

Course Number: ARC 386M
Unique Number: 00973
Schedule: Tuesday 5:15-8:15 pm
Location: SUT 2.110
Instructor: Gregory Smith (National Register Coordinator, Texas Historical Commission)
bethygreg@clivemore.com (home - preferred)
greg.smith@thc.texas.gov (work)
Phone: 512-653-6013 (cell)
Office: Texas Historical Commission, 105 W. 16th Street (by appointment)

CONTENT

This course provides an introduction to federal preservation programs, including the National Register of Historic Places and its role in setting guidelines for evaluating historic resources. In addition to reading assignments and classroom lectures, students will gain practical experience conducting original research, working collaboratively and independently.

LECTURE TOPICS

See Course Schedule for a description of lecture topics.

COURSE PACKET/TEXT/READINGS

Most readings will be supplied by the instructor via Canvas or via the Texas Historical Commission website (<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/national-register-historic-places>).

For the assignments and class discussions, you will need to be familiar with terminology relating to architectural design, history and technology. Students are encouraged to purchase:

- A Field Guide to American Houses, Second Edition (2013), Virginia Savage McAlester
- A Visual Dictionary of Architecture, Francis Ching

ACADEMIC/LEARNING GOALS

- Conduct historical research utilizing primary and secondary sources
- Write concise descriptions of historic properties
- Determine eligibility for listing in the National Register by applying criteria for significance and assessing integrity
- Develop analytical skills to interpret the meaning of built environments to a larger audience
- Write succinct arguments regarding property history and significance, including analysis of architectural style, configuration, and design
- Complete National Register of Historic Places documentation
- Prepare maps, photographs, and other visual documentation

APPROACH

This class covers historic property documentation using designation standards of the National Register of Historic Places. Architectural and archeological surveys identify significant properties in a given area, and inventories of historic properties help raise awareness of cultural heritage, aid planning efforts, set preservation priorities, and create a record of the present state of significant places. The National Register is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation and serves as the national standard for the evaluation and written documentation of historic properties in the United States. This course covers the steps to producing a National Register nomination, focusing on the ability to identify, evaluate, and document historic properties. An overview of Texas properties listed in the National Register will provide the context for evaluating historic properties throughout the course.

ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMINATIONS

See assignments sheet for a description of each assignment, with instructions and due dates. There are no examinations or tests; students are expected to show proficiency through the timely completion of assigned projects.

- Written assignments must be delivered in both hard copy and in electronic form (on a portable drive) during class on the dates indicated on the “Assignments” handout.

STUDENT EVALUATION

- Participation (class attendance and discussion): 25%
- Weekly assignments 25%
- Final project and presentations: 50%
- ***Class attendance is required and all assignments are due at the time indicated on the syllabus***

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- “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.” <http://www.utexas.edu/about-ut/mission-core-purpose-honor-code>
- Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.
- Plagiarism is a serious violation of academic integrity. In simplest terms, this occurs if you represent as your own work any material that was obtained from another source, regardless how or where you acquired it. Additional information about plagiarism is available on these UT sites – http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (Sept 4)

Introduction

- Introduction to historic designations and the National Register criteria
- Overview of recently-listed properties in Texas
- Selection of subject properties for student nominations
- **Before next week:** Visit chosen property and photograph subject property for brief presentation in Week 2. *Your property will be the subject of several assignments throughout the semester.*

WEEK 2 (Sept. 11)

Architectural & Landscape Description / Map Making

- Architectural descriptions: form, structure, and style overview
- Introduction to map-making techniques
- **Readings to be discussed in class:**
 - *A Field Guide to American Houses* (pp. 4-103)
 - *Preservation Brief 17: Architectural Character*
 - <http://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/17-architectural-character.htm>
- **Due today:** Presentation of Selected Property

WEEK 3 (Sept. 18)

Architectural Description / Assessing Integrity / Landscape

- Writing property descriptions
- Integrity, alterations, and analyzing buildings through evidence
- Identifying character-defining features from photographs
- **Readings to be discussed in class:** (on Canvas)
 - *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form* ("Description," pp. 24-34)
 - *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* ("Integrity," pp. 44-49)
 - *Gunter Hotel, San Antonio, NR nomination (Section 7 – Description)*
 - *Chandor Gardens, Weatherford, NR nomination (Section 7 – Description)*
- **Due today:** Map of nominated property

WEEK 4 (Sept. 25)

Historical Research 1

TOUR: Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe.

*** Meeting time may be earlier than scheduled class time (TBD) ***

- **Readings in preparation for tour:** (on Canvas)
 - *Austin History Center - Property Information Sources*
 - *City of Austin - Researching Your House in Austin, Texas*
 - *NPS: Guidelines for Local Survey* ("Archival Research" (pp. 28-34)
- **Due today:** Summary paragraph, Section 7 (Description)

WEEK 5 (Oct. 2)

Historical Research 2

TOUR: Alexander Architectural Archive and Architecture Library (meet in Battle Hall ground floor)

- *Architectural records*
- *Library databases*
- *Public records (census, deeds)*
- *Managing citations and bibliographies*
- *Research sources and methods (key primary sources)*
- **Readings to be discussed in class:** (on Canvas)
 - *Austin History Center - Property Information Sources*
 - *City of Austin - Researching Your House in Austin, Texas*
 - *NPS: Guidelines for Local Survey ("Archival Research" (pp. 28-34)*

WEEK 6 (Oct. 9)

Evaluating Significance 1

- Evaluating Significance - National Register Criteria and Criteria Considerations
- Determining significance: applying the National Register criteria
- Local, state and national historic contexts
- Areas of Significance
- **Readings to be discussed in class:** (on Canvas)
 - NR Bulletin 15: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*
- **Due today:** Written description property (NR nomination Section 7)

WEEK 7 (Oct. 16)

Evaluating Significance 2

- Applying the criteria and aspects of integrity: Making determinations of eligibility from submitted documentation
- Placing a property's significance within wider historical contexts
- Using secondary sources
- **Readings to be discussed in class:** (on Canvas)
 - *Dallas Coffin Company, Dallas, NRHP Nomination*
 - *Old Spanish Trail, Colorado County, NRHP Nomination*
 - *Chandor Gardens, Weatherford, NR nomination (Section 8, Statement of Significance)*
- **Due today:** Summary paragraph, Section 8 (Statement of Significance)

WEEK 8 (Oct. 23)

Presentation of Case Studies (evaluation of submitted documents)

- **Due today:** Case Study Assignment

WEEK 9 (Oct. 30)

Districts, Boundaries, and Multiple Property Submissions

- Writing descriptions of districts
 - **Reading to be discussed in class:** (on Canvas)
 - *Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties* (pp. 1-27)
 - *Montana Avenue Historic District, El Paso, NRHP nomination*
 - *Brackenridge Park, San Antonio, NRHP nomination*
 - *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial Multiple Property Submission*
- **Due today:** Statement of Significance (NR nomination Section 8) and Bibliography (Section 9)

WEEK 10 (Nov. 6)

In-class discussion of student nominations

- Be prepared to discuss progress of your nominations; we will have time in class to discuss project-specific problems and questions

WEEK 11 (Nov. 13)

National Register Regulations and Procedures

- Preparing National Register forms
- NRHP Regulations and Review Process
- Amending nominations

WEEK 12 (Nov. 20)

Historic Resource Surveys

- Conducting historic resource surveys
- Survey databases, spreadsheets
- Photography standards
- Selecting survey boundaries
- **Reading to be discussed in class:** (on Canvas)
 - *NPS: Guidelines for Local Surveys* (pp. 9-18; 35-36; 41-51)
 - *How to Improve the Quality of Photographs for National Register Nominations* (pp. 5-24)

WEEK 13 (Nov. 27)

Introduction to Treatment of Historic Properties

- Secretary of the Interior's Standards
- Rehabilitation Tax Credits and Case Studies
- *NPS Preservation Briefs*
- **Reading to be discussed in class:** (on Canvas)
 - *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the treatment of Historic Properties*
 - *Summary Secretary of the Interior's Standards*
- **Due today:** Draft nominations (first full draft on form)

WEEK 14 (Dec. 4)

Formal presentation of National Register nominations

- Summaries and findings, with recommendations on boundaries, criteria, areas of significance, period of significance

Final nominations due Friday, December 14