

ARCH 2111: History I School of Architecture History of Architecture, Ancient to the Eighteenth Century Georgia Institute of Technology

Credit Hours: 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Arch 2111 is the first of a two-course sequence covering the history of architecture from around the world. It introduces concepts and works from the origins of architecture in prehistory through the works of the mid-eighteenth century, considering architecture's creation, use, and interpretation from a variety of perspectives: environmental, functional/ programmatic, material, technological, structural, formal, socio-political, and cultural. Quizzes, papers, and exams will test students' knowledge of the course material through visual identification and written analysis of buildings.

Prerequisites: None. However, freshmen are not eligible to enroll. Teaching format: Lectures and discussion.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To familiarize the student with the principal architectural ideas and built works from prehistory through the eighteenth century.
2. To present a historical understanding of those works in their physical, social, cultural, and technological contexts.
3. To help the student acquire and develop the fundamental critical tools of visual and historical interpretation:
 - a. a descriptive and analytical vocabulary with which to express visual perception verbally,
 - b. the ability to identify and evaluate different kinds of historical evidence,
 - c. a sense of the complex constitution of historical context.
4. To encourage effective written communication through training in argumentation.
5. To teach the student to think critically about the aspirations, constraints, tools, and choices involved in all architectural design, past and present.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Those students who successfully complete the course will be able:

1. *To recognize, describe, and discuss the major works of architecture from antiquity through the first half of the eighteenth century.*
2. *To draw connections between changes in architectural design and changes in socio-political, cultural, and technological contexts.*
3. *To articulate their ideas about architecture by using appropriate vocabulary and by adducing supporting evidence appropriate to a building's period, culture, and technology. Students will understand that complex works demand and support nuanced interpretations.*
4. *To mount effective written arguments in support of particular interpretations.*
5. *To acknowledge and identify the rich spectrum of factors that influence the making of architecture in any period.*

The course seeks to highlight the difference of unfamiliar periods and cultures, so that students are able to take the critical distance necessary to identify and explore relevant issues. At the same time, it aims to make those periods accessible, so that the cultural productions of the past become comprehensible and meaningful, and the historical narrative about them may inform our understanding of ongoing patterns of change in today's architectural design.

NAAB PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

The National Architectural Accreditation Board identifies 34 performance criteria it determines to "constitute the minimum requirements for meeting the demands of an internship leading to registration for practice." The criteria that this course meets are numbers A.1, A.2, A.8, A.9, A.10, and C.2. More information on accreditation and a list of the performance criteria can be found on the NAAB's web site at <http://www.naab.org>.

ASSIGNMENTS

According to Georgia Tech norms for lecture classes, students are expected to spend a minimum of 2 hours studying outside of class for every hour spent in class. This means you should expect to devote at least 5-7.5 hours of study per week to this class in addition to the 2.5 hours spent in class, for a total of 7.5-10 hours; significantly less time than this will not be adequate to earn a passing grade.

Each assignment builds on those that have come before. Therefore, from the very beginning of the semester, the more care you put into each individual assignment, the better prepared you will be for all subsequent assignments. There is no better guarantee of success in the class than consistent engagement and a determination to do the weekly readings and image study according to a regular, timely schedule.

Readings

Readings from the textbook are coordinated with the lectures and those on T-Square are correlated with the discussions. Students should plan to do assigned readings before the lecture or discussion for which they are assigned in order to be prepared to digest material in lecture and discuss ideas in class.

In-Class Writings and Quizzes

Each of the two halves of the course will include one brief in-class writing (10-15 minutes in length) at the beginning of a discussion day and one quiz, either in-class or take-home, to test whether you are keeping up with the work (lecture notes, readings, image study) and to help you practice certain descriptive and analytical skills which you'll need for the papers and exams.

Each of the two halves of the course will require one written essay, 4-6 and 6-8 pages in length, respectively. The first paper is intended to be a thought piece based on the lectures and readings to date; the second paper may, however, necessitate some research beyond the material presented in class. Topics will be assigned at least two weeks in advance and there will be an opportunity in each case to turn in an optional draft for commentary before the final deadline.

There will be two exams: a midterm exam and a final exam during exam period. Typically, exams comprise slide identifications (name of the work, location, name of the architect and/or patron, and cultural or period designation), slide comparisons, and topical essays. They may also include term definitions, labeling of diagrams, and short answer questions.

REQUIRED TEXTS/READINGS/SPECIAL MATERIALS Texts

The required textbook for the course is Michael Fazio, Marian Moffett, and Lawrence Wodehouse, *A World History of Architecture*, second ed. (Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2008), available for purchase in the Georgia Tech Bookstore. It will be used not only this semester but also in the continuation course (Arch 2112) next spring. You are not expected to bring the textbook to lecture.

Additional required readings for discussion will be available on the course T-Square site (accessible at <https://tsquare.gatech.edu>) under "Resources".

Handouts

All course handouts will be posted on T-Square under "Resources" in case you miss any in class or lose any during the course of the semester.

Images

In addition to studying the images in the textbook, students are encouraged to review the image files from lecture, available on T-Square under "Resources", at least once a week.