



ARC 1513: Great Buildings and Cities of the World

Instructor: Robert M. Baron, AIA, NCARB, M.S. Arch, M. Arch

Class schedule: 2:00-3:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in BV 3.324

NOTE: This Syllabus is provided for informational purposes regarding the anticipated course content and schedule. It is based on the most recent information available as of the date of its issuance. It is as accurate and complete as is possible at this time. The instructors reserve the right to make any changes deemed necessary and/or appropriate. An effort will be made to communicate any syllabus changes in a timely manner. Students are responsible for being aware of these changes.

Course Description:

Introducing the best buildings and urban space that are universally considered timeless contributions to the cultural heritage of the world. Examples are presented within the context of diverse cultures and express a variety of different aesthetic, political, and religious values. The course draws from diverse sources from Western and non-Western traditions, from high culture and vernacular sources, and span from antiquity to the present.

“John Ruskin once remarked that every good building must do two things: firstly, it must shelter us. And Secondly, it must talk to us, talk of all the things that we think of as most important and that we need to be reminded of on a regular basis...In a period that still has difficulty discussing buildings as anything other than giant pieces of technology, buildings speak”¹

Educational Objectives and Assessment Plan:

The course will serve as an introduction to the discipline of architecture and will address the following:

Educational Objectives

- Students shall demonstrate an ability to recognize the architectural and urban design styles, design principles, values and physical and spatial elements and qualities that comprise the highest quality vernacular and monumental buildings and urban spaces world-wide
- Students shall demonstrate an understand how great buildings and urban spaces of diverse cultures grow out of great architectural traditions and appreciate how such traditions have been handed down, adopted, and adapted in different places, times, and cultures
- Students shall demonstrate an appreciate what is common and what is unique in great buildings and urban spaces across a variety of different global cultures
- Students shall demonstrate the ability to interpret great buildings and urban spaces from different cultures and appreciate how the speak of different social, political and religious values
- As the course is considered an introduction to and appreciation of global architecture and urban design for non-majors, the instructor will stress the importance of the aesthetic experience of architecture and the creative process that generated the great buildings and urban spaces

The course material will be delivered in a lecture format, two days per week for one hour and fifteen minutes each period. See lecture topics below. The following grading requirements will include a midterm and final exams, a paper or a digital file, and a field trip assignment. Each assignment below is designed to assess Core Curriculum educational objectives. See footnotes below.

1. Midterm exam²: 30%
2. Final exam³: 30%

¹ Alain de Botton

² On the midterm essay exam, students will recognize and discuss architectural styles, design principles, values, and physical and spatial qualities in two selected buildings and urban spaces that will be presented to them

3. A 2,500-3,000 word paper⁴ or one digital file⁵ on either an approved topic or an assigned great building or urban design—a template will be provided; these files will be posted on the course web site: 30%
4. Field trip assignment⁶: 10%

Student grades will be based on the following grading scheme: 100-90 = A, 89-80 = B, 79-70 = C, 69-60 = D, and below 60 = F

Civility Policy

UTSA policies regarding disabilities and academic dishonesty are in effect in this course. See <http://www.utsa.edu/disability/students.htm> ; also <http://www.utsa.edu/infoguide/appendices/b.html> under section 203

Required Reading Assignments

The following books will be put on reserve in the UTSA Downtown Library for student use

- Timothy Brittain-Catlin, *Collins gem Architecture, Learn How to Read a Building*, 2008
- Dora P. Crouch and June G. Johnson, *Traditions in Architecture: Africa, America, Asia, and Oceania*, 2009
- Michael Fazio, et al, *A World History of Architecture*, 2004
- Will Pryce, *World Architecture, The Masterworks*, 2009

Tentative lecture schedule

I. Introduction

- Lecture 1: Scope of the course, requirements, lecture schedule, and ground rules
- Lecture 2: What are the physical, intellectual, and experiential qualities of a great building? Great buildings of the world are well made, they enable certain behaviors, they are beautiful, well loved and cared for, imitated, they speak, they are alive, and they embody legible ideas and values
- Lecture 3: Great Buildings both shelter and speak to us. Great Western and Non-Western buildings express and enable a particular way of life (religion, society, politics) through a formal language of design of site, massing, structure, spatial arrangement, material, ornament, and decoration; in architecture, the structure of the building is also a structure of meaning

³ Students will discuss what is common and what is unique in a two great buildings and urban spaces across two different global cultures that will be presented to them of the final essay exam

⁴ Students will compare and contrast two great buildings or urban spaces from two different cultures and explain how each speaks of different social, political and religious values

⁵ Students will describe the selected building or urban space by identifying where, when, why, and how it was built and describe how it is used and interpreted by the society that built it.

⁶ Students will select and analyze a great San Antonio building and make an argument for why it can be considered a “great” building or urban space

- Lecture 4: What makes a great architectural city⁷: examples of urban space will be taken from Rome, Venice, Paris, New York, Chicago, Amsterdam, Beijing, Mexico City, Cairo, and Kyoto
- Lecture 5: Meet the Families of Design: Western and Non-Western; Pre-modern and Modern

II. Pre-Modern Buildings and Urban Spaces

- Lecture 6: Western and non-Western traditions of buildings and their stylistic and typological characteristics, and religious, political and social narratives
- Lecture 7: Temple of Amun, Karnak, Egypt(1530-323 B.C.); Parthenon, Athens, Greece (447-432 B.C.); Colosseum, Rome, Italy (70-82)
- Lecture 8: Pantheon, Rome, Italy (120-4); Ise Shrine, Honshu, Japan (2nd century AD); Santa Maria Maggiore, Rome (432)
- Lecture 9: Santa Sophia, Istanbul, Turkey (532-37); Temple I, Tikal, Guatemala, Central America (500); San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy (526)
- Lecture 10: Kandariya Mahadev Temple, Khajuraho, India (950-1050); San Marco, Venice (1063-94); Durham Cathedral, England (1093-1133); Friday Mosque, Isfahan, Iran (9th c.-1317)
- Lecture 11: Angkor Wat, Angkor, Cambodia (12 century AD); Notre Dame Paris, France (1163-1250); Alhambra, Granada, Spain (1238-1358)
- Lecture 12: Florence Cathedral, Italy (1296-1462); Temple of Heaven, the Forbidden City, Beijing, China (1417-20); King's Chapel, Cambridge, England (1446-1515)
- Lecture 13: Tempietto, San Pietro, Rome, Italy (1502-10); St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican, Rome, (1506-1626); St. Basils Cathedral, Moscow, Russia (1555-60)
- Lecture 14: Villa Rotonda, Vicenza (1552); Harwick Hall, Derbyshire, England (1590-97); Katsura Palace, Kyoto, Japan (1620-58)
- Lecture 15: Tai Mahal, Agra, India (1630-53); St. Paul's Cathedral, London (1675-1710); Castle Howard, Yorkshire, England (1699-1726)

III. 19th Century Buildings and Urban Spaces

- Lecture 16: The Enlightenment and Industrialization in the West, the search of a new style for modern society, the invention of new building types, the rise of the architectural and engineering professions, new technical inventions (WCs, modern kitchen, central heating, damp proofing, gas and electric lighting, elevators), and the new materials of cast iron and glass
- Lecture 17: Soane Museum, London (1812); Altes Museum, Berlin (1824-28); Houses of Parliament, London (1836-68)
- Lecture 18: Bibliotheque Ste. Genevieve, Paris (1842-50); All Saints Margaret Street, London (1849-59); Crystal Palace, London (1850-51)

⁷ Readings will be taken from Anthony M. Tung, *Preserving the World's Great Cities*, 2001

- Lecture 19: Red House, Bexleyheath, Kent, England (1859); Paris Opera (1861-75); Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, Milan, Italy (1865-67)
- Lecture 20: Boston Public Library (1887-95); Sagrada Familia, Barcelona (1883-present); Glasgow School of Art, Scotland (1897-99; 1907-9)

IV. 20th Century Buildings and Urban Spaces

- Lecture 23: Postal Savings Bank, Vienna (1904-6); Gamble House, Pasadena, California (1908-9); Robie House, Chicago (1908-10)
- Lecture 24: Viceroy's Palace, New Delhi, India (1920-31); Schroeder House, Utrecht, Holland (1923-24); Bauhaus Building, Dessau, Germany (1925-6)
- Lecture 25: Villa Savoye, Poissy, France (1928-31); German Pavilion, International Exposition, Barcelona (1929); Rockefeller Center, New York (1931-39)
- Lecture 26: Fallingwater, Bear Run, Pennsylvania (1937); Villa Mairea, Noormarkku, Finland (1938-41); Farnsworth House, near Chicago (1945-51)
- Lecture 27: Notre Dame du Haut, Ronchamp, France (1950-54); National Assembly Building in Dacca, Bangladesh (1962); Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas (1966-72)
- Lecture 28: Pompidou Center, Paris (1971-77); Neue Staatsgalerie, Stuttgart, Germany (1977-84); Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, Hong Kong (1981-85); Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain (1991-97)