



ARCH 3308/6308 SPRING 2021 / WRITING THE CITY / MONDAY 09:05 am-12:10 pm / OL NYC
INSTRUCTOR: CYNTHIA DAVIDSON, EDITOR OF *LOG* AND WRITING ARCHITECTURE BOOKS

The discourse of architecture and cities is created and sustained by the writing of architects, critics, and historians. This seminar introduces students to the importance of writing in architecture and ranges from why one needs to write to how to write to what to write. Students will read important examples of writing in architecture by Le Corbusier, Rem Koolhaas, and Keller Easterling, in cultural theory by Roland Barthes and Walter Benjamin, as well as contemporary critics and authors such as Teju Cole and Anne Carson. Each reading illustrates different ways of perceiving and imagining architecture and the city that can only be conveyed through writing. Collectively, the writings serve both as a minor history of cities, particularly New York City, and as idea models for the students' own writing.

Lectures, readings, and class discussions will be enriched by short, in-class writing and/or editing and rewriting exercises that students will read aloud in class. In addition to weekly reading assignments, there will be weekly assignments to write 250 or 500-word observations on New York City, which will be seen as a living laboratory of ideas, from the towers on the skyline to the street corner and the many scales in between.

Photo: Camilo Vergara, *The New Normal*, New York City, 2020.