Marmara University Faculty of Architecture
School of Architecture and Design
2026-2027 Fall Semester

Course Title	Code	Semester	Hour (T+P)	Credit	ECTS
A Vocabulary of Modern Architecture	ARCH 221	1	2+0	2	3
Prerequisities	-				
Language of Instruction	English				
Course Type (Required / elective)	Elective				
Course Coordinator	Prof. Dr. Nicole Kançal-Ferrari				
Instructor /e-mail	nicole.kancalferrari@gmail.com				
Assistanst	Furkan Sağdıç				
Goals	The course aims to provide students with conceptual, historical and linguistic tools, with which they can read modern architecture.				
Learning Outcomes	1. Literary and metaphorical thinking of architecture 2. Ability to read, discuss and interpret modern architecture. 3. Conceptualizations of modern architecture				
Course Content	The course will cover theoretical background to the emergence of modern architectural notions within 19th and 20th century discourses. The course will undertake discussion of these notions through examples of modern architecture and trace the history of their uses through the course of 20th and 21st centuries.				
Assessment Criteria	**Assessment Components (components are subject to change if previously announced)**				
	Mid-Term (Participation, Weekly Studies and 2 Response Papers, 2x %20)	% 40			
	Final (Response Paper %20 and Presentation and Poster Submission %40)	% 60			
	TOTAL	%100			

WEEKLY TOPICS AND PREPARATIONS **The weekly topics and reading resources are subject to change according to the instructor's preferences**		
Weeks	**Topics**	**Initial Studies**
Week 1	**Introduction: Modern in Architecture and Language - How does architecture communicate? Art of Literary Thinking (Architecture in the young Turkish Republic)**	Forty, Adrian. 2004. Words and buildings pp.13-20 (introduction) Secondary reading: Sibel Bozdoğan,2002. Modernism and Nation Building: Turkish Architectural Culture in the Early Republic, pp. 3-15 (introduction)
Week 2	**An Architectural Dictionary**	Zevi, Bruno. 1994. The modern language of architecture. New York: Da Capo Press. Pp. 3-6 (Introduction)
Week 3	**Form, Gestalt, Le Corbusier, Frank Lloyd Wright**	Le Corbusier. (1923). Vers une architecture. Paris: Les Editions G. Cres et cie. Trans. 1927. Towards a new architecture. Chicago: Harcourt. pp. 1-8 (Argument) pp. 21- 64 (Mass, Surface, Plan)
Week 4	**Space, Perception and Mies van der Rohe**	Zevi, Bruno. 1957. Architecture as Space: How to Look at Architecture. New York: Horizon Press. pp. 22-44.
Week 5	**Context: From Genius Loci to Humanitarianism**	Norberg-Schulz, Christian. 1979. Genius loci: towards a phenomenology of architecture. New York: Rizzoli. Read the 2nd topic "2. The Structure of Place", pp. 11-18 and **produce a critical text/interpretation of 800 words in length. (Times New Roman, 11, spacing 1.5)**

Week 6	**User, Function, Functionalism, Flexibility**	De Zurko, Edward Robert. 1957. Origins of functionalist theory. N.Y: Columbia Univ. Press. pp.3-14
Week 7	**Expression, Daniel Liebeskind, Frank Gehry**	Mitias, Michael H. 1994. Philosophy and architecture. Amsterdam [u.a.]: Olms. pp. 85-106 (Expression in Architecture). Architecture is a Language: Daniel Libeskind at TEDxDUBLIN https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yEkDosanxGk Choose a TEDx on contemporary architecture and write your second response paper and produce a critical text/interpretation of 800 words in length. (Times New Roman, 11, spacing 1.5)
Week 8	**MIDTERM**	**Evaluation of Reading Response Papers**
Week 9	**Atmospheres**	Zumthor, Peter. 2006. Peter Zumthor: atmospheres: architectural environments, surrounding objects. Basel: Birkhäuser, pp. 19-63
Week 10	**Movement, Sequence, Scenography, Bernard Tschumi**	Tschumi, Bernard. 1996. Architecture and Disjunction. Boston: MIT Press. pp 154-168 (Sequences).
Week 11	**Façade, Pastiche, Sign-- Robert Venturi**	Robert Venturi, Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture, Perspecta, Vol. 9. (1965), pp. 17-56. Read pp. 18-21.
Week 12	**Contemporary Issues in Architecture: the 21st century**	Alexander Eisenschmidt, Engaging the Contemporary World Companion to the History of Architecture IV: Twentieth Century Architecture (Wiley, 2017), pp. 3-9.
Week 13	**Perspectives in Contemporary Architecture**	**Produce a critical text/interpretation of 800 words in length. (Times New Roman, 11, spacing 1.5) out of the readings of week 9-12)**
Week 14	**Student Presentations and Discussion** **Final Submission**	**Reading of a Modern Building of Your Choice, using the notions of form, function, space, context expression and poster submission** **Poster Submission**

REFERENCES

Main Textbooks
-Forty, Adrian. 2004. Words and buildings: a vocabulary of modern architecture. New York: Thames & Hudson.
Secondary Textbooks
-David Leatherbarrow (ed.) Companion to the History of Architecture IV: Twentieth Century Architecture (Wiley, 2017)
-Eckler, James. 2012. Language of space and form: generative terms for architecture. Hoboken: Wiley.
-Kenneth Frampton, Charles Correa and David Robson, Modernity and Community: Architecture in the Islamic World, (Thames & Hudson, 2001).

ECTS / WORKING HOUR TABLE

Activities	Number of Weeks	Duration (Hour)	Working Hours
Duration of the Course (Including Exams: 14 x Total Weekly Course Hour)	14	2	28
Extracurricular Working Hour (Preparatory Work, Review,Internet studies etc.)	14	3	42
Homeworks and Presentations	1	10	10
Final Exam	1	10	10
Working Hours in Total			90
Working Hours in Total / 30			30
ECTS Credit of the Course			3