TECHNOLOGY. What strikes the eye of the passerby as a growth or entropy is technology, that is, information. Since cities no longer lie within the panopticon of the cathedral or castle and can no longer be enclosed by walls or fortifications, a network made up of intersecting networks dissects and connects the city–in particular its fringes, peripheries, and tangents. Regardless of whether these networks transmit information (telephone, radio, television) or energy (water supply, electricity, highway), they all represent forms of information.   Friedrich Kittler, The City as a Medium

This seminar uses the close reading approach to study selected texts by contemporary philosophers. The selection of philosophers is based on their reference to architectural and urban themes. What is meant by close reading? This approach will use small chapters and shorter texts to gain access to the approach. Rather than reading vast quantities of material, the class will look at fragments and discuss the content. This will give students an opportunity to pursue reading in greater depth during thesis. Texts will be selected by students during the first seminar. The second seminar will present several of the philosophers work available as streamed video by Tate Modern, and ubu.com, for example. The order of the seminars will be determined as a function of student selection of texts. Currently most of the selections are available as digital copies. It may be possible to add additional texts.

Texts, and excerpts, by the following contemporary philosophers will be available for close reading.
Giorgio Agamben   The Man without Content
Roland Barthes   The Eiffel Tower
Walter Benjamin   Passages (Excerpt), 'The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction', 'The Author as Producer.' Reflections, Illuminations

Pierre Bourdieu   Distinction
Benjamin Buchloh   The Blade Runner Situation/Option
Judith Butler   What is Critique? An Essay on Foucault's Virtue
Michel de Certeau   The Practice of Everyday Life
Jacques Derrida   Of Hospitality
Giles Deleuze   The Logic of Sense Chapters 1,2
Michel Foucault   Of Other Spaces - Heterotopia
Boris Groys   The Artist as Consumer
Harold Innis   Bias of Communication
Friedrich Kittler   The City is a Medium, Gramophone, Film, Typewriter
      On the Implementation of Knowledge–Toward a Theory of Hardware
      There is no Software
Siefried Kracauer,   Cult of Distraction: On Berlin's Picture Palaces
Jacques Lacan   Seminars, Television

BrunoLatour   A Cautious Prometheus: a Few Steps Towards a Philosophy of Design with
      Special Attention to Sloterdijk
Jean-François LyotardLibidinal Economy
Marshall McLuhan
Jean-Luc Nancy   The Sublime Offering
Jacques Rancière   The Emancipated Spectator
Avital Ronell
Peter Sloterdijk   Airquakes, from Spheres III Foam
      Forward to the Theory of Spheres
      Geometry in the Colossal: the project of Metaphysical Globalization
      Spheres Theory Talking to myself about the poetics of space
Cornel West   Cornelwest.com
Slavoj Zizek   The Thing from Inner Space
Astra Taylor,   The Examined Life, 2008 90 min. http://www.nfb.ca/film/examined-life-trailer/

Arch 68X38X Fall 2010 **Philosophy in Architecture, Architecture in Philosophy**

Reference to contemporary philosophy is common in many architectural thesis programmes – familiar references to the 'folds' or 'rhizome' of Deleuze, etc. Less familiar, perhaps, are the texts by Friedrich Kittler that connect the history of technology with current media issues – 'media theory'. And while the three-volume work *Spheres*, by Peter Sloterdijk remains untranslated from the German, various chapters are available, and his writing addresses architecture directly, if in an idiosyncratic manner. This seminar gives the students access to a broad range of discourses in philosophical texts. Peter Sloterdijk, for example, has written of the significance of the Crystal Palace by William Paxton, placing an emphasis that may or may not be reflected in contemporary architectural discourse.

End of Term Submission:
Because contemporary 'media philosophy' relies on visuals, students may choose to create a set of diagrammes, graphs, and schemas in their final project. The final submission may include a proportion of such images accompanying a series of short essays, preferably 5 graphic diagrammes along with approximately 1000 words of short texts with titles – thus a sample format might be 5 diagrammes captioned with 200 word paragraphs. additional submission elements required for graduate students.

Outline of weekly events: Readings will be posted digitally
Week 1 Introduction and discussion
Week 2 Seminar: Media Philosophy Video Excerpt and Seminar
Week 3 Video Excerpt- Lacan, Sloterdijk, and Seminar presentations
Week 4 Seminar Kittler, Sloterdijk, McLuhan, Innis Seminar presentations
Week 5 Seminar presentations
Week 6 Possibilities for Projects Presentations Seminar
Week 7 Seminar presentations
Week 8 Seminar presentations
Week 9 Seminar presentations
Week 10 Seminar presentations
Week 11 Preliminary Project Presentation Seminar
Week 12 Preliminary Project Presentation Seminar

COURSE EVALUATION Scheme: Late submissions may have marks deducted if submitted after the deadline.
20% Lead seminar presentation of selected readings.
10% Class participation in weekly seminar discussion.
10% Questions prepared ahead of Weekly Reading
10% Presentation of issues addressed in Final Project, relating to thesis topic, to include abstract, table of contents, selected research and authored images: diagrammes,word clouds, graphs, text outline, annotated bibliography.
50% Final Presentation and Project Submission

1 OMA RAK 2 Jonathan Schipper 3 *Alexander Exploring Underwater*, unknown artist, northern France, 1290s. From *Romance of Alexander* (*Roman d'Alexandre*). Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Kupferstichkabinett. Ms. 78 C 1, fol. 67. Photo: Bildarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz / Art Resource, NY

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ to avoid committing an academic offense, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate Associate Dean.For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances) (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for or an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals) www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm

Notes for Students with Disabilities: The office of Person with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Penalty: No extensions will be given on presentations scheduled in class, and students who fail to present will be given a grade of 0%. Students who hand in their paper late will be penalized. There will be a penalty for papers handed in after the deadline. An additional penalty per day will be deducted for each calendar day after the deadline. Papers submitted after December 15 will be given a grade of 0%.