Familiarization with the history of buildings and cities provides us with an opportunity to not just critically analyze the problems and solutions of the past, but understand and address the multitude of challenges facing our built and natural environments today. In keeping with this premise, this course traces the origin and evolution of influential ideas and movements in architecture that have been adopted around the world since the turn of the 20th century, albeit with emphasis on social and ecological impacts - and without romantic accounts of traditionally idealized masters and masterpieces, styles and canons.

What led to these ideas and movements? Where exactly did they emerge? How did they become global? And how have they shaped - and continue to shape - both human and non-human life in a rapidly changing world? Engagement with postcolonial and globalization theories will play an important role in addressing some of these questions.

The course begins with an introduction to pressing issues around the study of architectural history in the last two decades, before discussing modernity as not only an era of philosophical, political, economic, socio-cultural, and technological change beginning in Western Europe and North America, but also a means for western power, control and hegemony over the rest of the world. We will then discuss modernism as a social, cultural and artistic attitude within modernity, before turning attention to a range of architectural ideas and movements that emerged out of this attitude.

The course concludes with researching architectural trends and directions in South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, West Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Latin America, and North America since the 1960s.

IMAGE_ The Painting Ball (2005) by Analia Saban in “Rethinking Global Modernism: Architectural Historiography and the Postcolonial”