ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY + CRITICISM

METHODOLOGIES

Emily Makaš, PhD | ARCH 4205 / 5205 / 4600 | Tuesdays 2:00 – 4:45

Premise + Objectives

This course explores approaches to the history of art and architecture from their emergence as disciplines in the nineteenth century. Particular focus will be paid to the changing interpretations of modernism in the twentieth and twenty-first century as well as to varying contexts in which architectural history plays a role. Historical-based approaches to curation and criticism of the built environment will also be explored. This course has three main objectives:

- understand the multiplicity of past and present historiographical approaches to architecture and urbanism;
- critically engage in the history and criticism of the built environment;
- improve the ability to organize and conduct research-oriented investigations about the built environment and to express ideas and arguments about buildings and cities in writing.

Methods + Content

This course will employ a comparative method to investigate historiographical approaches to the built environment’s past and present. The material in this course will be presented through short lectures and informal discussions based on corresponding secondary and primary source readings. In addition, the course will include guest lectures by historians and critics addressing the methods and approaches of their work. This course is reading intensive. Students will be assessed based on participation, oral presentations, and written submissions.

Texts

Readings will be drawn from multiple sources, including the following:


Assessment

Students will be evaluated based on a series of written submissions and oral presentations. Written submissions will include criticism essays, analyses of the historiography of iconic buildings, and an independent research paper. Drafts and preliminary statements will be required for each written assignment. Students will be asked to present their work to the class as well as to give presentations on assigned readings.