Course Description

This course is designed as an introduction to the key movements, figures, and debates central to twentieth-century architectural theory and practice internationally from approximately 1850 to the present. The complex and contradictory nature of both Modernism and the subsequent critical challenges and interpretations of the “Crisis of Modernity” is of particular interest in the lectures, discussions and student papers/projects. The course will not attempt to be a complete survey, but will focus on a limited number of specific examples and ideas in their historic contexts.

The primary goals are to provide, 1) a working knowledge of 20th Century precedents and, 2) a set of critical tools that can both inform students’ own design work and guide their careers within the continually evolving field of contemporary architecture. To the extent possible, we will coordinate content and scheduling with the concurrent Graduate Studio and Media classes this quarter, including architectural trips to Portland or elsewhere. Students are asked to participate fully in class schedules, discussions and to engage in required reading/journals and projects.

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