

Spring 2019

## Gotham and Modern Architecture

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Anthony Alofsin FAIA

TIME AND PLACE: Wednesday, 9:00am – 12:00, WMB 3.116

Course Unique Numbers: ARC 342R (undergrad 00825) and ARC 388R (grad 01110)

Prerequisites:

None. For undergraduate and graduate students interested in historical research in any field throughout the university. This course is not intended to fulfill the University's undergraduate writing component. Maximum Class size: 15

Course Format:

Cities throughout history have been lenses for studying the history of architecture. This **research intensive seminar** will look at the arrival and transformation of modern architecture in New York City from 1900 to 1968. Its themes consider, among other topics, the intersection of tradition versus modernity, Americanism versus Eurocentrism, and technology versus stylistic image. Students will make frequent class presentations and pursue a major term-long research project, the topic of which will be chosen in consultation with the instructor. Parallel the students' research the instructor will discuss his own case studies of New York and modern architecture through the work of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Educational Objectives;

By using the city as a lens cultural, social, and political forces become inseparable from the role architecture plays in civic and domestic life. Pedagogical goals include creating transcultural research methods and rigorous structuring of research agendas as well as the development of critical thinking, articulation of ideas, and exposition of logical arguments.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on class attendance, participation and quizzes; (thirty percent); assigned projects (seventy-percent). Class participation is obligatory to receive an optimal grade. In the case of group projects, students should discuss any particular concepts about credit for work with the instructor during the semester. Pluses and minus will be used with letter grades as permitted by University rules. See syllabus for updated details.

### EVALUATION CRITERIA

Establishing grades for projects of a creative nature is more complex than grading in other academic areas. While each project contains certain quantifiable elements by which it may be evaluated, a significant portion of each grade is derived from a broader, more subjective set of issues: grasping the ideas and understanding of the project at hand, combined with an appropriate process of inquiry; process: the consistent and rigorous development and testing of ideas; resolution: the demonstration of competence, completeness, and finesse through representation.

A student must earn a grade of C or better in order for the course to count toward the degree, and to progress to the next studio in the School of Architecture. A grade of C- will not satisfy degree requirements or prerequisites for the design studios that follow.

#### GRADE DESCRIPTIONS

A/A-                      Excellent

Project surpasses expectations in terms of inventiveness, appropriateness, visual language, conceptual rigor, craft, and personal development. Student pursues concepts and techniques above and beyond what is discussed in class. Project is complete on all levels.

B+/B/B-                  Above Average

Project is thorough, well presented, diligently pursued, and successfully completed. Student pursues ideas and suggestions presented in class and puts in effort to resolve required projects. Project is complete on all levels and demonstrates potential for excellence.

C+/C                      Average

Project meets the minimum requirements. Suggestions made in class and not pursued with dedication and rigor. Project is incomplete in one or more areas.

C-/D+/D/D-              Poor

Project is incomplete. Basic grasp of skill is lacking, visual clarity or logic of presentation are not level-appropriate. Student does not demonstrate the required competence and knowledge base.

F                          Fail

Project is unresolved. Minimum objectives are not met. Performance is not acceptable. Note that this grade will be assigned when you have excessive unexcused absences.

X                          Excused Incomplete

Can be given only for legitimate reasons of illness or family emergency. Simply not completing work on time is not an adequate cause for assigning this evaluation. It may only be used after consultation with the Associate Deans' offices and with an agreement as to a new completion date. Work must be completed before the second week of the next semester in which you are enrolling, according to the School of Architecture policy.

#### Assignments and Papers

All assignments must be submitted on or before due dates. Any late assignment will be reduced one letter grade per day of delay. The only excuse for a late assignment is illness confirmed by a physician's letter or dean's letter. Instructions on the format of papers will be discussed in class and included in the course assignments folder on Canvas. Any student taking the course credit/no-credit will receive a failing grade if he or she does not complete the course requirements by the assigned dates. Pay special attention to instructions on the medium for submitting your work. If hard copy printouts are required, then a digital submission is not acceptable; sometimes both may be required. Submit papers as double-spaced single sided text with page numbers.

#### Lecture etiquette

No food or eating in class. Classes start promptly at the designated; do not arrive late as often important announcements occur at the beginning of class.

#### COMPUTER USEAGE IN CLASS:

Computers are a tremendous tool, but they can be distracting during lectures. Unless otherwise indicated by the instructor, **CELL PHONES AND SIMILAR DEVICES ARE NOT ALLOWED DURING LECTURES.** Texting, work on other courses, email, or anything else except careful listening, participating, and note taking for this course is not a good use of your time and suggests that you may not only be failing to take advantage of lectures, but you may also be distracting other students. Please respect this course requirement.

#### Special accommodations:

At the beginning of the semester, students with disabilities who need special accommodations should notify the instructor by presenting a letter prepared by the Services for Students with Disabilities Office. To ensure that the most appropriate accommodations can be provided, students should contact the SSD Office at 471-6259 or 471-4641 TTY

#### Religious holidays:

By UT Austin policy, you must notify the instructor of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

#### Honor code and plagiarism:

The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community. Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism, is a serious offense at the University and subject to disciplinary action. For the University's definitions and policies about academic dishonesty, see the Registrar's rules Sec. 11-802, <http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi0910/app/gi09.appc03.html>. If you have any questions about citations or the appropriate use of materials, please contact your instructor.

#### Emergency situation:

Please familiarize yourself with recommendations regarding emergency evacuation. For questions contact the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767 and review material on the Office's website: [UT Safety](http://www.utexas.edu/safety/), or <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>.

#### Texts

Books covering course content will be found in the Architecture and Planning Library, Battle Hall. Articles, image libraries, and other materials will be available on the course site on Canvas. Some monographs may be put on Reserve in Battle Hall as required.

#### Required and recommended for Purchase:

None.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

\*See links section on course Canvas site for file with full listings.

**COURSE RESERVES:**

\*Monographs are located in Architecture and Planning Library, Battle Hall. See our Canvas site and UTCAT for listings.

**SPECIAL RESOURCES:**

\* UT SOA Audio Visual Collection. [No longer available per SOA administration]

## **WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF LECTURES**

Gotham and Modern Architecture

Spring 2019

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Anthony Alofsin FAIA

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday 1:00-2:00 and by appointment, tel. 471-7803 or Email: alofsin@austin.utexas.edu.

**WEEK 1**

January 23. Introduction.

Assignment 1 issued.

**WEEK 2**

January 30. Research Methods I. Meet at Architecture and Planning Library, Battle Hall.

**WEEK 3**

February 6. Class presentations. Assignment 1 due in class and on Canvas.

Assignment 1 due in class.

Assignment 2 issued: Bibliography I

**WEEK 4**

February 23. Guest Visiting Lecturer: Mr. Thomas Mellins, author and expert from New York City.

**WEEK 5**

February 20. Research Methods II..

Assignment 2 due.

Assignment 3 issued: Bibliography II

**WEEK 6**

February 27. Modernist case study; Norman Bel Geddes. Meet at Harry Ransom Research Center. Room tbd.

**WEEK 7**

March 6. Case study: Wright and New York;

Assignment 3 due

Assignment 4 issued: Topic and Abstract

WEEK 8

March 13. Class presentations

Assignment 4 due in class.

Assignment 5 issued: Outline

WEEK 9

Spring break.

WEEK 10

March 27. Site visit: Ransom Center, archival materials

Modernist Case Study: Norman Bel Geddes

Assignment 5 due.

Assignment 6 issued: Two parts—formal presentation and final paper

WEEK 11

April 3. Tutorials.

Scheduled by appointment

WEEK 12

April 10. Guest lecturer: TBA

WEEK 13

April 17. Student Research presentations

WEEK 14

April 24. Student Research presentations

WEEK 15 **Double session: 9am- 12, 1-4pm**

May 1. Guest Reviewer: Mr. Thomas Mellins, author and expert from New York City.

Assignment 6, part 1: Presentations of Final paper in class.

WEEK 16

May 8. Studio review week. **LAST CLASS/**

Assignment 6, part 2: Submit final paper, **hardcopy**, 9:00am. No late papers accepted except for written medical excuse. Feedback and critiques by appointment.

ASSIGNMENTS:--See Assignments folder on Canvas.

**Assignment 1.** Select 8 buildings that represent modern architecture, one for each decade from 1900 to 1980s.