

COURSE TITLE BLACKBOARD SITE	ARC5623_OL: Current Issues in Architecture Spring 2012 – http://my.ltu.edu and select CRN 3474
INSTRUCTOR	Heidi Beebe Lawrence Technological University, Adjunct Professor Beebe Skidmore Architects, Partner Contact Information: hbeebe@ltu.edu Office hours by Appointment
SCHEDULE	January 16, 2012 – May 12, 2012 Refer to http://www.ltu.edu/registrars_office/calendar_final_exam.index.asp for the last date to withdraw and other important registration related information.
LEVEL/HOURS PREREQUISITE	Master's of Architecture / 3 credit hours
REQUIRED TEXT (See Blackboard for additional resources)	Sykes, A. Krista, ed. <u>Constructing A New Agenda: Architectural Theory 1993-2009</u> . New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2010. ISBN 978-1-56898-859-7 Steffens, Jo, ed. <u>Unpacking My Library: Architects and Their Books</u> . New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2009. ISBN 978-0-300-15893-9 Available for online purchase through LTU Bookstore at: http://lawrence-tech1.bkstore.com/bkstore/TextbookSelection.do?st=489 OR at Amazon.com http://www.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 . Send the Help Desk a form detailing any issues by clicking here http://tinyurl.com/3yqrvne .

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 and Jan 16 – Jan 18	Module 0 INTRODUCTION	Online Learning Orientation Overview of Syllabus Course Introduction & Overview “Eisenman’s Six Point Plan,” (Blackboard)	Introduce Yourself Bb Discussion Forums
Week of Jan 16 – Jan 22	Module 1 CULTURE	“From Grid to Network,” by Mark Taylor in <u>The Moment of Complexity: Emerging Network Culture</u> , (Blackboard) Additional Reading/Video TBD (Blackboard)	Bb Discussion Forums Assignment 1 DUE
Week of Jan 23 – Jan 29	Module 2 DISCOURSE	<u>Unpacking My Library: Architects and Their Books</u> by Jo Steffens, ed. Additional Readings/Videos TBD (Blackboard)	Bb Discussion Forums Sign-up for Assignment 3 Assignment 2 DUE
Week of Jan 30– Feb 5	Module 3 DESIGN INTELLIGENCE	“Design Intelligence Part 1: Introduction” by Michael Speaks in <u>Constructing a New Agenda</u> Additional Readings/Videos TBD (Blackboard)	Bb Discussion Forums
Week of Feb 6– Feb 12	Module 4 RESEARCH	Selections from <u>Mutations</u> (Blackboard) Additional Readings/Videos TBD (Blackboard)	Bb Discussion Forums

Dates	Modules	Topics / Readings	Assignments Due
Week of Feb 13– Feb 19	Module 5 URBANIZATION	<p>“Junkspace” by Rem Koolhaas, and “Charter of the New Urbanism,” in <u>Constructing a New Agenda</u></p> <p>Excerpts from <u>The Liberal Monument: Urban Design and the Late Modern Project</u> by Alexander d’Hooge (Blackboard)</p> <p>Watch “Urbanized” (Blackboard)</p>	Bb Discussion Forums Assignment 3 DUE
Week of Feb 20– Feb 26	Module 6 GLOBALIZATION	<p>“Scale and Span in the Global Digital World” by Saskia Sassen in <u>Constructing a New Agenda</u></p> <p>"Criticism in the Age of Globalization" by Joan Ockman</p> <p>Watch Video: <i>The Story of Stuff & Lagos</i></p>	Bb Discussion Forums Sign-up for Assignment 4 Watch Assignment 3 Presentations, Group 1
Week of Feb 27– Mar 4	Module 7 INFRASTRUCTURE	<p>“Infrastructural Urbanism” by Allen, Stan (Blackboard)</p> <p>"Why Ecological Urbanism? Why Now?" by Mostafavi, Mohsen (Blackboard)</p> <p>Excerpts from <u>On The Water: Palisade Bay</u> by Guy Nordenson, Catherine Seavitt, & Adam Yarinsky (Blackboard)</p> <p>Video: Lecture by Ellen Dunham Jones (Blackboard)</p>	Bb Discussion Forums Watch Assignment 3 Presentations, Group 2
Week of Mar 5 – Mar 11	Module 8 SITE	<p>“The Reclaiming of Site” by Sebastian Marot in <u>Recovering Landscape</u> (Blackboard)</p> <p>“On Site: Architectural Preoccupations” by Carol J. Burns in <u>Drawing Building Text</u> (Blackboard)</p> <p>Additional Readings/Videos TBD (Blackboard)</p>	Bb Discussion Forums Assignment 4 DUE Watch Assignment 3 Presentations, Group 3
Mid-semester Break – No Classes			

Dates	Modules	Topics / Readings	Assignments Due
Week of Mar 19 – Mar 25	Module 9 LANDSCAPE	<p>"Drosscape" by Alan Berger in <u>The Landscape Urbanism Reader</u> (Blackboard)</p> <p>"Landscape Futures" by Geoff Manaugh in <u>The Bldg/Blog Book</u>, pp. 187-238</p> <p>"Landscape Urbanism: A Genealogy" by Charles Waldheim (Blackboard)</p> <p>"Terra Fluxus" by James Corner (Blackboard)</p> <p>Additional Readings/Videos TBD (Blackboard)</p>	Bb Discussion Forums Assignment 6.1 DUE
Week of Mar 26 – Apr 1	Module 10 COMPLEX FORM	<p>"Introduction to <i>Atlas of Novel Tectonics</i>" by Reiser + Umemoto and "Architectural Curvilinearity: The Folded, the Pliant and the Supple" by Greg Lynn in <u>Constructing a New Agenda</u></p> <p>"Never Enough (Transform, Repeat Ad Nausea)." By Michael Meredith (Blackboard)</p> <p>Watch Lecture by Florencia Pita (Blackboard)</p>	Bb Discussion Forums Assignment 5 (Quiz) DUE
Week of Apr 2 – Apr 8	Module 11 MATERIALITY	<p>"Architecture & the Virtual: Towards a New Materiality" by Anton Picon in <u>Constructing a New Agenda</u></p> <p>Kolarevic, Branko. "The (Risky) Craft of Digital Making" by Branko Kolarevic (Blackboard)</p> <p>Excerpts from <i>Matter</i> by Michael Meredith and Gail Peter Borden (Blackboard)</p> <p>Additional Readings/Videos TBD (Blackboard)</p>	Bb Discussion Forums Assignment 6.2 DUE

Dates	Modules	Topics / Readings	Assignments Due
Week of Apr 9 – Apr 15	Module 12 CONJECTURE	“Architectural Conjecture: Urban Speculation” & Selections from <u>The Bldg/Blog Book</u> by Geoff Manaugh Additional Readings/Videos TBD (Blackboard)	Bb Discussion Forums
Week of Apr 16 – Apr 22	Module 13 NEW TBD	“Metaphysics of Genetic Architecture and Computation” and “Raised to Observe: Glenn Murcutt” in <u>Constructing a New Agenda</u> Additional Readings/Videos TBD (Blackboard)	Bb Discussion Forums Assignment 6.3 DUE
Week of Apr 23 – Apr 29	Module 14 CRITICALITY	“Thoughts on the Everyday” by Deborah Berke in <u>Constructing a New Agenda</u> “Toward a Theory of Normative Architecture” by Joan Ockman (Blackboard) Additional Readings/Videos TBD (Blackboard)	Bb Discussion Forums Assignment 6.4 DUE
Week of Apr 30 – May 6	Module 15 POST CRITICALITY	“Notes around the Doppler Effect and Other Moods of Modernism” by Robert Somol and Sarah Whiting in <u>Constructing a New Agenda</u> “‘Criticality’ and Its Discontents” by George Baird (Blackboard) Additional Readings/Videos TBD (Blackboard)	Bb Discussion Forums Review Rough Draft Partner
Week of May 7 – May 12	Final Exams	Course Summary End of Course	Assignment 6.5 DUE

STUDENT EVALUATION

The course has 15 weeks of required weekly discussion forums and 6 assignments. Discussion Forums are worth 30% of your grade. Assignments 1-5 are worth 25% of your grade. Assignment 6 – a Critical Research Paper (due in 5 phases) – is worth 45% of your grade. Letter grades are awarded based on the total number of points achieved.

Detailed evaluation criteria for each assignment will be clearly delineated on the assignment instructions.

Discussion forums will be evaluated based on both 1) meeting the required number of posts in discussion forums each week and 2) meeting the criteria of the discussion question.

Late assignments will be dropped by one grade for each day they are late. Extensions can be arranged in advance by contacting the instructor on an as need basis for medical reasons only.

EXAMPLES:

Assignments	Points
Assignment 1: Analytical Zeitgeist Collage (collage + short essay)	10
Assignment 2: Build Your Library (graphic list + explanation)	10
Assignment 3: Presentation of an Architect (power point)	10
Assignment 4: Seeing Ideas in Buildings (short essay)	10
Assignment 5: Quiz (open book essay questions)	10
Assignment 6.1: Idea Research Paper (informal description)	5
Assignment 6.2: Abstract for Research Paper (500 word essay)	20
Assignment 6.3: Annotated Bibliography for Research Paper	10
Assignment 6.4: Rough Draft of Research Paper	5
Assignment 6.5: Final Research Paper	50
Online Participation in Discussion Forums (4 pt/week x 15 weeks)	60
Total Points	200

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

Students taking this course will gain familiarity with critical issues concerning current architectural discourse and design. Students will be exposed to a selection writers and designers who are actively engaged in discussions about the relationship of architecture to an ever changing world. They will develop the necessary skills required to critically engage in discussions of these critical issues.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES / OUTCOMES

Learning objectives for the course include:

- Awareness of a selection of well-known contemporary architects and architectural writers
- The ability to analyze and articulate current issues facing the profession and discipline of architecture
- The skills to make connections between concepts and form, written ideas and built projects
- An in-depth understanding of the relationship between culture and architecture
- Greater understanding of issues surrounding globalization, urbanism, research, digital technologies, landscape and infrastructure
- The ability to articulate coherent and well-researched arguments on complex architectural concepts
- Familiarity with preparing a Power Pont presentation

These objectives will be evaluated through discussion forums, quizzes, papers, and presentations throughout the course.

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, podcasts, written lecture notes, chapter 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 e-mail messages, telephone conference calls, and IM conversations.

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

Videos – A video will be posted each week on blackboard.

Assignments – Assignments and points allotted to each Assignment are listed above.

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 to store your email address in my directory.

Readings, discussion forum participation, and written assignments must be completed according to the class schedule. It is important to contact the instructor as needed to discuss personal needs regarding course requirements and assignments.

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.

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 may learn from you.

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 strongly encourage your participation in the evaluation process.

It is important for you as students to know what to expect from me as your instructor:

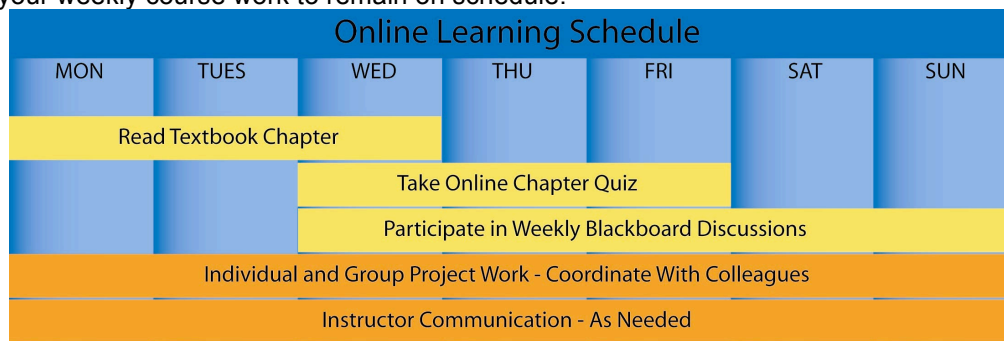
- I will be available to you via e-mail, and will promptly reply to your messages.
- I will be available to you for face-to-face appointments as requested.
- I will maintain the Blackboard web site with current materials, and will resolve any content-related problems promptly as they are reported to 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 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.
- 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 should special circumstances arise that require my assistance, please contact me so that we may discuss and resolve the matter.

PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR CLASS LOAD EXPECTATIONS

A three-credit course generally requires at least nine hours per week of time commitment. Here are some practical guidelines to help schedule your time commitments for this online course:

- A 14-week semester (the Summer semester is compressed into 10 weeks) would require at least 126 hours of time commitment to successfully complete all readings, activities, assignments, and texts as described in this syllabus.
- 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 at least:
 - 8-9 hours preparing your case study review;
 - 24-40 hours working with your group on the three parts of your semester-long project;
 - 8-9 hours working on the various components of your reflective consolidation (final exam).

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 may be used to guide you in planning your weekly course work to remain on schedule:



ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

Course assignments and evaluation criteria for each assignment will be included in the Course Introduction that is available in Module 0. More detail about each assignment will be issued when each assignment is announced. Please review these requirements carefully. See the section Academic Resources / Assessment Guidelines for information about assessment of written and oral presentations.

Please note that you should not submit any assignments to the Blackboard "Digital Drop Box." All assignments are submitted using the Blackboard "Assignments" or "SafeAssign" function. Some assignments are also posted to the Blackboard Discussion Forum for student comments.

Assignments (110 points)

See Descriptions of Assignments in Course Overview

Participation (60 points)

Each student is expected to actively participate in online activities. There will be two required discussion forums each week. Participation in each discussion forums will be worth 2 points. 1 point will be given for participating. 1 point will be given for meeting the criteria of the discussion question. With 2 forums per week, over 15 weeks, discussion forums are worth 60 points. Discussion forums will focus on discussions of readings and providing commentary and critique of student papers and presentations.

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 in these syllabus requirements.

The LTU Online "Current Students" web site also includes grading rubrics used by your instructor to evaluate written assignments, discussion forum participation, and group assignments. Please note that the SafeAssign anti-plagiarism product will be used for written assignments submitted for this course. Please see the instructions included on the [eHelp web site](#) regarding the use of the SafeAssign product.

Undergraduates: Leadership Transcripts

The leadership transcript enables students to track co-curricular activities that are undertaken above and beyond the requirements of the LTU curriculum. The leadership transcript serves students by enhancing the leadership portfolio; providing the opportunity for a transcript of distinction; enhancing their resumes; and assisting in articulating leadership experience. It can be accessed by logging on to Banner Web and clicking the Student and Financial Aid tab. Leadership Activities is located at the bottom of the list.