical texts, films and documentaries, guess speakers and symposia, and art and architectural projects and exhibitions.

Objectives: Students will recognize and become generally conversant in the ideas and concepts significant to contemporary architectural theory. By the end of the course, students will obtain the necessary knowledge to situate and articulate contemporary theoretical positions, and be able to develop their own critique and standpoint.

Method: This course is organized as a lecture and includes weekly in-class group discussions of assigned readings. The course is organized in thematic sections. A list of assigned readings has been assembled for each thematic section.