

Professor Ghirardo
Architecture 414
Spring 2018
Tues 12.30-3.20
HARRIS Hall 102
Class N. 11436

Preliminary Syllabus

Sacred Spaces

Course: Part seminar and part lecture, this class addresses questions concerning spaces defined as sacred. Who defines them, when, why, where: these are the general questions with which the course begins. What does 'sacred' mean in the context of different types of spaces? On what basis do individuals or groups decide that a site is sacred, and on what authority? Many such spaces end up being contested, for a variety of reasons. The subject opens up multiple possibilities, many of which we will examine in detail beginning with a series of lectures followed by discussions of historical examples of sacred spaces.

Please note: because I also teach in the program in Italy, class begins later and is interrupted the week prior to spring break. Therefore the hours are longer so that we arrive at the full 24 hours of class time. More information below, along with the dates of class meetings and discussions.

Objectives: For architects, questions concerning sacred space are even more specific: how does one acknowledge a space as sacred through architecture? What characteristics or features of a structure enhance the sense of the sacred – and for whom? Students will identify a site in Southern California that some group or groups have determined to be 'sacred,' will conduct research on the site, both historical and on-site, to produce a 10-12 page (2500-3000 words) study. It may be that the 'sacred' character of such a sight has not yet received architectural definition.

While I encourage you to select sites that are already understood to be sacred, one might also consider identifying a site that might be considered to be sacred but has not been broadly recognized as such yet. In such a case, the assignment would entail both the historical dimension (explaining what is to be commemorated at the site) and an argument about why this should be done. An option for both types of papers would be then to propose ways of developing such a project architecturally. For this, I do not ask for detailed, computer drawings, but rather hand sketches that indicate possible ways of offering an architectural definition to the site.

Course details: This class is organized to have the bulk of the lectures in the first month of classes. Students will then begin drafting outlines for research papers and preparing first drafts. After a break for the midterm reviews, students will continue submitting drafts of their papers, for which you will meet individually with me, primarily via Skype. Lectures will resume in April (after spring break). In the skype sessions, we will primarily discuss your research projects, the sites you select and the issues that your site raises.

Texts:

Vincent Scully, *The Earth, the Temple and the Gods*

Mary Ann Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*

Reader: Riegl, *Modern Cult of Monuments*

Eliade, selections, *The Sacred and the Profane*

Course grade: The grade is based upon class attendance 10% (when we meet either in person or via skype), participation 10%, and the research paper 80%. All students will submit a draft by March 10, which I will review and return to you with comments. **You will be able to submit drafts until the last day of class. I will indicate the grade status on drafts, but these grades are not counted toward your course grade. The final paper grade is the only one to count, in addition to attendance and participation.**

Lectures:

Jan. 23 Introduction to Sacred Spaces and Primitive Sacred Spaces

Jan. 30 Two Ancient Examples of sacred space

Feb. 6 Architecture and the Creation of Sacred Space: Modern Examples

Feb. 13 Contested Sacred Space? Los Angeles / / Cape Town, SA

Feb. 20 Sacred Spaces: Modern Examples I

Mar. 12-19: Spring Break

Apr. 3: Sacred Spaces: Modern Examples II
Student Research Projects

Apr. 10: Student Presentations

Apr. 24: Student Presentations

Final Papers submitted electronically are due at time of final exam 9 May, 2-4pm

Paper Details:

Students are directed to the University Guidelines for Avoiding Plagiarism; for additional details on what constitutes plagiarism, see M.A. Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. You need not consult the most recent edition; any one of them has clear examples of plagiarism: and remember, plagiarism consists not just of copying words or sentences without quotation marks and citations, it also consists in copying ideas. It removes none of the luster from your work to recognize the contributions of others in the preparation of your papers, and indeed, it gives evidence of a broad search for ideas, examples, and theories.

Proper citations must be included even in drafts. Proper citations are footnotes, not a name and date in parentheses.

Proper citation form can be found in **Rampolla**; the style I accept is the Chicago Style, some of which can also be found online. **Bibliographic form for citation is NOT the same as citations in footnotes.**

Papers are to be presented in 12 point, Times New Roman or Palatino, at approximately 250-300 words per page. **Please title your document as follows:**

414 18 <*your name*> version 1 (or 2, 3, etc)

Please also place your name on the paper itself, along with the date of submission.

NB: Papers not submitted in the correct format, whether in font, font size, footnote form, and name of document will be returned unread until submitted in the proper form.