

ARC 308
Architecture and Society

Instructor: Larry Speck
Time: TTh 12:30-2:00pm
Place: BUR 106
Office Hours: TTh 8:00-9:00am in GOL 4.142B

Prerequisites

None. This course may be used to fulfill the visual and performing arts component of the university core curriculum and addresses the following four core objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: communication skills, critical thinking skills, teamwork and social responsibility. This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of non-U.S. cultural groups, past and present.

Educational Objectives

1. To establish a perspective of the role and influence of architecture in society and vis-a-vis other disciplines in the arts and science.
2. To develop an understanding of how architecture is shaped by and reflects cultural values and social organization.
3. To present a broad picture of issues and factors which influence architectural design.
4. To understand how global cultures create environments that both reflect and shape their values.

Educational Approach

This is a reading/looking/listening/thinking course. It will follow a lecture format supplemented by related outside reading and required participation in discussion sections that hone skills in critical thinking, communication and teamwork. Students will also give oral presentations on their research in discussion sections.

Evaluation

There will be three tests as well as a final exam in the course. Each test will count 15% of your final grade. The final will also count 15%. Participation in class (in the form of question responses due most class periods) and in discussion sections will count 20%. The remaining 20% of your grade will be based on a series of short analytical exercises that you will do through the semester. Tests will include multiple choice questions as well as short answer questions analyzing buildings on campus or nearby to demonstrate understanding of material covered in lectures and readings over a five- to seven-week period. The final exam will deal with comprehensive material covered in the course. Analytical exercises will be dealt with primarily in discussion sections. Students with disabilities may request accommodations. See <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/> or call 512-471-6259.

Resources

Website: www.larryspeck.com

Readings will be assigned from the following three required texts:

Rasmussen, Steen Eiler. *Experiencing Architecture*.
Heschong, Lisa. *Thermal Delight in Architecture*.
Moore, Charles, et al. *The Place of Houses*.

Course Outline

I. Introduction

- Jan 16 - Course Description
- Jan 18 - Architecture and Society–Overview
- Jan 23 - Architectural Values/Philosophy/Principles/Prejudices/Theory

II. Form in Architecture

- Jan 25 - Architecture as Sensual/Visual Experience
- Jan 30 - Form in Practice--Frank Gehry
- Feb 1 - Architecture as an Intellectual/Artistic Experience
- Feb 6 - Systems and Order
- Feb 8 - Numbers/Mathematics/Geometry as Inspiration of Form
- Feb 13 - Nature/Biology/Organisms as Inspiration of Form
[Reading in *Experiencing Architecture* to be completed by Feb. 13]
- Feb 15 - Synthesis - Form
- Feb 20 - Test #1

III. Physical Considerations in Architecture

- Feb 23 - Buildings and Land
- Feb 27 - Session to be Replaced by Campus Tours Mar 3-4
- Mar 1 - Geography/Topography/Ecology
- Mar 6 - Structure and Materials
- Mar 8 - Construction/Tectonics
- Mar 20 - Architecture in Response to Climate
- Mar 22 - Synthesis - Physical Considerations
[Readings in *Thermal Delight in Architecture* to be completed by Mar 22]
- Mar 27 - Test #2

IV. Human Use in Architecture

- Mar 29 - The Designation and Organization of Use
- Apr 3 - Architectural Determinism
- Apr 5 - Humanism at the Personal Scale
- Apr 10 - Humanism at the Scale of Organizations/Communities/Bureaucracies
- Apr 12 - Meaning in Public Buildings
- Apr 17 - Synthesis - Human Use
[Readings in *The Place of Houses* (pp. 1-144, 277-297) completed by Apr 17]
- Apr 19 - Ours
- Apr 24 - Test #3

V. Combinations and Synthesis

- Apr 26 - Technology as a Source of Beauty
- May 1 - Perfection and Compromise
- May 3 - A Few Good Buildings

Final Exam to be scheduled by the University

Policies and Information

Make-up exams will only be given to students with satisfactory justification for excused absences.

Excused absences can be justified in one of three ways:

1. Absence due to illness–Student Health Center can document even minor illness quickly and easily. A note from them is satisfactory for absence due to illness.
2. Absence due to family emergency which requires travel out of town–A note from a parent or other responsible family member can document such required absence.
3. Absence due to student observance of a religious holiday. Arrangements must be made in advance with instructor or TA.

ALL REQUESTS FOR MAKE-UP EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING WITHIN ONE WEEK OF THE MISSED EXAM ALONG WITH PROPER DOCUMENTATION.

-A notice regarding academic dishonesty. UT Honor Code (or statement of ethics) and an explanation or example of what constitutes plagiarism (Link to University Honor Code: <http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/the-university/#universitycodeofconduct>)

-See the following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>

-Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. Please familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

-Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050

Poll

1. Name _____ 2. Age _____
3. Classification _____ Major _____
4. Hometown _____
5. Father's Occupation _____ Mother's Occupation _____
6. Give the name and address of the high school teacher who helped you the most. (Their school address is fine. Give special weight to any teacher who might have helped you develop an interest in architecture.)
7. Do you know the names of architects whose work you admire? List as many as you can.
8. Please list a few of your favorites (if such exist) in each of the following categories:

Books:

Authors:

Artists:

Films:

Musicians:
9. What major cities or regions of the U.S. or of foreign countries have you visited?
10. What do you expect to like the most about studying architecture?
11. What do you expect to dislike most about studying architecture?