Fall 2018 ARCH 4203-5203 Contemporary Architectural Theory: from the 1950s to the Present

Premise: This course will examine crucial debates in Architectural Theory from the 1950s to the present. The goals of this class are twofold: 1. first, to think about our roles as architects today, in light of changing social and environmental needs and 2. second, to gain knowledge on key debates and concepts in architectural discourse post-1950s. The structure of the semester is non chronological. The first part of the course is focused on rethinking the position of architect in contemporary world. The second part of semester is devoted to the analysis of concepts shaping architectural theory and practice in the second half of the twentieth century, from postmodernism to digital architecture. By starting with the analysis of contemporary positions rather than historical concepts, we can analyze the latter from the perspective of today and reflect on how are they useful (or not) in solving most current architectural problems.

Course Objectives:
(a) to acquire knowledge of the concepts, discussions, readings and authors crucial for contemporary architectural theory
(b) to be able to read architectural texts critically and situate them within broader social, political and cultural contexts
(c) to be able to relate theoretical discussions and problems to architectural practice

Method: This course is organized as a combination of lectures, discussions and presentations. A significant part of the course is devoted to in-class group discussions of assigned readings.