COURSE TITLE BLACKBOARD SITE	ARC 5623 Current Issues in Architecture Spring 2011 – http://my.ltu.edu and select 3818 Current Issues
INSTRUCTOR	Elizabeth Keslacy Adjunct Professor keslacye@gmail.com Mobile: 248-808-9294 Office hours by email appointment
SCHEDULE	January 10th – May 1st 2011 See http://www.ltu.edu/registrars_office/calendar_final_exam.index.asp for LTU academic calendar information.
LEVEL/ HOURS PREREQUISITE	Master's of Architecture Degree / 3 credit hours
REQUIRED TEXT (See Blackboard for additional resources)	"The State of Architecture at the Beginning of the 21st Century," Bernard Tschumi and Irene Cheng, eds. Monacelli Press 2003. ISBN 1580931340 (This text is not available for purchase through LTU, but is available both new and used on websites like amazon.com.)
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	LTU Online student resources: http://www.ltu.edu/ltuonline/
TECHNICAL SUPPORT	Technical support for using Blackboard is provided by the Helpdesk, 248.204.2330 or helpdesk@ltu.edu

COURSE SCHEDULE

This seminar will revolve around the *presentation* and *discussion* of the work and ideas of the most critical architects currently in practice. The course will use the required texts as the basis for discussion and dissemination of ideas, with each module consisting of a slide presentation lecture by the instructor, slide presentations by students, and films.

This class is asynchronous. Each **Module** is one week long and runs from Monday morning (12:01pm) to Sunday evening (midnight). All required activities must be completed by Sunday evening or else it will be considered late. This fully online course begins with a partial week online course orientation period to familiarize yourself with the online learning environment. This partial week is called 'Module 0'. There are tasks that are assigned to be completed prior to the start of Module 1. Each subsequent week starts on a Monday and ends on a Sunday.

TEXTBOOKS
The primary textbook, "The State of Architecture at the Beginning of the 21st Century," will set the stage for each module, focusing in on a particular issue each week. The instructor's narrated slide lecture will present the work of 2-4 architects as a way to visualize how the issues are manifested. Additional texts may be included to round out as necessary to round out the discussion of particular topics.

VIDEOS
This course will utilize film and videos as a way to help you understand the character of and thought behind certain architects' work. Some video will be made available to you through Blackboard. Some video is available through other online sources. Some videos will have to be **rented** from your local video store or **borrowed** from the LTU library or the ARC (Resource Center). In this last case, the instructor may hold screenings on the LTU Campus. Specific details will be posted in the Announcements section of the course.

LECTURES
While the textbooks provide the basis for understanding the contemporary issues being presented, instructor-produced slide-based lectures will provide broad and deep visual understanding of how these issues are manifest in contemporary practice. The lectures will cover the work of 2-4 contemporary architecture practices, both built and unbuilt. In addition to the instructor's lectures, students will be responsible for creating their own lecture on one contemporary architect, posting them to Blackboard, and watching the materials created by their classmates. Detailed information is posted in the Assignment section of the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE FOR TRADITIONAL SEMESTER COURSES

This fully online course begins with a partial week online course orientation period to familiarize yourself with the online learning environment and to meet online or via the phone with your instructor. Each subsequent week starts on a Monday and ends on a Sunday.

Dates	Modules	Topics / Readings	Assignments Due
Prior to Semester Start	Module 0	**Read** Syllabus **Purchase** Textbook **Read** Assignment: Student Presentation **Begin Reading** Supermodernism	**Sign-Up** for Student Presentations
Week of Jan 10 – Jan 16	Module 1	**Read** Ibelings' Supermodernism (pdf) **Watch PP:** Modernism, Post-Modernism, Supermodernism	Bb **Discussion** Board **Quiz** #1
Week of Jan 17 – Jan 23	Module 2	**Read: Tschumi:** Introduction, Aesthetics and Urbanism **Watch PP:** MVRDV + ShoP **Watch Student PP:** Perrault **Watch Video:** Jon Jerde	Bb **Discussion** Board **Quiz** #2
Week of Jan 24 – Jan 30	Module 3	**Read: Tschumi:** Politics + Material **Watch PP:** LTL, Kennedy **Watch Video:** Sheila Kennedy **Watch Student PP:** ARO	Bb **Discussion** Board **Quiz** #3

Dates	Modules	Topics / Readings	Assignments Due
Week of Jan 31 – Feb 6	Module 3.5	**Watch PP:** Mockbee, Ban **Watch Video:** An Architect for Emergencies **Watch Student PP:** Woods	Bb **Discussion** Board
Week of Feb 7 – Feb 13	Module 4	**Read: Tschumi:** Detail + Identity **Watch PP:** Williams+Tsien, Libeskind **Watch Student PP:** Zumthor	Bb **Discussion** Board **Quiz** #4
Week of Feb 14 – Feb 20	Module 4.5	**Watch PP:** Holl, Morphosis **Watch Student PP:** FAT **Watch Video:** Thom Mayne (TedTalks)	Bb **Discussion** Board **Paper** 1 Due
Week of Feb 21 – Feb 27	Module 5	**Read: Tschumi:** Form + Influence **Watch PP:** Moss **Watch Student PP:** Coop Himmelblau	Bb **Discussion** Board **Quiz** #5
Week of Feb 28 – Mar 6	Module 5.5	**Watch PP:** Reiser + Umemoto **Watch Student PP:** Preston Scott Cohen **Watch Video:** Sketches of Frank Gehry	Bb **Discussion** Board
Week of Mar 7 – Mar 13		Spring Break – No Class	
Week of Mar 14 – Mar 20	Module 6	**Read: Tschumi:** Envelope + Public/Private **Watch PP:** Office dA, Herzog + DeMeuron **Watch Student PP:** Hadid	Bb **Discussion** Board **Quiz** #6
Week of Mar 21 – Mar 27	Module 6.5	**Watch PP:** Greg Lynn Form, Lyons **Watch Video:** Herzog + Eisenman **Watch Student PP:** Nouvel	Bb **Discussion** Board **Paper** 2 Due
Week of Mar 28 – Apr 3	Module 7	**Read: Tschumi:** Globalization + Criticism **Watch PP:** OMA, Bernard Tschumi **Watch Student PP:** Miralles	Bb **Discussion** Board **Quiz** #7
Week of Apr 4 – Apr 10	Module 7.5	**Watch Student PP:** SANAA **Watch Video:** Jonathan Prince Ramus Rem Koolhaas	Bb **Discussion** Board
Week of Apr 11 – Apr 17	Module 8	**Read: Tschumi:** Organization + Bodies **Watch PP:** Diller + Scofidio, UN Studio **Watch Student PP:** LOTEK, Renzo Piano Building Workshop **Watch Video:** Ben Van Berkel	Bb **Discussion** Board **Quiz** #8

Dates	Modules	Topics / Readings	Assignments Due
Week of Apr 18 – Apr 24	Module 9	**Read: Tschumi:** Electronics + Perception **Watch PP:** Asymptote, FOA **Watch Student PP:** Xefirotarch **Watch Video:** Future Systems	Bb **Discussion** Board **Final Presentation Due**
Week of Apr 25 – May 1	Final Presentations	**Watch Student PP: Final Presentations**	Bb **Discussion** Board

STUDENT EVALUATION

Your performance in this course will be **assessed** in the following ways: weekly quizzes, three papers, a PowerPoint lecture on a contemporary architect, discussion forum participation, and a final paper and presentation. The weekly quizzes will evaluate how well you can apply the ideas learned in the readings and lectures. The papers will demonstrate how well you analyze an architect's body of work vis-à-vis the ideas from the readings. The final paper and presentation will allow you to apply the ideas to your own work and future endeavors. The quizzes will be accessed directly from Blackboard. Please see the 'Assignments' section in Blackboard for further information and requirements.

Regular **attendance** and **participation** are essential for learning. Each student is expected to attend the course each week. Attendance is measured by each student's presence in the discussion board, as well as the timely submission of assigned homework. Attendance is not the same as participation. Simply logging on does not contribute to the class. Participants may be dropped if they are absent the first week or if they miss more than a week. **Quizzes** are also treated as participation. While you will receive feedback on the quizzes and they will show up in your Blackboard gradebook as a number grade, they are counted towards your final grade as participation. You receive one point for each quiz that you complete.

The course has assignments, quizzes, and participation requirements totaling 100 points. Letter grades are awarded based on the total number of points achieved. As the class is asynchronous, running from Monday to Sunday, **each Module's assignments are due by Sunday, 11:59pm of that week**. The only exception to this is the Student Presentation which is due at 7:00pm on Wednesday of it's particular week. Assignments turned in after the due date will be reduced by half a letter grade for each calendar day late.

EXAMPLES:

Assignments	Points
(2) Papers (15 pts ea)	30
Student PowerPoint Presentation	20
Final Project	20
Quizzes and Online Participation	30
Total Points	100

Class Points	Letter Grade
96 and above	A
90 – 95	A-
87 – 89	B+
83 – 86	B
80 – 82	B-
77 – 79	C+
73 – 76	C
70 – 72	C-
61 – 70	D (Undergrad Only)
60 and below	E

Note: Grades lower than a "B" fall below the LTU graduate standard

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

A comprehensive survey of architecture in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, focusing on buildings, architects, and ideas from around the world. Beginning with post-modernism and continuing to the present, the course will help students understand the relevant issues and most important works of contemporary architecture.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES / OUTCOMES

1. Students will develop an awareness of the biography and work of many well-known contemporary architects.
2. Students will develop an awareness of the issues currently important to the contemporary architectural discourse.
3. Students will research and present the work and biography of one well-known contemporary architect.
4. Students will analyze the work of contemporary architects and compare it to the ideas discussed in the textbooks.
5. Students will evaluate their own ideological positions by comparing their own past architectural work to the ideas discussed in the textbooks.

PREREQUISITE SKILLS

Students should have a basic knowledge of Microsoft PowerPoint. If you are unsure as to your skill set, please review the numerous tutorials available online.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND COURSE ORGANIZATION

Blackboard Learning Environment – Blackboard at my.ltu.edu contains the syllabus, all assignments, reading materials, streaming videos, narrated PowerPoint mini-lectures, quizzes, links to Web resources, and discussion forums. You will submit all assignments via Blackboard, and are expected to participate regularly in discussion topics. Please take time to familiarize yourself with the organization of the Blackboard site. You will want to check the site frequently for announcements reminding you of new resources and upcoming assignments.

Student/Instructor Conversations – Students keep in touch with the instructor via discussion forums and e-mail messages.

Required Reading – Textbook chapters should be read according to the schedule outlined in the syllabus. Chapters will be discussed online.

Assignments – Over the course of the semester, students will write two short papers, prepare a narrated PowerPoint presentation on an architect/architecture office, and complete a final project comprised of a narrated PowerPoint presentation.

CLASS POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS
I plan to offer you a valuable learning experience, and expect us to work together to achieve this goal. Here are some general expectations regarding this course:

Each student has a LTU email account. If you wish to use a different email address for this course, please **change your email address in Blackboard under "Blackboard Tools", then "Personal Information"** and send an email to me so I can store your address in my email directory.

Readings, discussion forum participation, and written assignments must be completed according to the class schedule. If business travel will take you away from regular participation, please clear the dates with me in advance.

It is essential that all students actively contribute to the course objectives through their experiences and working knowledge.

All assignments must be submitted on schedule, via Blackboard, and using Microsoft Office compatible software. If you need to submit an assignment via email, contact the instructor in advance. Late work will be reduced in value.

Assignments must be completed to an adequate standard to obtain a passing grade. Requirements for each assignment are detailed in this syllabus.

Be prepared to log into Blackboard at least once each day. Please focus your online correspondence within the appropriate Blackboard discussion forums so that your colleagues can learn from you. In addition to Discussion Forums in which you will correspond with your classmates, there are also 'Virtual 'Office' Forums that can be used to ask questions regarding the class. If you believe another classmate could benefit by knowing the answer to your question, please post it in the forums. Of course, questions of a confidential or personal nature should be sent to the instructor via email.

At midterm and at the end of the course, you will be invited to participate in a University evaluation of this course. Your feedback is important to the University, to LTU Online, and to me as an instructor, and I encourage you to participate in the evaluation process.

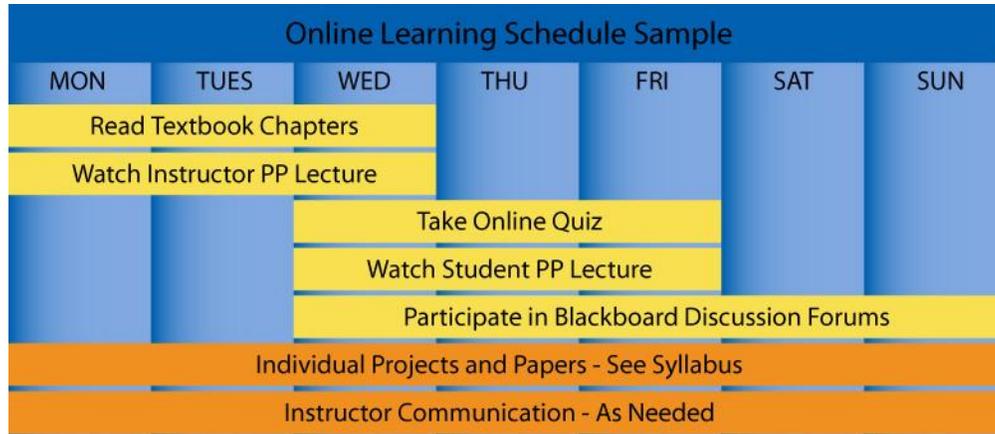It is important for you as students to know what to expect from me as your instructor:
- I will be available to you via e-mail and phone, and will promptly reply to your messages.
- I will be available to you for face-to-face appointments as requested.
- I will maintain the Blackboard web site with current materials, and will resolve any content-related problems promptly as they are reported to me.
- I will send out a weekly e-mail update to all class members to guide upcoming work and remind you of assignment due dates.
- I will return all assignments to you promptly, and will include individualized comments and suggestions with each assignment.
- I will hold our personal written or verbal communications in confidence. I will not post any of your assignments for viewing by the class without requesting your approval in advance, with the exception of the PowerPoint Presentations which are meant to be publicly viewed.
- I will treat all members of the class fairly, and will do my best to accommodate individual learning styles and special needs.
- If any of these points need clarification, or when special circumstances arise that require my assistance, please contact me so that we can discuss the matter personally.

PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR CLASS LOAD EXPECTATIONS
A three-credit course generally requires <u>at least</u> nine hours per week of time commitment. Here are some practical guidelines to help schedule your time commitments for this online course:

- A 15-week semester (the Summer semester is compressed into 10 weeks) would require at least 135 hours of time commitment to successfully complete all readings, activities, assignments, and texts as described in this syllabus. ****Please remember that you are not attending a face-to-face class for 3 hours per week, so you should expect that this time will be added on to that which you would normally spend on coursework.****
- You should reserve at least 6 hours per week to read the required textbook chapters and resources, participate in online discussions, review presentation materials, and work through online quizzes. This effort will total at least 84 hours over the course of the semester.
- You should organize your remaining time to roughly correspond with the point value of each major assignment. This means that you should plan to spend <u>at least</u>:
  - 8-9 hours preparing your Presentation of an Architect
  - 18-20 hours (total) preparing the two papers
  - 8 hours preparing your final project.

These guidelines may not reflect the actual amount of outside time that you – as a unique individual with your own learning style – will need to complete the course requirements. The number of hours each week will vary based on assignment due dates, so please plan ahead to insure that you schedule your academic, work, and personal time effectively. The following graphic can be used to guide you in planning your weekly course work to remain on schedule:

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

Details for all assignments are located in the Assignments section of Blackboard. Please note that you should not submit any papers to the Blackboard "Digital Drop Box." All papers are submitted using the assignment link within the Module. The student presentations and the final presentations will be submitted via email to the instructor.

SYLLABUS ADDENDA

Please see the LTU Online "Current Students" web site http://www.ltu.edu/ltuonline/ for comprehensive information about Lawrence Tech's academic services, library services, student services, and academic integrity standards. The content of this web site is explicitly included as syllabus requirements.