



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE,
PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE

ARCH 672.27: NARRATIVES AND ASSEMBLAGES

Fall 2023

Block Week (November 6-10, 2023), 9:00 – 13:00 hrs. in-person

1.5 credits

Room: TBA

Instructor: Dr. Graham Livesey, livesey@ucalgary.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an elective Block course that examines “narrative” and “assemblage” in the context of architectural theory since the 1970s; both concepts have had a significant impact on architectural debates in recent decades. Both narrative and assemblage will be defined, they provide useful ways for thinking about how buildings exist in time and space. Five texts will be examined and discussed during the course that will also explore related concepts such as event, territory, ecology, garden, boundary, and domesticity. These will be supported by excerpts from well-known films. Students will be required to produce a 1500-word written presentation that interprets a campus building.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Explore recent topics in architectural theory.
2. Develop an understanding of critical architectural discourse to enhance knowledge of contemporary issues and approaches to design.
3. Develop the ability to understand, develop and participate in, and contribute to theoretical discussions while enhancing critical thinking skills.
4. Demonstrate a strong ability to write and present at a graduate level. To develop critical reading, research, and writing skills.

LEARNING RESOURCES/TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

TOPIC AREAS, SCHEDULE, AND READINGS

Monday, November 6	Narrative and Assemblage Theory
Required Readings:	Graham Livesey, “The Role of Figure in Metaphor, Narrative and Architecture,” in Morny Joy, ed., <i>Paul Ricoeur and Narrative: Context and Contestation</i> (Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 1997), pp. 25-34. Graham Livesey, “Assemblage Theory,” in <i>Ecologies of the Early Garden City</i> (Champaign, Ill.: CGRN, 2019), pp. 2-7.
Films:	Tom Tykwer, <i>Run Lola Run</i> (1998). Spike Lee, <i>Do the Right Thing</i> (1989).
Tuesday, November 7	Assemblage Theory and the Garden
Required Reading:	Graham Livesey, “Assemblage theory. Gardens and the Legacy of the Early Garden City Movement,” <i>arq</i> , vol. 15, no. 3 (2011), pp. 271-278.
Film:	Peter Greenaway, <i>The Draughtsman’s Contract</i> (1982).

Wednesday, November 8	Boundary Systems
Required Reading:	Graham Livesey, "Shifting Boundaries in Environments and Organizations," in Diana Masny, ed., <i>Cartographies of Becoming in Education</i> (Rotterdam: Sense Publishers, 2013), pp. 181-192.
Film:	Orson Welles, <i>Touch of Evil</i> (1958).
Thursday, November 9	Domesticity
Required Reading:	Graham Livesey, "From the Infraordinary to the Extraordinary: Georges Perec and Domesticity," <i>arq</i> , vol. 26, no. 3 (2022), pp. 247-253.
Video:	Jean-Pierre Jeunet/Marc Caro, <i>Delicatessen</i> (1991).
Friday, November 10	Student Presentations

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Barbara Kosta, "Tom Tykwer's *Run Lola Run* and the Usual Suspects: The Avant-Garde, Popular Culture, and History," in A.C. Miller, ed, *German Pop Culture: How American is it?* (Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 2004), pp. 165-179.
- DeLanda, Manuel, *A New Philosophy of Society: Assemblage Theory and Social Complexity* (London: Continuum, 2006).
- Livesey, Graham, *Passages: Explorations of the Contemporary City* (Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2004).
- Perec, Georges, *Species of Spaces and Other Pieces* (London: Penguin Books, 1997).
- Pollan, Michael, *Second Nature: A Gardener's Education* (New York: Gove Press, 1995).

BUILDINGS ON CAMPUS

- Child Development Centre (CDC), Kasian
- Energy Environment Experiential Learning Building (EEEL), Perkins & Will and DIALOG
- Schulich School of Engineering (EN), Diamond Schmitt Architects and GGA
- Hunter Student Commons (HNSC) and MacKimmie Tower (MT), DIALOG
- Information and Communications Technology Building (ICT), Barry Johns and Stantec
- International House (IT), Baird Sampson Neuert and Riddell Kurczaba
- Mathison Hall (MTH), Diamond Schmitt Architects and GGA
- Scurfield Hall (SH), Culham Pedersen Valentine
- Taylor Family Digital Library (TFDL), Kasian
- Taylor Institute for Teaching & Learning (TI), Diamond Schmitt Architects and GGA

TEACHING APPROACH

As noted above, the course is divided into topics, each topic is explored through a close reading by the course instructor that investigate specific questions and problems. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions. Students are expected to learn about and contribute toward various developments in contemporary architectural theory and practice. Each student is expected to complete and familiarize themselves with the related text prior to the beginning of the class session to which it is assigned. These sessions are wide-ranging and open-ended in nature so that students are given the opportunity to work out problems and ideas themselves that originate from the assigned texts and lectures. Students will present in the final session an analysis of the narrative and assemblage aspects of a campus building.

ASSESSMENT

The course evaluation is based on participation and an assignment completed during the course including student. The assignment must be completed by its assigned due date to pass the course. Your 1500-word written assignment will be marked for grammatical accuracy, stylistic clarity, and organization as well as for demonstrated

understanding of the topic, logical argumentation, and originality of critical comments. Students are recommended to use the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Students must undertake research that demonstrates an ability to appropriately select and interpret sources (primary versus secondary, print versus digital). Presentations should include supporting imagery (architectural drawings, photographs, etc.).

Class Participation	40%
Class Presentation	60%

CACB STUDENT PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

The following CACB Student Performance Criteria (2017) are covered in this course at a secondary level:

A1. Design Theories, Precedents, and Methods; B1. Critical Thinking and Communication; B3. Architectural Theory; B4. Cultural Diversity and Global Perspectives.

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.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

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 (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf>. 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://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>. Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

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.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION: All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) 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>).

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 AND GENDER BASED 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/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy>.

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