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 is a Medium

This seminar uses close reading to study selected texts by contemporary philosophers. The selection of philosophers is based on their architectural and urban themes. What is meant by close reading? This approach will use brief 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.
Students will select texts by during the first seminars. The second seminar will present several of the philosophers work available as streamed video by websites Tate Modern, and ubu.com, for example, referencing many interviews with contemporary philosophers. 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 by the following contemporary philosophers will available for close reading:

Giorgio Agamben	The Man without Content, What is an Apparatus, Friends
Hannah Arendt	Rosa Luxembourg
Roland Barthes	The Eiffel Tower
Georges Bataille	The Notion of Expenditure
Walter Benjamin	Passages (Excerpt), 'The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction', 'The Author as Producer.' Reflections, Illuminations
Pierre Bourdieu	Distinction (excerpts)
Benjamin Buchloh	The Blade Runner Situation
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	
Friedrich Kittler	The City is a Medium, There is no Software, Gramophone, Film, Typewriter On the Implementation of Knowledge–Toward a Theory of Hardware
Siefried Kracauer,	Cult of Distraction: On Berlin's Picture Palaces
Jacques Lacan	Seminars
Bruno Latour	A Cautious Prometheus...Towards a Philosophy of Design... Peter Sloterdijk
Jean-François Lyotard	Libidinal Economy
Marshall McLuhan	The Medium is the Message
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	http://www.cornelwest.com/ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zwmum5_ofU
Slavoj Zizek	The Thing from Inner Space, Architectural Parallax

Astra Taylor,   The Examined Life, 2008 90 min. DVD http://www.nfb.ca/film/examined-life-trailer/

Arch 385/684 Fall 2012 **Philosophy in Architecture**   University of Waterloo Architecture

Reference to contemporary philosophy is common in many architectural thesis programmes – familiar references to the 'folds' or 'rhizome' of Deleuze, etc. Less familiar 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. The relation of concept diagrammes to built form and its perception as sculpture, in the work of contemporary architects such as OMA, Foster or Hadid, to mention just a few, may be addressed.

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..

Outline of weekly events: Readings will be posted digitally
Week 1 Introduction to Issues in Contemporary, Intertextuality and discussion
Week 2 Seminar: Media Philosophy Video Excerpts 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% Midterm Presentation of issues addressed in Final Project, relating to thesis topic, to include abstract, table of contents, selected research and authored images: diagrammes, graphs, text outline, annotated bibliography.
50% Final Presentation and Project Submission
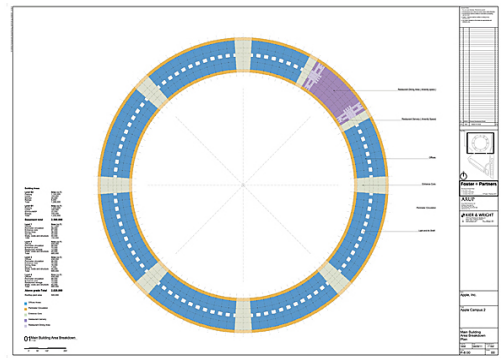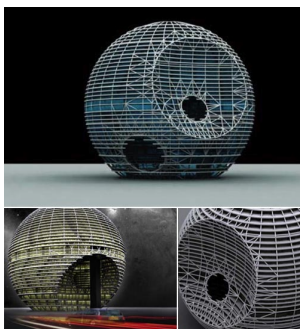
1 OMA RAK – Death Star. 2 Jonathan Schipper , video sphere   3 Foster, Apple Camplus, Cupertino