UNIVERSITY of NICOSIA

University of Nicosia, Cyprus
ARCH-512 Critical Practice

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits	
ARCH-512	Critical Practice	10	
Department	**Semester**	**Prerequisites**	
Architecture	Fall	None	
Type of Course	**Field**	**Language of Instruction**	
Required	MA Architecture	English	
Level of Course	**Year of Study**	**Lecturer**	
2nd cycle	1st	Eleonore Zippelius	
Mode of Delivery	**Work Placement**	**Co-requisites**	
Face – to - face	N/A	None	

Objectives of the Course:

- To research and study the intersection of design and society, politics, economics, culture and environment
- To cross disciplinary boundaries and develop a trans-disciplinary, holistic approach
- To challenge the conventions of design practice and reevaluate and rework the tenets of sustainability thinking
- To foster creative, process based thinking and action
- To increase the agency of design and other disciplines
- To rethink and expand the role of designers outwards

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:
- to critically question economic and political change, technological innovation and social and cultural transformation
- to understand design within a wider and more complex set of dynamics of processes and networks
- to demonstrate knowledge of the concepts, values, and practices of other disciplines
- to demonstrate knowledge of relational systemic processes
- to develop constructive and transformative concepts
- to apply an inquiry-based approach to learning and knowledge production

Course Contents:

1. Charles Jencks theory of evolution: the evolutionary tree
2. Times of constant change, innovation and transformation
3. Architecture as interface
4. Scarcity and austerity (politics, economy and environmental ressources)
5. Globalising forces and architecture by none architects
6. Branding, mass culture, mass production and the ruling taste

7. Power, culture, and collective identities
8. Critical regionalism, deconstruction and projective practices
9. Oxymorons and the reconciliation of seemingly opposed forces (Natural Capitalism)
10. Eco-system approach: Homeostasis, feedback loops and resilience

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, guest lectures, workshops, group discussions

Assessment Methods:

Assignments based on case studies and literature reviews

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Dinur B.	Interweaving Architecture and Ecology – A Theoretical Perspective Or: What can architecture learn from ecological systems?	Conference 'Design out of complexity', London	2005	
Frampton K.	Towards a critical regionalism: six points for an architecture of resistance,	In Foster H., Postmodern Culture, Pluto Press	1985	0745300030
Goodbun J.	Mediating the Ecological and the Neurological: An Architecture of the Extended Mind	Conference `Spatial Thinking II`, Innsbruck	2012	
Jencks C.	2000 July: Jencks' Theory of Evolution, an Overview of 20th Century Architecture	The Architectural Review	2011	
Jones P., Card K.	Constructing Social Architecture: The Politics of Representing	Architectural Theory Review, Volume 16, Issue 3, Taylor & Francis	2011	10.1080/13264826.2011.621543

	Practice			
Jones P., Delanty G.	European Identity and Architecture	European Journal of Social Theory Volume 5, Issue 4, Sage Publications	2002	
Lefaivre L., Tsonis A.	Critical Regionalism: Architecture and Identity in a Globalised World	Prestel	2003	3791329723
Sassen S.	A Sociology of Globalization	W. W. Norton & Company	2007	0393927261
Till J.	Scarcity contra Austerity	The Design Observer Group	2012	
van Toorn R.	Aesthetics as Form of Politics	In Seijdel J., Melis L. (ed), Open! Art, Culture & the Public Domain, Key Texts 2004 – 2012, nai010 publishers	2012	978-94-6208-003-4