

ARCH 350 HISTORY AND THEORY OF MODERN/CONTEMP. ARCHITECTURE

ARC B 102 MWF 12:40PM – 01:30PM

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Office hours, C 310, MW 10:00AM - 11:30AM (or by appointment)

Course Description

History and Theory of Modern and Contemporary Architecture (3-0). Credit 3. Development of modern architecture in the 20th century; materials, structure, social and economic changes as well as architectural theory.

Prerequisites

None.

Purpose

This is the third and final part of the survey of architectural history for architecture undergraduate students. It will focus on important aspects of modern (post-1850) architecture that architects need to know in order to engage in professional discourse. This includes theories, movements, architects and monuments, and also modern materials, structural systems, social, political, and economic developments, as required for this study. Students from outside the Department of Architecture are welcome in this class (and some accommodation will be made for them), but this class is designed to provide architecture students with a sort of “cultural literacy” in modern architecture.

Textbooks – available at the bookstore and on reserve in the library

CURTIS, William J. R. **Modern architecture since 1900**. 3rd ed. London: Phaidon, 1996. Latest edition. ISBN: 0714833568.

LE CORBUSIER. **Towards a new architecture**. New York: Dover Publications, 1986. (translated from the Vers une architecture. Reprint. Originally published: London: J. Rodker, 1931). ISBN: 0486250237 (pbk.).

Texts not required but helpful – on reserve in the library

FRAMPTON, Kenneth. **Modern architecture: a critical history**. 3rd ed. London: Thames and Hudson, 1992. ISBN: 0500202575.

GHIRARDO, Diane Yvonne. **Architecture after modernism**. New York: Thames and Hudson, c1996. ISBN: 050020294X (pbk.)

MOFFETT, M.; FAZIO, M.; WODEHOUSE, L. **Buildings across Time: an introduction to world architecture**. Chapter 15 and 16. McGrawHill, 2004.

TRACHTENBERG, Marvin; HYMAN, Isabelle. **Architecture, from prehistory to post-modernism**. New York: H. N. Abrams, 1986. (Used as the text for the ENDS 150/ ARCH 250).

Attendance

Mandatory. Excessive absences may result in failing the class. Roll may be taken periodically; credit may be given for attendance, and attendance may be influential in determining borderline grades.

ARCH 350 web-site

Study images, outlines, syllabus, review, grades, etc: <https://elearning.tamu.edu>

Examinations

There will be three scheduled examinations. (Only write your UIN number on the scantron).

Exam 1 - Slide ID Quiz: Friday, 19 September. This will be a scantron quiz, consisting of slide identifications. It may include any of the buildings previously discussed in the class lectures and the assigned readings. A total of ten slides will be projected on the screen for one minute, each. The student should be prepared to choose the following information from among the options: 1) name of the monument; 2) architect; 3) location; 4) dates (decades during which the work was designed and produced; e.g., "1910's – 1930's.").

Exam 2 - Mid-term: Friday, 17 October (Tentative date). This will be a 50-minute mid-term examination covering all of the material previously covered in the class lectures and all of the assigned readings. This will be a scantron exam, consisting of slide identification and multiple-choice questions of different types.

Exam 3 – Final: to be held on the date and time specified by the university for the final exam. This will be a one-hour, non-cumulative examination including all of the material covered in the class lectures since the mid-term, and the assigned readings. Its format will be similar to the mid-term.

Note 1: The most important images of the most important monuments are available for study on the web-site.

Note 2: Proof of registration in the course may be required when taking examinations. Be prepared to show student identification and sign after your name on the course role-sheet when entering the examination classroom, affirming that you are legitimately enrolled and entitled to take the examinations for a grade.

Note 3: You must provide your own scantrons for the examinations. (These are the large gray 150-question answer forms). They will not be provided for this course.

Note 4: There will be no automatic make-up examinations for the course. Any request to be given a make-up exam must be made according to university policy, and justified by an acceptable excuse as defined by University policy. The make-up exam must be taken within one week of the originally scheduled exam (barring extenuating circumstances). After the one-week limit, grades will be lowered five points for each regular ENDS 250 lecture day that passes without the student having taken the examination.

Note 5: I will post the examination grades on web-site soon after the exam.

Assignment: There will be one assignment.

1. For Architecture/Environmental Design major: Model (Monday, 03 November)

At the beginning of the class period on Monday, 03 November, each group (groups of 3 students) will hand in a model and analysis of a modern work of architecture.

- The construction of a didactic physical or digital model, in adequate scale, of a modern building or complex.
 - A machine-printed three or more pages report on the analysis of the importance of the building must accompany the model. Include the following in the body of the one page report:
 - Title of the building and date/s of construction.
 - Architect's name; his or her philosophy regarding design or architecture; patrons?
 - Short History, i.e., the "story" of the building. Connections to style; how it came to be designed and/ or built in a certain way.
 - Site: where is the building located. What was important about the site that may have led to the design process and solution.
 - Organization: how is the building arranged?
 - Unique considerations: light, color, ornament, symbolism
 - The importance of the building in the whole of the architect's production.
 - Sources: a bibliography must be included; include web site if used.
- Important!** Do not download text information directly on your report. Plagiarism is non-professional! Images, plans, photos are acceptable.
- Presentation coherent with the theme. The students' work -- in part -- will be evaluated for how completely the visual presentation demonstrates the analysis.

Note 1: I will suggest a list of building for choosing. No more than two groups must select the same building. I am more than happy to entertain alternative ideas, but the students/group should come and talk to me about them well in advance of the due-date.

Note 2: There will be a model exhibition.

Note 3: There will be one class for presentations - 15 models pre-selected.

Note 4: Groups may include Designer and Non-Designer students.

2. For non-Architecture/Environmental Design major: Paper (Monday, 03 November).

Analysis of a modern building (or complex), a modern architect or a modern "style".

- A machine-printed, double-spaced paper of 1,500 words minimum (approximately six pages), Times New Roman font size 11. Include the following:

- Title of the paper

- Title of the building and date/s of construction; Architect's name; his or her philosophy regarding design or architecture; patrons? Short History (the "story" of the building). Connections to style; how it came to be designed and/ or built in a certain way.

- Site: where is the building located. What was important about the site that may have led to the design process and solution.

- Organization: how is the building arranged?

- Unique considerations: light, color, ornament, symbolism

- The importance of the building in the whole of the architect's production.

- Sources: a bibliography must be included; you must use at least two textbooks sources; include web site if used.

Important! Do not download text information directly on your report. Plagiarism is non-professional! Images, plans, photos are acceptable.

Grading: Percentage grades, given for each examination, are self-explanatory. By University standards, a letter grade of A requires an average of at least 90%, a B at least 80%, a C at least 70%, a D at least 60%. The grading break-down is as follows:

Exam 1 = 10%, Exam 2 = 30%, Assignment = 30%, Exam 3 = 30%

Note: Unannounced quizzes, attendance, and extra-credit questions on the exams may count as extra-credit towards the final grade.

Aggie Honor Code

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat, steal or tolerate those that do." Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student automatically assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work (see below). Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the Texas A&M University community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information visit: www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/

"On my honor, as an Aggie, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work."

The Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact the Office of Support Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 126 of the Student Services Building. The phone number is 845-1637. (Please let me know as soon as possible if this applies to you.)

CLASS SCHEDULE (subject to change)

August 29

Introduction

The idea of the modern architecture

These lectures cover information from Curtis: Ch. 1

Industrialization, new materials, new spaces, new programs. The Exhibitions. Chicago School

These lectures cover information from Curtis: Ch. 2

Viollet-le-duc, Art Nouveau, Gaudi, Arts and Crafts.

These lectures cover information from Curtis: Ch. 3, 5

Rationalism and Loos

These lectures cover information from Curtis: Ch. 3

Concrete, industrial city, Perret and Garnier

These lectures cover information from Curtis: Ch. 4

September 19

Slide ID Quiz – bring scantron

Frank Lloyd Wright

These lectures cover information from Curtis: Ch. 7

Early Modernism: The Deutsche Werkbund. Walter Gropius. The Bauhaus

These lectures cover information from Curtis: Ch. 6, 11

Early Modernism: Futurism, Expressionism, De Stijl, Constructivism

These lectures cover information from Curtis: Ch. 6, 9, 10, 12

Le Corbusier

These lectures cover information from Curtis: Ch. 9, 10, 14 (p. 246-8), 16, and Le Corbusier: *Towards a new architecture*.

Mies van der Rohe. The International Style

These lectures cover information from Curtis: Ch. 9, 11 (p.188-192), 15

October 17

Mid-term Exam - bring scantron

Modern Arch USA, Late Wright and Mies van der Rohe

These lectures cover information from Curtis: Ch. 13, 18, 22

Le Corbusier: collective housing, late works

These lectures cover information from Curtis: Ch. 23, 24

November 03

Assignment - models and papers

Eero Saarinen. Alvar Aalto.

These lectures cover information from Curtis: Ch.19, 22, 25

Louis Kahn – “My Architect”, by Nathaniel Kahn, DVD session

These lectures cover information from Curtis: Ch. 28

Barragan. Brazil, Oscar Niemeyer, Lina Bo Bardi

These lectures cover information from Curtis: Ch. 21 (p.386-391), 27

Venturi. The intellectual inspirations for the post modernism.

1970s, 1980s, 1990s Architecture

These lectures cover information from Curtis: Ch. 30, 32, 35

November 27-28

Thanksgiving holiday – no classes

December 08

Final Exam (as scheduled by Registrar)

December 08, Monday - **10:30am-12:30pm**