



PH8110: Aesthetics

Winter 2017

Instructor: Dr. Glenn Parsons

Location & Time: Mondays from 3-6 in JOR440

Office Hours: Mondays 11-1, or by chance or appointment

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Course Description

This course surveys work on architecture in recent analytic philosophy. We will begin by discussing the meaning and validity of the widely held view that architectural works, unlike ordinary buildings, are works of art. Other topics to be discussed include the role of ethical concerns in architectural criticism and practice, the meaning of the concept 'function' as applied to architecture, and the ontology of architectural works. A particular focus in the latter half of the course will be the legitimacy of architectural restoration. Readings include essays by Nelson Goodman, Roger Scruton, Allen Carlson, Rafael De Clercq, Dom Lopes, Stephen Davies, and others.

Course Blackboard Page

This course has a D2L page, which you should be able to access through <http://my.ryerson.ca>. Various announcements will be posted there periodically, along with certain class material and, at my discretion, grades. Also note that the authoritative version of the class schedule will be the one on the Blackboard page, and if you are missing class you should check it periodically for updates.

Class Format

This course is a seminar based on group discussion; it is not a lecture course. For it to succeed, it is vital that we all come to class prepared to participate. The amount of weekly reading will not be large but you are expected to have read and thought about it beforehand. To facilitate this, I'll provide a set of discussion questions prior to class. The goal of each class is for us to answer these questions, working as a group (that's not to say we will all agree on the answers). I will be calling on everyone to contribute. If it is apparent that no one has prepared for discussion, do not expect me to present the material for you—I will simply adjourn the class. We will take a 15-20 min break midway through each class.

Texts

Some of the essays that we will be reading this term are available through our library and will be made available for downloading on the course Blackboard page (in pdf format). These texts are free but you are

responsible for the cost of printing them. Texts not available in this format will be distributed, as photocopies, by the instructor. Students are expected to bring the relevant readings to class each week.

Contacting Me/Email

I set aside a specific day of the week to answer student emails, so depending on when you email me you may not get an instant response. Email is fine for quick logistical questions, but if you have a substantial question, you should use the scheduled office hours to come talk to me in person.

Note that, according to Ryerson's academic policy you are required to use, and to monitor, your Ryerson email account for this course. If I need to contact you regarding any official matters (academic misconduct, changes to the course schedule, *e.g.*) I will email your Ryerson account, so please check it periodically. I reserve the right not to respond to non-Ryerson email addresses and my mail filters delete such messages. For information on how to activate your Ryerson email account, go to:

<http://www.ryerson.ca/ccs/myaccounts/activate/index.html>.

Evaluation

Grades will be calculated as follows:

	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Value</i>
Contributions to class discussion	-----	40%
Paper #1 (6-8 pages, or 3000 words)	11:00 pm on March 3rd	30%
Paper #2 (6-8 pages, or 3000 words)	11:00 pm on April 25th	30%

- **Contributions to discussion.** The point of this course is for us to do philosophy as a group. Accordingly, participation is a major component of the course grade. Students will be graded based how well-prepared they are for class, how engaged they are, and how effectively they contribute to the group discussion. Quality of contribution is just as important as quantity, and listening/responding to other's views and suggestions is a part of making an effective contribution.
- **Papers.** You must submit two essays of around 2500-3000 words (roughly 6-8 pages at 2x or 1.5x spacing in MS Word). You are responsible for choosing a topic—I won't provide a list of topics. However, I am happy to chat with you about your potential topic, and I strongly recommend this. Topics must be relevant to the themes and issues arising from the course readings and/or class discussion; papers on irrelevant topics will not be accepted. These are short papers and I encourage you to pick a focused, manageable topic. The two papers must be on different topics.

Also, I will expect that your papers will show engagement with *at least two* relevant philosophical sources beyond the required class readings: papers that do not will receive a lower grade (if your source is long—a whole book for example—talk to me about the 'two source' rule). I will provide a list of

further readings for each topic, and a general bibliography on philosophy of architecture. Finally, papers must conform to the standard stylistic and bibliographic conventions of philosophy papers; I will provide further information on these later in the semester.

- Late Penalties. Essays are due by the time and date indicated; work received after this deadline is late. The penalty for late submission is one letter grade per day (*e.g.* an A+ paper submitted one day late receives an A, a C- paper two days late receives a D, and so on), including weekend days, up to a maximum of seven days. Papers that are more than seven days late will receive a grade of zero. **There are no exceptions to these deadlines** unless there are documented medical or compassionate grounds for an extension (see 'Course Policies' below).
- There is no make-up or bonus work for this course.
- Work will not be returned to anyone except the author (that is, friends cannot pick up your essay).
- Final essay grades will be posted on D2L; final essays will be returned to students once final marks have been submitted.
- Ryerson's academic policy states that "students will receive their final course grades only from the Registrar. Final course grades may not be posted or disclosed anywhere by an instructor" (<http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies/pol145.pdf>). This means that I cannot, under any circumstances, email, or report to you in any other way, your final grade in this course.

Course Policies

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Attendance and Conduct in the Classroom

[Ryerson's Student Code of Non-academic Conduct \(Policy #61\)](#) states that “the University has an obligation to maintain safe and suitable conditions for learning.” Philosophy requires concentration. So, this policy obligates me to ensure that all students who wish to do so can concentrate on the lecture material. Attendance is not mandatory in this course. Those who distract their peers will be asked to keep it down. If the disruption persists, offenders will be asked to leave. If I ask you to leave, you will not be allowed to return to class until I receive a note from your program director asking that you be readmitted (see Policy #61.F.1).

Alternate Arrangements for Missed Exams and Assignments

- Alternate arrangements for missed exams and assignments will normally be granted ONLY for reasons of illness or injury, religious observance, disability and compassionate grounds (see below).
- Alternate Arrangements/Extensions will NOT be granted for the following reasons:
 - Computer failure, loss of work (keep a backup copy of all your work)
 - Social engagements, including family-related events
 - Work schedules
 - Coincident deadlines in other courses
 - Travel other than home-to-school commuting (holidays, cancelled flights, *e.g.*)
- Requests for alternate arrangements will be considered in the following cases:
 1. *Illness/Injury/Compassionate Grounds*. Students must provide, as soon as medically feasible, a completed Ryerson Medical Certificate (obtained at <http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/forms/medical.pdf>) AND an [Academic Consideration form](#). **Submit these forms to your own school or department.** The nature of the alternate arrangement for making up the missing grade is left to the discretion of the instructor. For further details, refer to Ryerson Academic Policy 134, Undergraduate Academic Consideration and Appeals, available at <http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies/pol134.pdf>.
 2. *Religious Observance*. Ryerson policy allows accommodation for religious observances. Requests for such accommodation must be made no later than two weeks prior to the conflict in question and preferably should be made during the first two weeks of class. **Requests must be presented to the student's own program office.** For the appropriate forms and instructions, see <http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/forms/reobservforminstr.pdf>. Ryerson's full policy on Accommodation of Student Religious Observance Obligations is available at <http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies/pol150.pdf>
 3. *Disability*. Academic accommodations will be provided for students with a disability, physical or mental, temporary or permanent, as per Ryerson's [policy #159](#). Students with a diagnosed disability should register with Ryerson [Academic Accommodation Support](#) at the start of the term. Before the first graded work is due, students should inform their instructor, through an “Accommodation Form for Professors”, that they are registered with Academic Accommodation Support. Students who face

an unforeseen disability during the semester may request interim accommodation, pending receipt of documentation, by registering with Academic Accommodation Support.

4. *Compassionate Grounds*. Students unable to complete assignments due to loss of a family member or loved one, or due to personal difficulties that are interfering with their studies, should speak to the instructors as soon as possible. The instructor reserves the right to require documentation, depending upon the circumstances.
- Should a student miss a midterm test or final exam, and have appropriate grounds for an alternate arrangement, make-up tests and/or exams will be arranged according to the Ryerson University Course Management Policy (Policy 145). Please refer to <http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies/pol145.pdf>

Academic Misconduct and Turnitin.com

- Students are reminded that they are required to adhere to all relevant University policies, such as the Student Code of Academic Conduct (available online at: <http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies/pol60.pdf>). This code treats plagiarism (the misrepresentation of someone else's work as your own) as a form of academic misconduct. For detailed information concerning academic misconduct and the relevant penalties, see the Student Code. Note that **the instructor will be distributing information specifying the required citation practices for assignments in this course, and that you are responsible for being aware of and employing this information.** Note also **that it is your responsibility to be aware of what constitutes plagiarism**, and that ignorance of this is not an acceptable excuse. For further information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, go to Ryerson's Academic Integrity website (www.ryerson.ca/ai). This site contains tutorials and quizzes to help you learn about various types of misconduct, as well as a brief [guide to avoiding plagiarism](#).
- Ryerson University subscribes to Turnitin.com, an on-line service that evaluates the originality of written work. Students agree that by taking this course, they are aware that all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Detailed instructions on submitting written work to Turnitin will be provided. Note that you are required to use an official Ryerson email account when submitting to Turnitin.com: assignments from other email addresses (yahoo, e.g.) will not be accepted. In accordance with Ryerson's academic policy, students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must, by the end of the second week of classes, consult with the instructor to make alternate arrangements. Also, students should be aware that "when an instructor has a reason to suspect that an individual piece of work has been plagiarized, the instructor shall be permitted to submit that work to any plagiarism detection service", including Turnitin.com. For more information, see Ryerson's Course Management Policy, Section 4.3.a, available at <http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies/pol145.pdf>.
- Students should be aware that the instructor reserves the right to conduct an oral examination on the contents of any submitted assignment.
- Ryerson's Examination policy prohibits the bringing of any electronic device, such as a cell phone, PDA, or other such device, into any test or examination. This policy will be enforced in this course.

Tentative Course Schedule:

This schedule is subject to change. Readings are available as pdf files through the course D2L page, unless marked (*). The latter will be distributed by the instructor.

Week	Date	Topic	Papers for Discussion	Events
1	M16 Jan	No Class (Parsons is away)		
2	M23 Jan	Course Introduction/ Architecture vs. Building: Formalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott, excerpts from <i>The Architecture of Humanism</i>* • Graham, "Aestheticism"* 	
3	M30 Jan	Architecture vs Building: Meaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goodman, "How Buildings Mean" • Weber, excerpts from "The Myth of Meaningful Forms"* • Lageux, excerpts from "Nelson Goodman and Architecture"* 	
4	M 6 Feb	Architecture vs Building: Form & Function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graham, "Art and Architecture" • Sauchelli, "Functional Beauty and Architecture"¹ 	
5	M 13 Feb	The Ecological Approach to Architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carlson "The Aesthetic Appreciation of Everyday Architecture" • Carlson, "An Objection to the Ecological Approach"* 	

¹ Section I of "Functional Beauty, Architecture, and Morality: A Beautiful *Konzentrationslager*?"

Reading Week (Feb 20-24)				
6	Feb 27	Ethics of Architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carroll, "Architecture and Ethics: Autonomy, Aesthetics, Art"* Sauchelli, "Functional Beauty, Architecture, and Morality: A Beautiful <i>Konzentrationslager</i>?" (sections II and III) 	Paper #1 due on Friday March 3rd
7	Mar 6	Ethics of Architecture	<p>Visit by Tom Spector (Oklahoma State) Reading TBA</p>	
8	Mar 13	What is the function of a building?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parsons, "Fact and Function in Architectural Criticism" Preston, Excerpt from <i>A Philosophy of Material Culture</i>* 	
9	Mar 20	The Ontology of Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wolheim, excerpts from <i>Art and its Objects</i>* Currie, "Art Works and Action Types"* 	
10	Mar 27	Ontology and Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wicks, "Architectural Restoration: Resurrection or Replication?" Savile, "The Lamp of Memory" 	
11	Apr 3	Ontology and Culture: the <i>Shikinen Sengu</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lopes, "<i>Shikinen Sengu</i> and the Ontology of Architecture in Japan" De Clercq, "Lopes on the ontology of Japanese shrines" 	
12	Apr 10	Open class: Topic to be determined	TBA	Paper #2 is due April 25th