Architecture emerges out of passionate and unending debate. Every design involves theory. Indeed, architects talk as much as they draw. This class will explore the way that theory is produced and deployed at every level of architectural discourse from formal written arguments to the seemingly casual discussions in the design studio. A series of case studies, from Vitruvius through to Cyber-Chat, from ancient treatises on parchment to flickering web pages, will be used to show how the debate keeps adapting itself to new conditions while preserving some relentless obsessions. Architectural discourse will be understood as a wide array of interlocking institutions, each of which has its own multiple histories and unique effects. How and why these various institutions were put in place will be established and then their historical transformations up until the present will be traced to see which claims about architecture have been preserved and which have changed.

Lecture 1
The Sound of the Architect: Between Words and Drawings
Lecture 2
The Reign of the Classical Treatise: Digesting Vitruvius
Lecture 3
Curriculum as Polemic: Disciplining Architecture from Academy to University
Lecture 4
The Invention of Architectural History: Strategic Narratives
Lecture 5
The Invention of Criticism: Buildings in Review
Lecture 6
Theory as Weapon: System versus Manifesto
Lecture 7
The Canonization of Modern Theory
Lecture 8
Domesticating Discourse: Soft Packages
Lecture 9
Theory on the Couch: Self-Analysis
Lecture 10
Postmodern Theory: Engaging the Other
Lecture 11
The Commodification of Architectural Theory.
Lecture 12
Transgressive Theory: Sciences of Insecurity