ARCH 552: INTRODUCTION TO HISTORIC SITE DOCUMENTATION

Semester: Fall 2018
Day and Time: Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.
Location: HAR 102
Instructor: Katie E. Horak, MHC
khorak@usc.edu
626/616-3976

COURSE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

This course introduces students to various techniques employed in the field of historic preservation for recording and documenting historic resources. A core course for the Master of Heritage Conservation degree, coursework gives students a basic knowledge of recordation and documentation processes necessary for a professional working in the field of historic preservation. It will include an overview of the methods of architectural classification and basic guidelines and standards of documentation, including architectural descriptions; historic resources surveys; National Register, California Register and local registration standards; photographic documentation; historic structure reports; and HABS/HAER documentation. This course aims to encourage new ways of observing and thinking about the built environment through practical applications of documentation methods and fieldwork exercises.

PRIMARY TEXTS


*Available on Blackboard*

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Reading**

Required reading assignments are listed in the lecture schedule in this Syllabus. These readings should be completed *before* the lecture under which they are listed.

**Grading**

- 10% Architectural Style Exercise
- 10% Written Description Documentation
- 10% Photographic Documentation Exercise
- 20% DPR forms: Individual Building Significance Documentation
- 15% Historic District Documentation
- 10% Measured Drawing Exercise
- 10% Sketchbook Completion/Participation
- 15% Final Exam

**Sketchbook**

For the duration of this course, students are required to keep a record of their observations of the built environment through sketches, photographs, and/or written musings. Each week, students will be assigned a specific item (or items) to record in a sketchbook through the medium of their choice. Sketches will be presented at the beginning of each class session (three or four students per class); every student is expected to present their sketchbook findings multiple times throughout the semester.

**Attendance**

Medical or family emergencies and religious holidays are the only acceptable excuses for acceptance of late assignments and the granting of incomplete grades. More than two unexcused
absences will result in a failing grade for the class. Tardiness is strongly discouraged and will be penalized if unexcused and habitual.

CLASS SCHEDULE, READING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Aug. 24  
**Introduction**  
Review of the purpose and direction of the course  
Introduction to observation and investigation  
Research methods and sources

Aug. 31  
**Language of Architecture I**  
Definition and classification: residential architectural styles  
Identification of character-defining features

Reading:  
Gottfried and Jennings [pp. 9-16; 33-44]  
Carter and Cromley [pp. 1 – 18]

Sept. 7  
**Language of Architecture II**  
Assessing architectural style and character defining features in the field  
Site visit (location TBD)

Reading:  
Gottfried and Jennings [pp. 59-85; 167-179]  
Preservation Brief 17: *Architectural Character: Identifying the Visual Aspects of Historic Buildings as an Aid to Preserving Their Character*  
http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief17.htm

Due:  
Residential architectural styles exercise

Sept. 14  
**Architectural Photography**  
Introduction to photographic information gathering  
*Guest lecturer, Stephen Schafer*

Reading:  
Burns [pp. 52-87]  
Carter and Cromley [pp. 19-43]
Sept. 21  Written Documentation
Writing architectural descriptions
Reading: Maliszewsky-Pickart [selections posted to Blackboard]

Sept. 28  NO CLASS

Oct. 5  National, State and Local Registers
Eligibility criteria
Integrity aspects and thresholds
Similarities and differences between federal, state and local eligibility and
documentation standards
Use of standardized forms

Reading: National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register
Criteria for Evaluation
http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/

California Office of Historic Preservation Technical Assistance
Series #6: California Register and National Register: A
Comparison
http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/pages/1069/files/technical%20assistance%20bulletin%206%202011%20update.pdf

Due: Written description documentation
Architectural photography exercise

Oct. 12  Developing Historic Contexts and Assessing Significance
Presentation of Individual Buildings, and Discussion
Use of standardized Dept of Parks and Recreation (DPR) forms

Reading: Instructions for Recording Historical Resources. Sacramento:

Oct. 19  Measured Drawings
Types and purposes of drawings
Taking measurements in the field

Reading: Burns [pp. 88-139]
Oct. 26  **Field Investigation I**  
Understanding significance  
Identifying later alterations and additions  
Assessment of conditions

Reading:  
[http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief35.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief35.htm)


Due: Individual Building Significance Documentation: 523a (Primary Record) and 523b (Building, Structure and Object Record) set

Nov. 2  **Field Investigation II**  
Case study and site visit (location TBD)

Due: Measured Drawing Documentation

Nov. 9  **Historic Resources Surveys**  
Introduction to historic resources surveys and inventories  
Site visit (location TBD – meet in classroom at usual time)

Reading:  
National Register Bulletin 24: *Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning*  

Nov. 16  **NO CLASS – PastForward, National Preservation Conference**

Nov. 23  **NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Nov. 30  **New Methods of Documentation**  
Documentation by laser scanning  
*Guest lecturer: Julia Ausloos*

Due: Historic District Documentation, and Sketchbooks
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. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The telephone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity http://equity.usc.edu/ or to the Department of Public Safety http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/ provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services and Programs
http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information http://emergency.usc.edu will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.