

## Architectural History, Prehistory to the Present

GSEM 110g: Seminar in the Arts  
Section 35308R: 4 Units  
Monday and Wednesday 2:00– 3:20pm  
Grace Ford Salvatori Hall (GFS) 228  
Instructor: Ken Breisch, Ph.D.

This course will examine the impact of politics, culture and the environment on the evolution of architectural and urban form from prehistory to the present day. The course intends to provide a fundamental method for understanding how people use architecture to present meaning. It is intended to foster visual literacy by developing a familiarity with representative examples major building traditions around the world, and will explore the inter-relationships and parallel use of forms and spaces by different cultures throughout history. While generally chronological in presentation, lectures will focus on a series of case studies that analyze these phenomena.

### Course Requirements

#### Reading

Required weekly reading assignments are listed in the lecture schedule in this syllabus. These readings should be completed prior to the lecture under which they are listed.

#### Required Text

Leland M. Roth and Amanda C. Roth Clark. *Understanding Architecture: Its Elements, History, Meaning*, Third edition, Westview Press: New York, 2014.

Articles on Blackboard (listed in syllabus schedule)

#### Assignments

There are four assignments:

##### Assignment 1: Experiencing Architecture. 1000 words. **(due February 10)**

Using the first 8 chapters in Roth (where appropriate) write a five-page on the Ecumenical Religious Center (Killingsworth, Brady and Smith, 1966) on the USC Campus. (Describe your reaction to this building and its space at different times of the day and night and in different weather conditions. No research is necessary. This should be in the form of a typed, double-spaced paper You may attach sketches or photographs to illustrate your paper. **(late papers will be reduced one half grade for every day they are overdue).**

##### Assignment 2: Diagramming Architecture, 500 words **(due March 7)**

Using your own sketches, diagram and analyze the cloister of Seeley Wintersmith Mudd Hall of Philosophy. You will not be graded on you drawing ability, but on your insight into the significant elements of the space and architecture and how they work. Study the Glossary at the end of Roth and use as much of this vocabulary as you think appropriate to describe this space.

Assignment 3: Theorizing Architecture. 1200 words. **(due March 28)**

Using Cassandra Adams article on Japan's Ise Shrine and Stephen Murray's on Notre-Dame of Paris, compare and contrast these two architectural monuments. (1200 words).

Assignment 4: Researching Architecture. 1500 words. **(due April 27)**

Given what you have learned this semester, return to the Ecumenical Religious Center (Killingsworth, Brady and Smith, 1966) on the USC Campus. Research and analyze this building by placing it in its historical context. You may attach sketches or photographs to illustrate your paper.

Exams, Grading, etc.

Assignment 1 10%

Assignment 2 10%

Assignment 3 20%

Assignment 4 25%

Final Exam 25%

Participation 10%

Medical and family emergencies are the only acceptable excuses for acceptance of late assignments, make-up exams, or the granting of incomplete grades. Without an acceptable excuse, a full grade will be deducted for every day late. No assignment will be accepted after the third day late.

The university recognizes the diversity of our community and the potential for conflicts involving academic activities and personal religious observation. The university provides a guide to such observances for reference and suggests that any concerns about lack of attendance or inability to participate fully in the course activity be fully aired at the start of the term. As a general principle students should be excused from class for these events if properly documented and if provisions can be made to accommodate the absences and make up for lost work. Constraints on participation that conflict with adequate participation in the course and cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the faculty and the student need to be identified prior to the drop add date for registration. After the drop/add date the University and the School of Architecture shall be the sole arbiter of what constitutes appropriate attendance and participation in a given course.

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 as early in the semester as possible. DPS is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30AM-5PM, 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. 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/>

### **Weeks 1 and 2: January 11-20: Introduction**

Reading: Roth, Chapters 1-8, pp. 1-159

BLACKBOARD 1: Adrian Hoard, "The Commodification Of Art: Ndebele Women in the Stream of Change," Cultural Survival

### **Week 3: January 25: Buddhism**

Reading: Roth, Essay 1: India, pp. 275-281

Reading: Roth, Essay 4: China, pp. 455-461

#### **January 27: Japan**

Reading: Roth, Essay 5: Japan, pp. 497-503

BLACKBOARD 2: Cassandra Adams, "Japan's Ise Shrine and Its Thirteen-Hundred-Year-Old Reconstruction Tradition." *Journal of Architectural Education*, Vol. 52 (Sep., 1998): 49-60

### **Week 4: February 1: Japan, cont.**

#### **February 3: Ancient America**

Reading: Roth, Essay 3: Ancient America, pp. 409-413

### **Week 5: February 8 -10: Egypt and Greece (assignment 1 due February 10)**

Reading: Reading: Roth, 165-248

### **Weeks 6 and 7: February 15-24: Rome (February 15: Presidents' Day)**

Reading: Reading: Roth, Chapter 12, pp. 249-281

BLACKBOARD 3: Robert Mark and Paul Hutchinson, "On the Structure of the Roman Pantheon;" and Vitruvius, *Ten Books on Architecture*. download or read at Project Gutenberg: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/20239/20239-h/29239-h.htm>  
read the preface and book I, book II, chapter 1; and books III-VI.

### **Week 8: February 29-March 2: Early Christianity, Byzantium and Early Islam**

Reading: Roth, Chapter 13, pp. 283-305

Reading: Roth, Essay 2: Islam, pp. 307-313

BLACKBOARD 4: William MacDonal, "Design and Technology in Hagia Sophia," *Perspecta*, Vol. 4 (1957), pp. 20-27

**Week 9: March 7-9: The Middle Ages (assignment 2 due March 7)**

Reading: Roth, Chapters 14-15, pp. 315-363

BLACKBOARD 5: Stephen Murray, "Notre-Dame of Paris and the Anticipation of Gothic," *The Art Bulletin*, Vol. 80, No. 2 (Jun., 1998), pp. 229-253.

**Week 10: March 7-9: The Renaissance**

Reading: Roth, Chapter 15, pp. 407

**March 14-15-:** Spring Recess

**Week 11: March 21-23: The Baroque (Assignment 3 due, March**

Reading: Roth, Chapter 16, pp. 415-453

**Week 12: March 28: Later Islam (assignment 3 due March 28)**

BLACKBOARD 6: Doğan Kuban, "The Style of Sinan's Domed Structures," *Muqarnas*, vol. 4 (1987), pp. 72-97.

**March 30:** The Origins of Modernism

Reading: Roth, Chapter 17, pp. 463-495

**Week 13: April 4 -6: The Nineteenth Century**

**April 6: NO CLASS**

Reading: Roth, Chapter 18, pp. 505-547

**Week 14: April 13-15: Modernism**

Reading: Roth, Chapter 19, pp. 557-655

**April 18-20: Late Modernism**

Cont. reading Reading: Roth, Chapter 19, pp. 557-655

BLACKBOARD 7: Reyner Banham, "'Building Inside Out," *A Critic Write:*

*Essays by Reyner Banham*, selected by Mary Banham, et al., Berkeley, c.1996

**Week 15: April 25-27: The Twenty-First Century & Review (assignment 4 due April 27)**

Reading: Roth, Chapter 21

**MONDAY, MAY 9; FINAL EXAM, 2-4 PM**