

## **ARCHITECTURE 4137 POSTWAR ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM IN THE UNITED STATES: DESIGN, POLITICS, AND HISTORY**

This course examines the rising and falling fortunes of American cities and architecture in the decades following the end of World War II.

Readings draw on the history of architecture and urbanism, the shifting tides of political economy, suburbanization, culture clash, and the various ways architects responded to these forces.

Assignments ask students to critically analyze the urban landscape around them in order to locate and dissect the built legacy of this era and ponder where the discipline and practice of architecture is headed in the future

### **READINGS**

*Variations on a Theme Park : The New American City and the End of Public Space* (New York, 1992)

Michael Sorkin, *Twenty Minutes in Manhattan* (New York, 2009)

*Judging Architectural Value: A Harvard Design Magazine Reader* (Minneapolis, 2007)

Additional Readings on T-Square

John Cheever, *Bullet Park* (New York: Vintage, 1969)

Elaine Tyler May, "The Commodity Gap: Consumerism and the Modern Home"

Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49* (New York: Harper, 1966)

Leland Roth, "Pure Function, Pure Form, 1940-1970"

### **ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

Grades are weighted as follows: attendance AND participation (25%), 3 multi-media research projects, 25% each.

There are three major assignments for this class. The due dates are noted in the syllabus. You will receive a comprehensive handout detailing each assignment in class.

### **CLASS SCHEDULE**

#### **Varieties of Urban Analysis**

Wk 1

Course introduction

The Building as Text

Wk 2

*Variations on a Theme Park*

*Variations on a Theme Park*

Wk 3

*Variations on a Theme Park*

*Variations on a Theme Park*

Wk 4

**EXERCISE 1 DUE**

Wk 5

*Variations on a Theme Park*

Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*

Wk 6

*Judging Architectural Value*

*Judging Architectural Value*

**Suburban Dreams/Critiques**

Wk 7

May, "The Commodity Gap"

Leland Roth, "Pure Function, Pure Form, 1940-1970"

Wk 8

*Judging Architectural Value*

John Cheever, *Bullet Park*

Wk 9 **Fall Break**

*Judging Architectural Value*

**Urban Decline**

Wk 10

**EXERCISE 2 DUE**

**EXERCISE 2 DUE**

Wk 11

*Judging Architectural Value*

*Judging Architectural Value*

Wk 12

*Twenty Minutes in Manhattan*

**Contemporary Urban Analysis**

*Twenty Minutes in Manhattan*

Wk 13

*Twenty Minutes in Manhattan*

*Twenty Minutes in Manhattan*

Wk 14

**EXERCISE 3 DUE**

No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday

Wk 15

*Twenty Minutes in Manhattan*

By request of the Architecture Program Office, the following material is included in all syllabi:

1) Students with disabilities requiring special accommodations are required to obtain an accommodations letter from the ADAPTS Office [[www.adapts.gatech.edu](http://www.adapts.gatech.edu)] to ensure appropriate arrangements. 2) Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For policy information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please see [<http://www.honor.gatech.edu/honorcode/honorcode.html>]. 3) All cell phones are asked to be turned off during class and when entering the Library.

4) Students are asked to complete the online course evaluation of all courses at Georgia Tech at the end of the term. 5) In case of emergency (i.e. fire, accident, criminal act), please call the Georgia Tech Police at 894-2500. Please note that Perry Minyard, IT Support Administrator is a firefighter and an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certified in performing CPR.

6) Student Academic Bill of Rights: [<http://www.registrar.gatech.edu/rules/22.php>]