

MASTER SYLLABUS

COURSE NO., HOURS, AND TITLE: ARC 314I-3
Expressions in Architecture

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A study of the interconnected nature of the arts, history, environmental psychology, and architecture using the built environment as the foundation for the study. Students will learn to critically examine the built environment by learning how architecture expresses human cultures, social structures, economic and political status, and spiritual beliefs.

PREREQUISITE TO: None

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

1. Understand how the built environment expresses and molds the culture and structure of a society.
2. Examine and appreciate the cultures influencing the architecture of the modern-day United States: Native American, Latin American, Asian American, African American, and European American cultures.
3. Examine the influence of gender in architecture.
4. Examine universal architecture or design for the disabled.
5. Understand the elements of architectural design exhibited in a building: for example, rhythm, balance, proportion, and scale and relate those elements to culture.
6. Identify styles of architecture and associate those styles with the time and culture that created them.
7. Understand historical, political, religious, social, environmental, psychological, and technological influences acting upon a culture and the effects each has on the built environment.
8. Learn to view architecture as a new vocabulary that transcends the boundaries of time, place, and culture.
9. Learn to critically examine the built environment around us.

TOPICAL OUTLINE:

Topics	Percentages of Time
I. Architectural Concepts, Language, and Expression	30%
A. Introduction: what is architecture?	
1. the role of the architect	
2. heroic architects and heroic architecture	
3. architectural terminology	

4. meaning and metaphor
- B. What is architectural history?
 1. the development of architectural history
 2. explanations of architectural history
 3. buildings and architectural history
 - C. Function, space, and the interior environment
 1. enclosing space
 2. function and space
 3. size, proportion, and shape of space
 4. relationships between spaces
 5. environmental control
 - D. Materials and construction
 1. the palette of architectural expression
 2. the elements of structure
 - E. The exterior
 1. size and scale
 2. the façade
 3. climate and design
 4. functions of the façade: security, privacy, massing, lighting, structure, and decoration
 - F. Site and place
 1. topography and orientation
 2. creating the setting
 3. functions of the site: density, enclosure, sense of place and conservation
 - G. Styles and periods
 1. styles and variations within styles
 2. vernacular styles
 3. influences on style
 4. periods
- II. Cultural Expression in American Architecture 30%
- A. Traditional/vernacular cultural expression through architecture
 1. what is vernacular architecture
 2. examples of vernacular architecture
 - B. Native American cultural expression through architecture
 1. the architecture of nomadic versus stationary peoples
 - a) the Lodge and Woodland peoples
 - b) the Tipi, the Utes, and other tribes

- c) the wickiup & the western Apache
 - d) the Hogan & the Navajo (dine') and upland yuman peoples
 - e) cliff dwellings in the American southwest
- 2. how housing choices express tribal cultures, societal structures, family values, and gender relationships
- 3. religious and spiritual expression through the built environment
- C. African American cultural expression through architecture
 - 1. historical roots in African culture
 - 2. the works of African American architects:
 - a. Julian Francis Abele
 - b. Hilyard Robinson
 - c. Paul R. Williams
- D. European American cultural expression through architecture
 - 1. historical roots in Europe
- E. Asian American cultural expression through architecture
 - 1. historical roots in Asian cultures
 - 2. modern day china towns
 - 3. the works of Asian American architects:
 - a. Maya Lin
- F. Latin American cultural expression through architecture
 - 1. historical roots in Mexico and Spain
 - 2. the works of Latin American architects
- G. Gender-based cultural expression through architecture
 - 1. spatial dimensions of feminism
 - 2. the works of women architects
 - a. Maya Lin
 - b. Denise Scott Brown
 - c. Julia Morgan
 - d. others
- H. Universal architecture
 - 1. Americans with disabilities
 - 2. designing for disabilities
- I. The emergence of the "American architect" in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
 - 1. creating an American architecture
 - 2. what distinguishes American architecture as unique acts of creation from our cultural heritages? What makes a building "American?"
 - 3. the first "American" architects:

- a. Henry H. Richardson
- b. Louis Sullivan
- c. Frank Lloyd Wright
- d. Walter Burley Griffin
- 4. modern and post-modern American architects
 - a. Walter Gropius
 - b. Mies Van der Rohe
 - c. Julian Francis Abele
 - d. Hilyard Robinson
 - e. Paul R. Williams
 - f. Michael Graves
 - g. Helmut Jahn
 - h. Phillip Johnson
 - i. Robert A. M. Stern
 - j. Julia Morgan
 - k. Denise Scott Brown
 - l. Antoine Predock
 - m. Richard Meier

III. Environmental and Behavioral Issues in Architecture 30%

- A. The nature of the environment
 - 1. the terrestrial, or geographical, environment
 - 2. light
 - 3. nonvisual ambient information
 - 4. the animate environment
 - 5. social stimulation and social interaction
 - 6. the social system
 - 7. the cultural environment
- B. The built environment
 - 1. the affordances of the built environment
- C. Fundamental processes of human behavior
 - 1. motivation
 - 2. perception
 - a. the gestalt theory of perception
 - b. the transactional theory of perception
 - c. the ecological theory of perception
 - d. conclusions on perception
 - 3. cognition and affect
 - a. learning and memory
 - b. categorization and generalization
 - c. schemata
 - d. meaning

- e. emotional and affective meanings
 - f. processes of cognition and affect
 - 4. spatial behavior
 - a. micromodels of spatial behavior
- D. Personal space
- E. Territoriality
 - 1. the functions of territories
 - 2. systems of human territories
 - 3. territorial behavior and the built environment
- F. Defensible space
- G. Social space and room geography
 - 1. sociopetal and sociofugal space
 - 2. territorial control and interactions
- H. Functional propinquity and interaction patterns in residential areas
 - 1. functional centrality and interaction patterns
- I. Empirical aesthetics
 - 1. the information-theory approach
 - 2. the semantic approach
 - 3. the semiotic approach
 - 4. the psychobiological approach
 - 5. empirical aesthetics and environmental design theory
- J. Formal aesthetics: the gestaltist approach
 - 1. the elements of design
 - 2. the principles of composition
 - 3. order and disorder
 - 4. perceptual order and proportional schemata
 - 5. the gestalt theory of expression
- K. Variables of the built environment that carry meaning
 - 1. building configuration
 - 2. spatial configurations
 - 3. materials
 - 4. the nature of illumination
 - 5. color
 - 6. the nonvisual environment
 - 7. the meaning of nonmaterial attributes of the built environment
- L. The acquisition of symbolic meanings and affective values
 - 1. the theory of physiognomic properties

2. Jungian approaches to symbolism
3. the behaviorist model
4. the ecological model of perception and cognition

- IV. The Status of Architectural Expression in the United States Today 10%
- A. The United States: melting pot or salad bowl
 - B. Architectural expression in a pluralistic society
 - C. The citizen's role in preserving and protecting our architectural heritage
 - D. The built environment and you

Throughout the course, specific emphasis will be given to revealing the connections between the built environment and other disciplines. Among the related areas of inquiry that will be linked to this study of architecture are: environmental psychology, sociology, anthropology, religious studies, history, and art forms including sculpture, painting, photography, and music.

TEXTBOOKS:

Required:

Ching, F. (1997) *Visual dictionary of architecture*. New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons.

Rasmussen, S. (1962) *Experiencing architecture*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Roth, L. (1993) *Understanding architecture*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.