
Quarter/Year	Course Number	Day/Time	Instructor
Fall 2019	ART-HIST 470	W 2:00-4:50	Levin
Course Title			Degree/Distro Fulfillment
Ruins of Modernity: Temporality, Architecture, and the Archive			



This seminar posits the figure of the ruin as a heuristic device to reflect upon time and memory in our approaches to the built environment as archive. While the ruin was a source of fascination and study throughout the 18th and 19th century as the emblematic embodiment of historical consciousness, its status in the 20th century has radically diminished with the advent of modernism. Nonetheless, the idea of the ruin, and by extension, its often ambivalent or dialectic representation of history, has not disappeared but persistently gained new meanings in its different modes of manifestations, for example as a novel aesthetic based on the fragment, or as a practice of ruination in urban warfare. Through an examination of a series of readings and case

studies encompassing such topics as the dialectics of destruction and reconstruction, obsolescence, post-industrial dilapidation and infrastructural precariousness drawing from postwar and contemporary cases studies from across the globe, the seminar will explore the various ways in which questions of memory, nostalgia, crisis, and catastrophe inform new approaches to the archive and the historiography of modernity.

Required Textbooks

Readings will be posted on Canvas or be made available in Course Reserves.

Assessments

Class participation and final paper