

Portland Urban Architecture Program
University of Oregon

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Architecture 607 Option II Graduate Seminar Fall 2009 – Time: TBA

ARCH 607 GRADUATE SEMINAR

THEORETICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN CONTEMPORARY URBAN ARCHITECTURE

This course encourages your investigation into the theories and writings of contemporary architects and theorists of the 20th and 21st century. We will explore the existing environment to see how theories may influence the world in which we live. The course is speculative as opposed to being purely descriptive and you are encouraged to take risks.

This seminar offers a forum for you to articulate your interest within the field and develop a directed program of study while attending the University of Oregon, Portland Urban Architecture Program.

The first half of the seminar we will meet for urban site visits, discussions, reflection, reading/research. The second half of the seminar will require the student to present a Case Study in the form of research. In this Case Study, each student will develop a hypothesis based on questions that sharpen one's line of inquiry. These questions will be considered through writing, diagramming and documenting. How might this influence one's own design investigations? The course culminates with a written "manifesto" of your ideas and research. The manifesto should reflect your own ideas and concerns about (urban) architecture which also needs to draw on key issues we have studied in class.

The underlying investigation will focus on the natural and built world we live in, on ecology through theories and design as they influence architecture and the urban environment.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will be responsible for doing all the reading/research, participating in all the seminar discussions and making an interesting case study presentation and final manifesto.

COURSE EVALUATION

Participation in all seminar discussions
Quality of case study presentation
Quality of manifesto