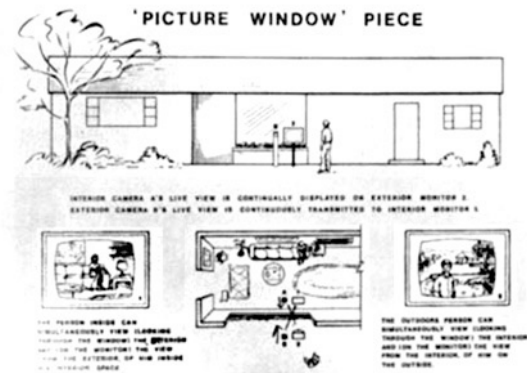


**AHST 3320 Section 501
Course in Contemporary Art
Kinetics of Urban Sprawl
Dr. Charissa N. Terranova
Spring 2008
Monday, 7:00-9:45**

office location- JO 5.404
office hours- Monday 4:00-7:00
terranova@utdallas.edu



John Baldessari, National City Blvd, 1996



Dan Graham, Picture Window Piece, 1974

This course is a lecture survey that focuses on the movement, transformation, and cultural production -- or "kinetics" -- of urban sprawl. Lectures will focus on the following subjects: Pop art and domesticity, Conceptual art and the automobile, the Federal Highway Act of 1956 and Eisenhower's "Military Industrial Complex" speech of 1961, urban sprawl as a military defense mechanism, Case-Study houses in Los Angeles, Eichler Homes in San Francisco, Levittown, films of Charles and Ray Eames, the highway aesthetic of Eero Saarinen's architecture, Russel Wright and the invention of "lifestyle," and Googie architecture. The final portion of the class will be devoted to a discussion of the automobile, highway, and urban sprawl in terms of cybernetics and the idea of a cybernetic totality.

Goals of Course

- Learn and engage the history of postwar urbanization and its cultural and political ramifications.
- Learn and engage the history of postwar modernism in the field of home and industrial design.
- Learn and engage the history of Pop Art and Conceptualism.
- Learn and engage the discourse of cybernetics.
- Learn how to think critically about contemporary art and architecture, and its cultural and political ramifications.
- Learn how to identify the salient and successfully formal components of a work of art, whether a painting, work of conceptual art, or a performance.
- Habituate close and analytical reading of texts.
- Hone critical writing skills through two short written assignments.
- Habituate engagement with the arts community of DFW through assigned visits to a museum and gallery.

Requirements

Attendance is mandatory. After two unexcused absences, your grade will be lowered by one-half of a letter grade for each subsequent unexcused absence. You are required to attend every lecture that is scheduled on the syllabus and complete the assigned reading prior to class.

Quizzes, Exams, Assignments and Grading

Your grade is calculated based on the following:

- 1.) Weekly in-class quiz on assigned reading. At the beginning of each class, you will be given one question based on the reading assignment to be answered in no more than one paragraph. 30% of your final grade
- 2.) Mid-term and final exam. There will be two exams, a mid-term on March 3 and final on May 5. The exams will consist of slide identification, multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank and matching. The exam material will be culled from the lectures, reading assignments and class discussions. The final exam will be cumulative. 40% of your final grade; 20% each
- 3.) Three two-page written assignments: 30% of your final grade; 10% each.

- Assignment #1 **Due February 18** The Wendy and Emery Reeves Collection is located on the third floor of the Dallas Museum of Art. Please write a 2-page analysis of the interior of the couple's bedroom. Your analysis should describe the setting not in terms of "beauty" conventionally understood but in terms of "taste" as a construct of political economy. I want you to think about how the space of their bedroom signifies in terms of class and social structure, or how "beauty" in this instance is a matter of "taste" – and the display of luxury and collected objects.
- Assignment #2 **Due March 31** Please take a photograph through your car or DART window while on the road. Identify where you were when you took the image. Using digital technology, glue or adhesive tape, upload or mount the photograph to your paper and describe the experience of seeing the landscape from the automobile. Your essay may describe the architecture, roads, highways, frame of the automobile, others in surrounding cars and on street corners, and the space-time experience of movement through the landscape.
- Assignment #3 **Due April 28** Please choose a neighborhood in the city, identify it by photograph and street or area name and explain how it constitutes an "automotive ecology."

Books for Purchase

The reading assignments are on reserve except for the following three texts, which are available for you at the bookstore:

- 1.) William Gibson, *Neuromancer*.
- 2.) Reyner Banham, *Los Angeles: the Architecture of Four Ecologies*
- 3.) Marshall McLuhan, *Understanding Media: the Extensions of Man*

Reserve Readings

All additional course readings are available through Electronic Course Reserves. You may access those readings at the following URL using the password "sprawl."

<http://utdallas.docutec.com/eres/coursepage.aspx?cid=370>

Film Lab/Film Screenings

You will have four days where you have mandatory film labs, screenings outside of the class of assigned films to be discussed the following week in class. Exact time, date and location are TBA. The film labs are as follows:

- 1.) Week of January 28: Screening of Film and Film Clips by Charles and Ray Eames
- 2.) Week of April 7: Screening of Film: *Falling Down*
- 3.) Week of April 14: Screening of Film: *Blade Runner*
- 4.) Week of April 21: Screening of Film: *Death Proof* from *Grindhouse*

Field Trip Policies Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow the institution's copyright policy (Policy Memorandum 84-I.3-46). For more information about the fair use exemption, see <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm>

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

disabilityservice@utdallas.edu

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with the Coordinator of Disability Services. The Coordinator is available to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Services to notify them of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. Disability Services can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

Policy on Make-ups, Lateness, and Attendance

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. If you will not be able to attend a specific session, you must make arrangements with another student to get copies of notes, etc. You are allowed two unexcused absences, after which your grade will be lowered one half grade. Assignments must be turned in on time; for each 24-hour period an assignment is late, one full grade will be deducted (e.g., an "A" paper will become a "B" paper). Appropriate medical and family excuses will be accepted in order to establish new dates for assignments. Make-ups for the Final Exam will require substantial justification. Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity will be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.

Schedule

January 7: Introduction: "Sprawl," origin of a word

- 1.) John Brinckerhoff Jackson, "Jackson, Thoreau & After," in *Landscapes: Selected Writings of John Brinckerhoff Jackson*, pp. 1-9 e-reserve
- 2.) Denise Scott Brown and Robert Venturi, "The Highway," catalogue essay from *The Highway*, exhibition January 14-February 25, 1970, pp. 9-18, e-reserve

Highways, Sprawling Urbanism, and the New Domestic Frontier

January 14: Sprawl: Urbanism in Defense

- 1.) Dwight D. Eisenhower, "Military-Industrial Complex Speech," <http://coursesa.matrix.msu.edu/~hst306/documents/indust.html>
- 2.) Galison, Peter, "War against the Center," *Grey Room* 4, Summer 2001, 6-33, available at JSTOR

January 21: Martin Luther King Day: No Class

January 28: Interiors, Woman, and Pop!: Tom Wesselmann, Mel Ramos, and Andy Warhol

- 1.) Andreas Huyssen, "Mass Culture as Woman: Modernism's Other," in *Studies in Entertainment: Critical Approaches to Mass Culture*, Modleski, Tania, and Kathleen Woodward, eds., *Theories of Contemporary Culture*, Series No: 7, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp. 188-207 e-reserve
- 2.) Beatriz Colomina, "Cold War/Hothouses," in *Cold War Hothouses: Inventing Postwar Culture from Cockpit to Playboy*, pp. 10-21 e-reserve
- 3.) FILM LAB: Screening of Film and Film Clips by Charles and Ray Eames

February 4: Prefabrication and Postwar Prosperity: Levittown and the Case-Study Houses

- 1.) Neil Jackson, "Metal-Frame Houses of the Modern Movement in Los Angeles: Part 1: Developing a Regional Tradition," *Architectural History*, Vol. 32 (1989) 152-172, available at JSTOR
- 2.) Neil Jackson, "Metal Frame Houses of the Modern Movement in Los Angeles: Part 2: The Style that Nearly..." , Vol. 33 (1990) 167-187, available at JSTOR
- 3.) Herbert J. Gans, *The Levittowners*, 3-12; 153-184 e-reserve

February 11: Prefabrication and Postwar Prosperity: The Eichler Homes, Charles and Ray Eames, and George Nelson

- 1.) Paul Schrader, "Poetry of Ideas: The Films of Charles Eames," *Film Quarterly*, Vol. 23, No. 3 (Spring 1970) 2-19, available at JSTOR
- 2.) Beatriz Colomina, "Enclosed by Images: The Eameses' Multimedia Architecture," *Grey Room*, No. 2 (Winter, 2001) 5-29 available at JSTOR
- 3.) Paul Adamson, "Modern Architecture and Everyday Life," in *Eichler/Modernism Rebuilds the American Dream*, 20-40 e-reserve

February 18: Strip Architecture and Lifestyle: Googie, Las Vegas, and Russel Wright

- 1.) Alan Hess, *Googie Redux: Ultramodern Roadside Architecture*, 22-25; 44-65; 134-157; 168-177 e-reserve
- 2.) Venturi, Robert, Steven Izenour, and Denise Scott Brown, *Learning from Las Vegas*, 3-12; 87-103 e-reserve
- 3.) Russel and Mary Wright, *Guide to Easier Living*, 1-10; 124-163 e-reserve
- 4.) **Written Assignment #1 due**

February 25: The Suburban Campus and Highway Aesthetic: The Architecture of Eero Saarinen

- 1.) Reinhold Martin, *The Organizational Complex: Architecture, Media and Corporate Space*, 14-41; 122-155 e-reserve
- 2.) Marshall McLuhan, *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man* (MIT Press, 1994) 3-21; 217-225

March 3: Mid-term Exam

March 10: Spring Break: No Class

Perception, Conceptualism, and the Double Aperture

March 17: Conceptualism as Aesthesis: Dan Graham and Robert Smithson

- 1.) Leo Steinberg, "Flat-bed Picture Plane" excerpt in "Other Criteria," *Other Criteria: Confrontations with Twentieth-Century Art*, 82-91 e-reserve
- 2.) Lucy Lippard, *Six Years: The Dematerialization of the Art Object from 1966 to 1972*, vii-xxii; 5-9 e-reserve
- 3.) Smithson, Robert, "A Tour of the Monuments of Passaic, New Jersey," *Artforum*, December 1967 e-reserve

March 24: Conceptualism as Aesthesis: John Baldessari, Dennis Hopper, and Ed Ruscha

- 1.) Alexander Alberro, *Conceptual Art and the Politics of Publicity*, 1-59 e-reserve

March 31: Conceptualism as Aesthesis: Jeff Wall, Paul McCarthy and Richard Prince

- 1.) Alexander Alberro, *Conceptual Art and the Politics of Publicity*, 60-122 e-reserve
- 2.) **Writing Assignment #2 Due**

Cyborgs, Cybernetics, and the Automotive Prosthetic

April 7: In-Class Film: *Duel*

- 1.) FILM LAB: Screening of Film: *Falling Down*

April 14: Los Angeles: Automotive Ecology

- 1.) Reyner Banham, *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*, 3-38; 77-92; 143-160; 195-204
- 2.) Gregory Bateson, *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*, 502-513 e-reserve
- 3.) Robert M. Keesing, Review of Gregory Bateson's *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*, in *American Anthropologist*, New Series, Vol. 76, No. 2 (June 1974) 370-372, available at JSTOR
- 4.) Bob Turner, Review of Gregory Bateson's *Mind and Nature*, in *RAIN*, No. 36 (Feb. 1980) 11-12, available at JSTOR
- 5.) FILM LAB: Screening of Film: *Blade Runner*

April 21: Cybernetics and the Cyborg Body

- 1.) William Gibson, *Neuromancer*
- 2.) FILM LAB: Screening of Film: *Death Proof* from *Grindhouse*

April 28: Prosthetic Bodies

- 1.) Marshall McLuhan, *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man* (MIT Press, 1994) reread 3-21; 56-61; 77-105; 284-296; 308-360
- 2.) Sarah S. Jain, "The Prosthetic Imagination: Enabling and Disabling the Prosthetic Trope," *Science, Technology, & Human Values*, Vol. 24, No. 1 (Winter 1999) 31-54, available at JSTOR
- 3.) Elizabeth Grosz, "Prosthetic Objects," in *Time Travels: Feminism, Nature, Power*, chapter 9, pp. 145-205 [??? Uncertain about final page number of chapter] e-reserve
- 4.) **Written Assignment #3 Due**

May 5: Final Exam: 7:00 p.m.