



Course Number	ARCH 694	Classroom	PF 3176
Course Name	Architecture is a Joke		
Pre/Co-Requisites			
Instructor	Joshua M Taron	Office Hours/Location	By appointment
	Email: jmtaron@ucalgary.ca	Phone: 403.220.6415	
Class Dates	Mandatory all in-person: e. Wednesdays, Jan 11 – Feb 15, 9:00am to 11:50am		
Instructor Email Policy	Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email, and I will respond to emails sent via student's @ucalgary emails within 48 hours.		
Name and Email of Teaching Assistant(s)	N/A		

Course Description

This 6-week selective course examines the historical legacy of architecture as a discipline concerned with managing and reproducing society through the medium of buildings and the built environment. This legacy will be viewed through the lens of an inability to come to terms with the idea that architecture might have been and may continue to be complicit in the production of the very problems it claims to be able to solve. The course will examine comedy as a mechanism for addressing these complex and often difficult topics in an effort to reveal some of the limits of architecture both as a discipline and as a spatial proposition. **The course is designed to be fun and playful** while maintaining authenticity, criticality and disciplinary rigor.

This course is listed as co-requisite to the Hapton research studio but is open to students outside the studio as well.

Course Hours: 3 Units

Course Delivery

Each week will consist of a 3-hour in person session broken down into the following parts:

1-hour discussion of the assigned reading

1-hour lecture

1-hour working session.

Each student will produce a term project (due Feb 15) in the form of a written manifesto on architecture as a joke that will be exhibited as part of the 2023 SAPL Year End Show.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will know and be able to:

1. critical understanding of key challenges facing the discipline of architecture
2. knowledge of comedic methodologies and practices aimed at addressing
3. Visually and textually communicate the value of humor while addressing real and persistent problems

Learning Resources

Required readings:

Andrew Atwood | Not Interesting: On the Limits of Criticism in Architecture
Benjamin H. Bratton | Introduction to The Stack: On Software and Sovereignty
James Charlton | Nothing About Us Without Us
Elizabeth Grosz | In-Between, The Natural in Architecture and Culture
Michael Hays | Critical Architecture: Between Culture and Form
Rem Koolhaas | Delirious New York + Junkspace
Adam Kotsko | Awkwardness
Michael Meredith | For the Absurd
Reza Negarestani | Contingency and Complicity
Andrew Zago | Awkward Position

Assessment Components				
Assessment Method		Description	Weight	Aligned Course Learning Outcome
Class Discussions		Come to class prepared to participate in class discussions including having a strong familiarity with the assigned reading	25%	1 and 2
Lecture Attendance		Attend weekly lecture	25%	1 and 2
Working Session Participation		Contribute to weekly working sessions	25%	1,2 and 3
Term Project		Produce high quality manifesto (text and visual content)	25%	1,2 and 3

	Assessment and Evaluation Information
	<p>Attendance and Participation Expectations: Attendance and participation in weekly in-person sessions constitutes 75% of the grade and are effectively mandatory. Students are expected to come prepared (completed readings, prepared notes and questions, contribute to class discussions and working sessions)</p> <p>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments: The term project will be due Mon, Feb 20</p> <p>Final Examinations: The final examination comes in the form of the term project (manifesto)</p> <p>Expectations for Writing (https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html):</p> <p>Late Assignments: Late submission of the term project will not be accepted</p>

Grading Scale				
Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	All final grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.

C	2.00	1.85-2.14	60-64.99	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	

A student who receives a "C+" or lower in any one course will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average (GPA) unless the program recommends otherwise. If the program permits the student to retake a failed course, the second grade will replace the initial grade in the calculation of the GPA, and both grades will appear on the transcript.

The School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape will not permit the Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade) for any course offered by the School. (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/salp-3-3.html>)

Topic Areas & Detailed Class Schedule

The course will be broken down into a series of general problems addressed on a weekly basis through a set of assigned readings as follows:

Week 1: *Why so Serious? On the general problem of a lack of humor in architecture*

Week 2: On Architecture's Autonomy Problem

Week 3: On Architecture's Social Problem

Week 4: On Architecture's Visibility Problem

Week 5: On Architecture's Capital Problem

Week 6: On Designing [with] a Sense of Humor

Course Schedule Date	Topic	Assignments/Due Dates
Jan 11	<i>Why so Serious? On the general problem of a lack of humor in architecture</i>	Hays and Bratton readings assigned
Jan 18	On Architecture's Autonomy Problem	Hays and Bratton readings completed; Charlton and Kotsko readings assigned
Jan 25	On Architecture's Social Problem	Charlton and Kotsko readings completed; Grosz and Negarestani readings assigned
Feb 1	On Architecture's Visibility Problem	Grosz and Negarestani readings completed; Koolhaas and Meredith readings assigned
Feb 8	On Architecture's Capital Problem	Koolhaas and Meredith readings completed; Atwood and Zago readings assigned
Feb 15	On Designing [with] a Sense of Humor	Atwood and Zago readings completed
Feb 15	Manifesto	Term Project Due date

University of Calgary Policies and Supports

COVID-19 PROCEDURE FOR SICK STUDENTS: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/covid-19-procedure-for-sick-students>

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY COVID-19 UPDATES:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/covid-19-response>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>

Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor (contact information on first page above).

SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website

at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION:

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPEALS OFFICE: If a student has a concern about a grade that they have received, they should refer to Section I of the Undergraduate Calendar (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>) which describes how to have a grade reappraised. In addition, the student should refer to the SAPL's Procedure for reappraisal of grades

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please visit the Registrar's website at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk