

Global Learning Semesters

Course Syllabus

Course: DES-470 Contemporary Spatial Theories

Department: Design

Host Institution: University of Nicosia, Nicosia, Cyprus



Course Summary		
Course Code	Course Title	Recommended Credit Hours
DES-470	Contemporary Spatial Theories	3
Semester Offered	Contact Hours	Prerequisites
Fall	42	Senior
Department	Level of Course	Language of Instruction
Design	Upper Division	English

Course Description

- Theory
- Prescriptive
- Proscriptive
- Affirmative
- Critical
- What is space?
- Functionalism
- Form/function – Form/meaning
- Postmodernism
- Semiotics
- Deconstruction
- Historicism
- Typology and transformation
- Territories and architecture
- Phenomenology
- Gender and Architecture
- The Social Logic of Space

Instructor

Nadia Charalambous

Course Aims and Objectives

This is a survey course of architectural theory during the last part of the 20th century. The course emphasises the difference between theory and history as well as between theory and criticism. It is pointed out through selected writings that theory operates on different levels of abstraction, evaluating the architectural profession, its intentions and its cultural relevance at large. Recurring architectural themes throughout history that demand resolution, both physically and conceptually, are identified. Physical questions are resolved tectonically, while conceptual or intellectual questions are problematized in the manner of philosophy.

Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through a mixture of lectures, studio presentations, studio tutorials and practical exercises and assignments.

Course Teaching Hours

42 hours . The course is delivered during the Fall semesters in 14-weeks (3 hours/week).

Evaluation and Grading

Homework:	20%
Mid-Term:	30%
Final Exam:	50%

Readings and Resources

Required Textbook

There is no required textbook in this course.

Recommended Reading

Nesbitt, K ed. (1988) Theorizing a new agenda for Architecture; Princeton Architectural Press.