Architecture emerges out of passionate and unending debate. Every design involves theory. Indeed, architects talk as much as they draw. This class will explore the way that theory is produced and deployed at every level of architectural discourse from formal written arguments to the seemingly casual discussions in the design studio. A series of case studies, from Vitruvius through to social media, from ancient treatises on parchment to flickering web pages and tweets, will be used to show how the debate keeps adapting itself to new conditions while preserving some relentless obsessions. Architectural discourse will be understood as a wide array of interlocking institutions, each of which has its own multiple histories and unique effects. How and why these various institutions were put in place will be established and then their historical transformations up until the present will be traced to see which claims about architecture have been preserved and which have changed.

Lecture 1
The Sound of the Architect: Between Words and Drawings
Lecture 2
The Reign of the Classical Treatise: Digesting Vitruvius
Lecture 3
Curriculum as Polemic: Disciplining Architecture from Academy to University
Lecture 4
The Invention of Architectural History: Strategic Narratives
Lecture 5
The Invention of Criticism: Buildings in Review
Lecture 6
Theory as Weapon: System versus Manifesto
Lecture 7
The Canonization of Modern Theory
Lecture 8
Domesticating Discourse: Soft Packages
Lecture 9
Theory on the Couch: Self-Analysis
Lecture 10
Postmodern Theory: Engaging the Other
Lecture 11
The Commodification of Architectural Theory.
Lecture 12
Transgressive Theory: Sciences of Insecurity
Reading List for H.O.T. (Fall 2017)

[Main texts that will be discussed in the lectures plus recommended background reading. Most of the main texts will be on reserve in Avery along with a reader of Xeroxed essays. Original editions of some of the oldest texts can be seen with special care in the Classics Collection room.]

1. The Sound of the Architect: Between Words and Drawings

2. The Reign of the Classical Treatise: Digesting Vitruvius


Background Reading:

3. Curriculum as Polemic: Disciplining Architecture from Academy to University

Ware, William, *An Outline for a Course in Architectural Instruction*, (Boston, 1855).
Ware, William, *The American Vignola*, (Boston, 1902-6).

Background Reading:
4. The Invention of Architectural History: Strategic Narratives


Background Reading:
Potts, Alex, *Flesh and the Ideal: Winckelmann and the Origins of Art History* (New Haven: Yale University, 1994).


5. The Invention of Criticism: Buildings in Review

Camille, Francois (ed), *Journal des bâtiments civils*[1800-].

Daly, Cesar (ed.), *Revue Générale de l'Architecture*[1839-1888].

Background Reading:


6. Theory as Weapon: System versus Manifesto


Semper, Gottfried. *De Stil*[1860-3]. Partial trans. by Harry Francis Mallgrave and Wolfgang Herrmann, as “Style in the Technical and Tectonic Arts or Practical


Background Reading:

7. The Canonization of Modern Theory


Background Reading:
Otto Wagner, Modern Architecture: A Guidebook For His Students to This field of Art [1896] trans. Harry Mallgrave (Santa Monica: Getty Center, 1988).
Giedion, Sigfried, Building in France, Building in Iron, Building in Ferro-Concrete [1928], trans. Sokratis Geogiadis (Santa Monica: Getty Center, 1995).
8. Domesticating Discourse: Soft Packages


Background Reading:
ANY, no. 7/8 (1994), special issue on Colin Rowe.

9. Theory on the Couch: Self-Analysis


Background Reading:

10. Postmodern Theory: Engaging the Other


Background Reading:

11. The Commodification of Architectural Theory


Background Reading:

12. Transgressive Theory: Sciences of Insecurity


Background Reading:
Libero Andreotti--Xavier Costa (eds), Theory of the Derive: And Other Situationist Writings on the City (Barcelona: ACTAR, 1996).
Assemblage 41. [2000] Special issue on the state of critical theory.