Architecture 553 examines the impact of politics, culture and the environment on the evolution of American architectural and urban forms from prehistory to World War II. The class explores the interchange between European architectural theory and indigenous and vernacular influences as they came together to create new national and regional forms of building and urban design. While generally chronological in presentation, lectures also examine a series of case studies in order to more closely explore the complexity of form and meaning in the American landscape.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED TEXTS:


RECOMMENDED TEXT:


READING:

Weekly reading assignments are listed in the lecture schedule in this Syllabus. These readings should be completed BEFORE the lecture under which they are listed.

RESEARCH PAPER:

During the course of the semester you will be responsible for researching and documenting the work of an architect or architectural patron, a local building, building type, or urban space. Possible topics, methods for developing bibliographies, documenting buildings, and evolving an appropriate research model will be discussed as the semester evolves. The instructor must approve topics in advance.

Each student will be required to submit a one-page description of the paper topic and preliminary bibliography on October 13. A ten-page, double-spaced paper, with appropriate footnotes and an expanded bibliography will be due on April 29.
GRADING:

Preliminary Paper Proposal and Bibliography, October 13: 5%
Midterm Exam, October 20: 25%
Research Paper, December 1: 30%
Final Exam, December 15: 40%

ATTENDANCE:

Medical or family emergencies and religious holidays are the only acceptable excuses for make-up exams, acceptance of late assignments and the granting of incomplete grades. More than two unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the class.

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A:
http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/.
Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/.

CLASS SCHEDULE

AUG 25 INTRODUCTION: First Americans


SEP 1 LABOR DAY-No Class

SEP 8 Indigenous Peoples of the American Southwest and the Arrival of the Spanish
SEP 15 Building in New Spain

Gelernter, pp. 35-50; and Marc Treib, “Church design and construction in Spanish New Mexico” in Eggener, p. 51-72

SEP 22 Native American Architecture and the Persistence of Medieval European Building Traditions

SEP 29 Euro-American Architecture and Planning in Eastern North America during the 18th Century

Upton, pp. 11-55; Gelernter, pp. 51-106; and Dell Upton, “Space: parish churches, courthouses, and dwellings in colonial Virginia,” and John Michael Vlach, “The plantation landscape,” in Eggener, pp. 73-111

OCT 6 Imagining the New Republic


OCT 13 The Industrial Revolution and Its Impact on the American Landscape

PRELIMINARY PAPER PROPOSAL AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

Upton, pp. 149-185; and Gelernter, pp. 153-165;

OCT 20 MIDTERM EXAM

OCT 27 Parks, Suburbs and the Ideal of Nature

Upton, pp. 107-147; Gelernter, pp. 143-153; and Gwendolyn Wright, “Independence and the rural cottage,” in Eggener, pp. 142-154

NOV 3 Inventing an “American” Architecture


NOV 10 Monuments to Commerce: Chicago and the Rise of the Tall Office Building


NOV 17 The City Beautiful and the Conquest of the American West

NOV 24  Frank Lloyd Wright and the Origins of an American Avant-Garde


DEC 1  Tradition and Innovation Between the Wars, REVIEW

RESEARCH PAPER DUE

Upton, pp. 247-283; Gelernter, pp. 230-259; and Margaret Kentgens-Craig, “The search for modernity: America, the International Style and the Bauhaus,” in Eggener, pp. 294-312

DEC 15  FINAL EXAM: 11 AM-1 PM

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY


Kaufmann, Edgar, Jr., and Ben Raeburn, eds.  *Frank Lloyd Wright; Writings and Buildings*.  Cleveland, 1960.
Kelly, Bruce, Gail Travis Guillet, and Mary Ellen W. Hern.  *Art of the Olmsted Landscape*.  New York.


