Architecture & Feminism
ARCH 526

Mondays 10:00am – 12:00pm
Fall 2019
Instructor: Nathan Bullock
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00pm

Description: This course provides an overview of the intersections of feminist theory with architecture and architectural theory with feminist critique. Working through the criticism of feminist theorists and architects to understand the state of the field, students will be able to summarize major arguments, identify lacks in the literature, and apply critical theory to their practice. Increased familiarity with feminist theory will enable students to think critically about architectural theory, history, and design.

This course is equally appropriate for students with little to no background in feminist theory or those who may already be familiar with it. By covering a range of authors who address architecture in multiple forms, times, and geographies, advanced students will be able to dig deeper in engaging those texts with their own practice and criticism. Students will be brought into the major debates at the intersection of feminism and architecture and will become comfortable with terminology, key figures, and schools of thought. By the end of the term, students will be conversant on the leading feminist theorists and have a broader knowledge of architecture.

Assessment
Written Critique  10%
Presentation  10%
Class Participation  20%
First Draft  25%
Final Paper  35%

Students will produce a written critique to one of the works or authors discussed during the course of the semester. Each student will select a different piece of scholarship in the second week and will prepare their written critique in advance of the day of that author’s discussion. On the appropriate day each student will give a brief presentation of that author, the work, and their critique. Students will write one term paper on a topic of their interest which combines feminist theory and the practice of architecture. They will hand in a first draft two weeks before the end of the term to receive feedback as they complete the
final version. Lastly, attendance is expected at each seminar as is active
listening and engagement with classmates in participatory discussion.

Week 1
Architecture and Feminism – Debra Coleman et al. (Ed.)
• Introduction
• “What would a non-sexist city be like?” – Dolores Hayden
• “What is Feminist Architecture?” – Christine Erlemann

Week 2
Discrimination by Design – Leslie Kanes Weisman
“Women’s Environmental Rights” – Leslie Kanes Weisman

Week 3
Sexuality & Space – Beatriz Colomina (Ed.)
“Battle Lines: E.1027” – Beatriz Colomina

Week 4
Architecture from the Outside – Diana Agrest
The Sex of Architecture – Agrest, Weisman & Conway (Eds.)

Week 5
Space, Place and Gender – Doreen Massey
Gender, Space, Architecture – Borden, Rendell, and Penner (Eds.)

Week 6
Design and Feminism – Joan Rothschild (Ed.)
“Toward a Feminist Architecture” – Deborah Fausch
“Feminist Approach to Architecture” – Karen Franck

Week 7
Gender and Architecture – Durning and Wrigley (Eds.)
Gender Studies in Architecture – Dorte Kuhlmann

Week 8
The Practice of Everyday Life – Michel de Certeau
The Death and Life of Great American Cities – Jane Jacobs
“Everyday and ‘Other’ Spaces” – Mary McLeod

Week 9
Building Sex – Aaron Betsky
Feminist Practices: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Women in Architecture – Lori
Brown (ed.)
Week 10
Downcast Eyes – Martin Jay
“Scopic Regimes of Modernity” – Martin Jay

Week 11
Architecture from the Outside – Elizabeth Grosz
Chaos, Territory, Art – Elizabeth Grosz
Space, Time, Perversion – Elizabeth Grosz

Week 12
Irigaray for Architects – Peg Rawes
“Rethinking Modernism: Minority vs. Majority Theories” – Nancy Hartsock
“Woman, Chora, Dwelling” – Elizabeth Grosz
“About Being-Two in an Architectural Perspective: Interview with Luce Irigaray” – Andrea Wheeler