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.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


Additional Readings are posted on Blackboard

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

For students with little or no background in the history of european architecture, i would recommend that you read: Leland M. Roth, Understanding Architecture: Its Elements, History, and Meaning, Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2006

READING:

Weekly reading assignments are listed in the lecture schedule in this Syllabus. 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, an architectural patron, a local building, building type, or a rural or urban landscape. 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 2. A ten-page, double-spaced research paper with appropriate footnotes and an expanded bibliography will be due on November 27.

GRADING:

Midterm Exam, October 9: 30%
Research Paper, November 27: 30%
Final Exam, December 11: 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.

You will be allowed one unexcused absence during the semester. Every unexcused absence after that will result in your overall grade being reduced by one letter grade per absence.
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. http://dsp.usc.edu.

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 Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable.

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. 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 Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

BECAUSE IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT SOME STUDENTS IN LECTURES WILL ABUSE THE USE OF SMART PHONES, COMPUTERS AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES, I HAVE UNFORTUNATELY FOUND IT NECESSARY TO BAN THEIR USE DURING LECTURES. USING THEM IS DISRUPTIVE TO OTHER STUDENTS.

CLASS SCHEDULE

AUG 21 INTRODUCTION: Indigenous Peoples of the American Southwest


AUG 28 Building in New Spain

Gelernter, pp. 35-50; and Marc Treib, “Church design and construction in Spanish New Mexico” in Eggener, pp. 51-72; and Blackboard Rdg 3, “Spanish Architecture in New Mexico,” from Bunting, Bainbridge. Early Architecture in New Mexico, pp. 52-85.

SEP 4 Native American Architecture and the Persistence of European Vernacular Building Traditions in the East


SEP 11 The English Colonies in 18th Century
SEP 18  Imagining the New Republic: Thomas Jefferson and the L’Enfant Plan for Washington D.C.


SEP 25  The Greek Revival and other Early Revival Styles


OCT 2  The Industrial Revolution and Its Impact on the American Landscape; PRELIMINARY PAPER PROPOSAL AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

Upton, pp. 149-185; and Gelernter, pp. 143-165.

OCT 9  MIDTERM EXAM

OCT 16  Parks, Suburbs and the Ideal of Nature

Upton, pp. 149-185; Gwendolyn Wright, “Independence and the rural cottage,” in Eggener, pp. 142-154

OCT 25  Inventing an “American” Architecture


OCT 30  Monuments to Commerce: Chicago and the Rise of the Tall Office Building


NOV 6  The City Beautiful Movement and Conquest of the American West


NOV 13  Frank Lloyd Wright and the American Avant-Garde

Tradition and Innovation Between the Wars

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

Conclusion: FINAL REVIEW; RESEARCH PAPER DUE

DEC 11 FINAL EXAM: 11 AM-1 PM


SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY


Eastlake, Charles H. *Hints on Household Taste in Furniture, Upholstery, and Other Details.* London, 1868; First American edition, Boston, 1872.


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.
Street, George. Brick & Marble Architecture of North Italy. London, 1855