

AR-522

**Difficult Double: Trouble with Classicists**

Geers Kersten

Cursus	Sem.	Type
Architecture	MA2, MA4	Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	3
Session	Summer
Semester	Spring
Exam	Oral
Workload	90h
Weeks	12
<b>Hours</b>	<b>2 weekly</b>
Courses	2 weekly
<b>Number of positions</b>	

**Summary**

The second iteration of this lecture series will continue to tackle the notion of 'the classical', its possible reinterpretation and future. Despite the prevailing idiosyncratic formalisms in contemporary architecture, our aim is to investigate the possibility of a design theory, beyond naiveté.

**Content**

*Trouble with Classicists* course will again include a range of architects, artists and theoreticians, with an ambition to challenge the typical significance of the term 'classic'. We plan to invite eight lecturers, whose names will be confirmed at the beginning of the semester. Apart from the public lectures, we will organize internal lectures and readings of texts included in the course reader, a copy of which will be given to all the students who apply to the course.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Analyze the projects presented during the lectures in the context of the general theme.
- Consider the relevance of the overall discourse in developing their design theories and skills.
- Develop an argument to support his/her own position.
- Articulate a critical stance within the general debate.
- Formulate an original hypothesis.

**Transversal skills**

- Give feedback (critique) in an appropriate fashion.
- Demonstrate the capacity for critical thinking

**Teaching methods**

Series of lectures by selected international architects, artists and theoreticians and active discussions and readings with students moderated by the professor and assistants.

**Expected student activities**

Students are asked to attend the lectures and actively participate in the debate. During the semester they will also need to read a given selection of texts, in order to develop a broader scope of knowledge. The exam at the end of the semester will be an oral discussion between a small group of students and the professor / assistants. Students are expected to demonstrate a critical position and original ideas concerning the subject and they will be evaluated on the basis of their arguments, rather than factual memorizing.

**Assessment methods**

The final grade will be assessed on the basis of the oral exam, but a considerable contribution to this mark will be the student's activity throughout the whole semester - participation in the debates, willingness to pose questions or express opinion.

**Supervision**

Office hours	Yes
Assistants	Yes

**Resources****Virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI)**

No

**Websites**

- <http://form.epfl.ch/page-105152-en.html>