Portland Urban Architecture Program
University of Oregon

Kara Adams, Associate Adjunct Professor – kadesign1@clearwire.net
Architecture 607 Option II Graduate Seminar Fall 2010 – Time & day: TBA

ARCH 607 GRADUATE SEMINAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

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 of architecture and develop a directed program of study while attending the University of Oregon, Portland Urban Architecture Program. The theme for this seminar is “The Human Face of Ecology/Economy”. What do we, as individuals and communities, contribute to the natural and built world?

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/writing for the case study, participate in all the seminar discussions, make an interesting case study presentation and a well written final manifesto.

COURSE EVALUATION

Participation in all seminar discussions
Quality of the written case study and verbal presentation
Quality of manifesto

• If your paper is late there will be a penalty: for every day it is late you will receive the deduction of a grade. For example, grade A will be A- (1st day), B+ (2nd day), B, B-, C+, C, C-, etc.

SYLLABUS

ARCH 607 3 Credit Hours

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Learning Goals: The most important skill a student can demonstrate in this course is the ability to do research and write well. The Case Study includes text and images related to the topic. (mid-term) The Final Manifesto requires each student to write about their personal goals in architecture during school and following career. These ideas will be supported by the course reading, site visits and personal experience.

Reading Materials: Reserve books at Portland U of O library, Bibliography - Attached

Resources: U of O and local Libraries, Oregon Historical Society

Calendar/Schedule: TBA, Subject to Revision

Class Attendance: Attendance at all class sessions is required by the Department of Architecture.

Class time TBA. Class members are expected to be in class all hours every meeting day and participate

Do not schedule other classes, meetings or work during this class period. Attendance and being late is recorded each class meeting.

Keep a journal of the class presentations, site visits and discussions in preparation for your final manifesto. This Cell phone use is not allowed during class or site visits!!

Academic Honesty: “All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records.

Evaluation: Observation, research and writing will influence the approach you take to develop the Case Study.

Your perception and awareness of site visits and your Case Study should help you formulate the Final Manifesto of your ideas. Hopefully, you can interrelate them into your studio work.

Your final grade will be based on:

Required:
- Class Attendance and Participation (30%)
- Case Study & Presentation (40%)
- Your Final Manifesto (30%)

- If your paper is late there will be a penalty: for every day it is late. You will receive the deduction of a grade. For example, grade A will be A- (1st day), B+ (2nd day), B, B-, C+, C, C-, etc.

Assignments:
- Case Study (mid-term) 3-5 single spaced pages plus images
- Prologue: (1) 11x17 paragraph and image based story
- Final Manifesto: 3-5 single spaced pages plus images