



**THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING**

**Arch 135/635 History of Architecture I
Fall 2008**

*Undergraduate and Graduate Syllabus
3 credit hours
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10:00 am -11:00 am*

Instructor contact information

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Course Description

This course is the first in a three-semester sequence that covers prehistoric architecture to the modern era. In this course, we will concentrate on the period encompassing prehistory to Byzantine architecture, stopping at approximately 800 C.E. In each period, architectural examples will be discussed in relation to design principles and building construction materials and methods. Specific architectural examples will be studied in terms of site, spatial sequence, structure, detail, symbolism and cultural meaning. The course will also examine social and cultural issues related to the buildings and monuments of the period.

Instructional Methods:

Class meetings will alternate between classroom lectures on Mondays and Wednesdays and seminars on Fridays. In these seminars students will discuss various architectural topics and prepare for examinations and the written assignments.

Required Readings / Books

The two textbooks can be purchased in the bookstore or online through www.amazon.com.

Marvin Trachtenberg and Isabelle Hyman, *Architecture: From Prehistory to Post-Modernism* (Prentice-Hall, 2002).

Steen Eiler Rasmussen, *Experiencing Architecture* (MIT Press, 1964).

Reading materials / Web Materials with full citations

Arch 135/635 will have its own course web-site where students may find relevant information including readings, syllabus and schedule.

Course Goals

All accredited architecture programs must ensure that each graduate possesses a specific set of knowledge and skills that have been determined to meet the demands of an internship leading to registration for practice. At the completion of this course, it is expected that students will have gained knowledge and skills in the following areas:

3.13.1. Speaking and Writing Skills

Ability to read, write, listen, and speak effectively.

3.13.2. Critical Thinking Skills

Ability to raise clear and precise questions, use abstract ideas to interpret information, consider diverse points of view, reach well-reasoned conclusions, and test them against relevant criteria and standards.

3.13.5. Formal Ordering Systems

Understanding of the fundamentals of visual perception and the principles and systems of order that inform two- and three-dimensional design, architectural composition, and urban design.

3.13.8. Western Traditions

Understanding of the Western architectural canons and traditions in architecture, landscape and urban design, as well as the climatic, technological, socioeconomic, and other cultural factors that have shaped and sustained them.

3.13.9. Non-Western Traditions

Understanding of parallel and divergent canons and traditions of architecture and urban design in the non-Western world.

3.13.10. National and Regional Traditions

Understanding of national traditions and the local regional heritage in architecture, landscape design and urban design, including the vernacular traditions.

Graduate students will be evaluated more critically than the undergraduate students enrolled in ARCH135. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 is required for all graduate students. Since a C grade is passing but marginal at the graduate level, C grades are permitted in a maximum of one-third of the courses required for the degree. Graduate students cannot receive grades of C+, C-, or D.

Note-Taking

One objective in this course is to develop the graphic note-taking skills that you will carry forward with you in architecture school. While the bulk of your notes will rely on the written word, you must begin to develop the ability to take graphics notes that employ quick sketches of buildings from the many slides you will be shown. To assist you in this process, notes for this course **MUST** be taken in a sketchbook with blank pages. Also, notes are to be written by hand (i.e., **NO** computer note-taking).

Email

Throughout the semester I will need to contact students via email. It is your responsibility to maintain your CUA email account, ensure that your inbox is not full; check your email regularly.

Office Hours

I am available for consultation by appointment; please contact me via email.

Requirements

Attendance is required for the Monday/Wednesday lectures, as well as the Friday seminars. Your participation through discussion is also required in the Friday seminars. Assignments will be geared toward developing your skill in analyzing and discussing architecture. You will be required to write two papers both of 3-5 pages in length. Two examinations will test your understanding of the material covered in the first two-thirds of the semester. The final examination will cover the entire semester with an emphasis on the final third.

Schedule of Assignments

To be posted on the course website.

Grading

The final course grade will be determined as follows:

Papers: 30% (2 at 15% each)

In-Class Exams: 30% (2 at 15% each)

Final Exam: 30%

Seminar: 10%

Course Schedule

See attached schedule.

Expectations and policies

Academic honesty

Academic honesty is one of the foundations of the educational mission and Catholic commitment of this university. Academic dishonesty, including such practices as cheating, plagiarism and fabrication, undermines the learning experience, and, as it involves fraud and deceit, is corrosive of the intellectual principles and is inconsistent with the ethical standards of this university. Academic dishonesty damages the sense of trust and community among students, faculty and administrators.

The policy sets forth the standards of honesty which student members of our academic community are expected to follow. The faculty is also bound to adhere to the strictest standards of academic honesty. All members of the academic community have an obligation to familiarize themselves with these standards and to conduct themselves in accordance with both their letter and their spirit. Individual schools in the university have committed themselves to implementing these standards and to educating faculty, staff and students on the importance of academic honesty and on the application of these standards in a variety of academic settings.

For additional information on the University's Academic Honesty policies, please refer to <http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrityfull.cfm#I> for additional information.

IF A STUDENT WILL BE LATE OR ABSENT FROM CLASS, HE MUST NOTIFY THE INSTRUCTOR PRIOR TO THE DATE OF ABSENCE.

Class Policies

- Class starts promptly at ten after the hour. Do NOT arrive late, as you will be asked to leave.
- Participation is required in the seminar. A portion of your final grade will factor in your participation or lack thereof.
- There will be NO cell phones in class. If your phone rings, you will be asked to leave.
- Papers must be turned in no later than ten after the hour. Late papers will be marked down a full letter grade.
- Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor. Papers placed in the professor's mailbox will NOT be accepted.
- Papers must be submitted in hard copy. No electronic submissions will be accepted.
- Exams begin promptly at ten after the hour. As they are timed slide exams, arriving late will mean that you simply miss portions of the exam.
- Absences will only be excused for illness (a doctor's note MUST be provided) or a death in your immediate family (with proper documentation).

Campus Resources for student support

Students are encouraged to visit the Writing Center on campus for assistance on the two required papers. You can find more information at their website: <http://english.cua.edu/wc3/>.

The Engineering, Architecture and Mathematics Library is located in Pangborn Hall, just east of the Crough Center. More information on hours and circulation policies can be found at their website: <http://libraries.cua.edu/engcoll/index.html>.

Accommodations for students with disabilities

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact Disability Support Services (at 202 319-5211, room 207 Pryzbyla Center) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. To read about the services and policies, please visit the website: <http://disabilitysupport.cua.edu>.