This thesis seminar/workshop is built upon the premise of the complex state of contemporary culture where we are much aware of its heterogeneity stemming from diverse epistemological approaches. Within this global culture, an absolute knowledge can no longer exist, as Sola-Morales, in his essay “Weak Architecture,” described our current state of contemporary architecture as a state of groundlessness. To define the work precisely within its context is extremely crucial as it substantiates theoretical ground the work resides within.

**INTENT + EXPECTATION**

The intent of the course is to help you precisely define and articulate your architectural thesis and clearly and selectively define modes and methods of design exploration in which the architectural thesis is critically tested or challenged.

**What is an architectural thesis?**

A thesis is a proposition, or an inquiry specifically grounded in particular knowledge-based theory as a set of argument. In an architectural thesis, architecture is an essential mode of constructing an argument. Whether the proposition is sociological, political, technological, or aesthetic based, your argument must depend upon architectural design and processes to make a critical claim. The structure of the course will assist you to posit your thesis at each step of your work with the clarity and specificity of its context, its boundary, and its grounding. It is essential that your thesis inquiry can claim its relevancy to current architectural discourses and design practice.

**Establishing operational logics and methods of exploration**

Inherent to positing your thesis, modes of architectural representation, and selected operational methods of exploration in your design process must be critically evaluated against the framework established and the context from which this framework is founded. It is an expectation of the course that by the end of the fall semester, these means and methods are explored, and put to work in your design, ready to be tested for several iterations of design proposition. Strongly imbued with ideas, knowledge as defined within an investigated framework, these architectural propositions are reinforce, establish your argument for, or in some cases, against your thesis as it unfolds.

**WORK SCHEDULE**

This seminar/workshop is designed as the first of the two consecutive semester coursework for your architectural design thesis. It is intended to create a seamless transition between establishing a clear set of architectural inquiry with intense research, and operational methods of exploration in your design process in your first semester. The second semester is set out to test these set of operations, critically evaluate several iterations of design, and bring the thesis to a precise and highly articulate argument, in general, through a physical construct of building and/or architectural design.

**REQUIREMENTS**

The work produced will integrate research, experimentation with media, making and writing as tools of investigation. Each weekly assignment will serve as part of a final compilation of your thesis. Assignments will be reproduced on 8½”x11” sheet of paper with a 1 1/4” left margin for binding. This book submitted as a final course requirement will constitute a substantial part of the final thesis work. In addition, each student will produce a website for your thesis by the end of the semester.

*It is essential to begin your thesis work with a positive attitude and great ambitions. These two semesters are your opportunity to inquire into what you would like the direction of your architectural work to be. The culmination of your work at the end of spring will mark an exciting beginning not the end of your exploration. It is also essential to be impassioned with your questions, be genuinely curious about the set of issues and have faith in the process. Architectural design is a complex interdisciplinary process, which, it requires passion, rigor and discipline of actively positing the work in a precisely defined context, patterns and/or system of logics, with highly articulated formal, spatial definition and materiality.*