Fall 2021 ARCH 4600-4204-5204
*Architectural History and Criticism Methodologies* (Tuesdays, 2:30pm - 5:15pm)
Instructor: Lidia Klein/Lidia.klein@uncc.edu


**Premise & Content:**
This course will provide an overview of various methodological approaches to interpreting the built environment. We will analyze a range of approaches, such as formalism, structuralism, poststructuralism, semiotics, Marxism, gender, postcolonialism, and Actor Network Theory, among others. This course is reading and writing intensive.

**Course Objectives:**
(a) to acquire knowledge of the concepts, discussions, readings, and authors crucial for different methodological approaches to architecture history as well as to be able to situate them within the broader context of developments in the humanities;
(b) to be able to critically apply concepts learned in class to one’s own analyses of buildings and urban forms;
(c) to clearly communicate ideas and arguments about architecture and cities orally and in writing using appropriate language and terminology.

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

**Grading:** 20% participation, 15% take home tasks, 15% presentation, 50% final project. Final grade assignments for the course conform to the rules and regulations governing all courses offered at UNC Charlotte as stated in the University Undergraduate and Graduate catalogs.

**Attendance:** Attendance for this course is mandatory. Two unexcused absences automatically lower your final grade one letter grade. More than two unexcused absences will constitute grounds for automatic failure of this course. Documentation of excused absences must be
submitted in writing and show evidence of the medical or family emergency. Notify your instructor as early as possible in advance of a potential absence. Tardiness of 15 minutes or more will be considered as an absence for the day.

**Final Assignment:** This will be an analysis of a local (preferably Charlotte, but other North Carolina sites are also acceptable) building of your choice, using one or more methodologies learned in class. You need to be able to visit your building several times in the semester. Your work for the project needs to include archival research, and will be split in the following stages: topic proposal, bibliography, outline, abstract, conference-style presentation (20 minutes), and final essay submission (revised after feedback received during the conference session). Final essays (1000–1500 words) should be sent over email as a MS Word file with your last name in the title, following this format: Klein_finalessay.

**Participation:** Active class participation is required and fundamental for successful completion of the course. Students are expected to be conversant in the assigned readings for each session in which readings are assigned. Every reading listed on the syllabus is required for class and will serve as material for in-class discussions. All texts will be available via Canvas or links to resources online (in the syllabus). Students should arrive to class with a physical copy of the reading and notes, prepared for discussion.

**Take home tasks:** You will write three short essays (600–900 words) analyzing one building in Charlotte: Harris Teeter grocery store, 8600 University City Blvd. For each essay you will use a different methodology analyzed in class. Details will be given during the first class session. You must visit the building in person. Essays should be sent over email as a MS Word file with your last name in the title, following this format: Klein_task.

**Presentation:** During the semester students will prepare one presentation introducing the cluster of assigned texts and a containing brief summary of a given method (history, major figures, principles) to the class before the discussion. A presentation should be 20–30 minutes long (depending on the topic), include a brief introduction to the author(s) of the texts discussed, dates when the texts were written, and go through key concepts for each texts. If any assigned texts discusses specific buildings, the presentation should include a Powerpoint (or similar format) presentation with appropriate images. Please email your presentation to the instructor the same day you are presenting – delays might affect your participation grade. Please send your presentations as Power Point or PDF files with your last name in the title, following this format: Klein_presentation

**Syllabus:**

1. **AUG 24: Introduction**
2. **AUG 31: Archives**
   Trip to UNC Charlotte’s Special Collections and University Archives

**Readings:**
- Ariella Azoulay, *Archive.*
  [http://www.politicalconcept.s.org/issue1/archive/?fbclid=IwAR2tz2aoKrCjXEMj0ukz9CEMsysH053YqbE1kodzejlbkX8wa5gkZvgnJww](http://www.politicalconcept.s.org/issue1/archive/?fbclid=IwAR2tz2aoKrCjXEMj0ukz9CEMsysH053YqbE1kodzejlbkX8wa5gkZvgnJww)

3. **SEPT 7: Formalism**
   DUE: Topic proposals
   **Readings:**
   - Giorgio Vasari, “Giotto” from *Lives of the Most Excellent Painters, Sculptors, and Architects* (1568)

4. **SEPT 14: Archives (continuation)**
   DUE: Take Home Task 1 (formalist analysis of Harris Teeter)
   Trip to Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Public Library Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room (Carolina Room)

5. **SEPT 21: Semiotics**
   **Readings:**

6. **SEPT 28: Phenomenology & Neuroscience**
   DUE: Take Home Task 2 (semiotic analysis of Harris Teeter) and final essay topics approved
   **Readings:**
   - Juhani Pallasmaa, Harry Francis Mallgrave, *Architecture and Neuroscience* (TBA)

7. **OCT 5: Gender and Race**
   DUE: Take Home Task 3 (phenomenological analysis of Harris Teeter)
Readings:
- Dianne Harris, “Rendered Whiteness: Architectural Drawings and Graphics” from *Little white houses: how the postwar home constructed race in America*

8. OCT 12: Actor Network Theory
   Readings:

DUE: 1. bibliography (10-15 resources, including books, articles, archival material and other primary sources) and 2. final topic blurb.

9. OCT 19: Power
   Readings:
   - Jeremy Bentham, *Panopticon; or the Inspection-House, Containing the Idea of a New Principle of Construction Applicable to Any Sort of Establishment* ([1787] 1791)

10. OCT 26: Marxism
    DUE: annotated bibliography
    Readings:
- Karl Marx, “Idealism and Materialism,” and “The Real Basis of Ideology” from *The German Ideology* (1845).
  [http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/german-ideology/ch01a.htm#a2](http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/german-ideology/ch01a.htm#a2)
  [http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/german-ideology/ch01c.htm](http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/german-ideology/ch01c.htm)

- David Harvey, Chapter 1 from *Rebel Cities* (2012), pp. 3–25.

11. NOV 2: Postcolonialism
   Readings:

12. NOV 9: Deconstruction
   DUE: Outlines
   Readings:

13. NOV 16: Guest speakers
   DUE: Corrected outlines and abstracts

14. NOV 23 and NOV 30: paper presentations (conference)