

Architecture 5613: American Architecture

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Spring 2010
MNT 3.380C 458-3036

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.

Description

Study of the development of the architecture of North America from the earliest human settlements to the present.

The theme of this course is the unifying thread of migration — of people, ideas, and culture — as both emigrants and immigrants. In each part of the North American continent, people came from somewhere else, bringing with them their own values, expressed in architecture, and adapted them to the climate, geography, and other people and settlements they encountered.

Although this is a lecture course, class discussion is encouraged. The class requires all participants to contribute to the learning process and relies heavily on independent, graduate-level research and writing.

Required Texts:

Mark Gelernter, *A History of American Architecture; Buildings in Their Cultural and Chronological Context* (1999)

Diane Hacker, *A Pocket Style Manual*

Additional readings TBA on reserve or online

NAAB Objectives: Students will demonstrate an:

- ability to speak and write effectively on the subject of American architecture, comparing and contrasting architectural developments and ideas;
- ability to recognize and identify ideas, persons, and buildings significant in the evolution of American architecture;
- understanding of the methods of historical inquiry and research;
- understanding of how individuals and groups of differing gender, race, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status respond to and affect the natural and built environment;
- ability to use architectural history and theory in the critical observation and discussion of architecture and bring an understanding of history to bear on the design of buildings and communication;
- understanding of the history, theories, and principles that are the basis for the making of buildings, landscapes and human settlements; and
- understanding of the shifts that have occurred in the social, political, technological, ecological, and economic factors that shape the practice of architecture.

Learning Skills:

This class addresses a hierarchy of learning skills, which build on each other: knowledge; comprehension; application; analysis; synthesis; and evaluation. These skills will be developed in class discussions and should be evident in the research paper and on exams.

Requirements:

Class involvement = 20%

Attendance is mandatory as much of the lecture material is not in the readings and given the highly visual nature of the course. Unexcused absences will result in a lower grade or failure. You are expected to make insightful observations, raise critical questions, and be actively involved in the discussions, both in class and

online. Show respect toward others in the class by acting appropriately (turn cell phones off, be on time and courteous, etc.). Class grade is based on the quality of contributions both in class and in on-line discussions and assignments.

Exams (breadth) = 40%

There is one midterm and a cumulative final exam. Exams consist of slide identification, short answer, and essay questions. The exams cover material in the readings, lectures, and discussions, testing knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of material in texts and lectures.

Research Project (depth) = 40%

TBD

Grading:

Your final grade will be based on class involvement, exams, and research, as described above. The following standards are used to determine grades:

A = Exceptional accomplishment

Exceptional work well above minimum standards

Shows initiative and excellence in all areas

Adds to the educational experience of class

Proof of learning includes all levels, especially original analysis, synthesis, and evaluation

B = Above average achievement

Shows initiative, exceeding minimal standards in quality of work produced

Active participation in class discussions

Proof of learning includes knowledge, comprehension, and application

C = Average work

Meets minimum standards

Little or no participation in class discussions

Evidence of learning limited to factual knowledge

D = Below average achievement

Unsatisfactory performance that does not meet minimum class standards

Below average exam scores; insufficient research, lack of reading; unexcused absences

Demonstrates weak comprehension of course goals

Work incomplete or late

Knowledge lacking

F = Failure to meet minimum standards

Failing exam scores; unexcused absences; no participation, inadequate class preparation

Work missing

A grade of incomplete will be given only in the case of a documented emergency. Any evidence of scholastic dishonesty will be referred to the university for further action. Scholastic dishonesty is anything that violates individual integrity. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism (the appropriation of another's work and the unauthorized incorporation of that work in one's own work), and collusion (unauthorized collaboration).

This class is supported by WebCT. You are responsible for checking on a daily basis for announcements and discussions.