

Syllabus

ARC 121

Introduction to Architecture

Fall 2013

Department of Architecture

The State University of New York at Buffalo



Claude Nicolas Ledoux "The Gaze" Theater  
at Besançon, France, 1784

## **INTRODUCTION TO ARCHITECTURE**

**ARC 121, FALL 2013**

**NSC ROOM 201**

**T & TH 7:00PM-8:20PM**

**INSTRUCTOR: I. AYAD [ieayad@buffalo.edu](mailto:ieayad@buffalo.edu)**

**OFFICE HOURS: THURSDAYS 12:00PM-1:30PM OR BY  
APPOINTMENT, 125 CROSBY**

**TAS: LEAH KIBLIN [lkiblin@buffalo.edu](mailto:lkiblin@buffalo.edu)**

**VINCENT KRAUSE [vkrause@buffalo.edu](mailto:vkrause@buffalo.edu)**

**RICK VAN CUREN [VanCuren@buffalo.edu](mailto:VanCuren@buffalo.edu)**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE**

The course will provide a rudimentary examination of architecture and the built domain focusing on both western and non-western achievements. The material will be presented in a lecture format supported by visual aids: power point presentations, field trips, and movies.

Although the course will make use of historical examples, it is not a history course per se. Past and present buildings and urban projects will serve as a tool for developing an understanding and appreciation of the discipline and its objectives.

To this end the reading material is drawn from numerous fields including architectural history and theory, sociology, philosophy, literature, and urban studies supporting Louis Kahn's claim that architecture is "the handwriting of humanity."

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- \*Class attendance
- \*Four exams
- \*Group project
- \*Sketch book

Attendance is mandatory. Students are required and will be held accountable for signing the roster that will be circulated at the beginning of each lecture. Lectures start and finish on time!!!

Absences or late work due to personal illness or family problems must be validated with proper documentation. When appropriate students will be able to reschedule a missed class or an assignment.

All cell phones and laptops must be turned off during the lectures. Disruptive behavior: talking, eating, or drinking is unacceptable.

#### **GRADING**

Exams and group project will total 500 points. Each is worth 20% of the final grade.

Extra points. There will be 3 quizzes 10 points each quiz. The quizzes will be based on the reading assignments. There will be no make up quizzes.

Students missing more than two classes without proper validation will lose a letter grade. Class disruption will be equated with missing a lecture.

#### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

All students are expected honor and uphold SUNY's code of academic integrity. Plagiarism, cheating, and falsification of documents are unacceptable and may result in the student's dismissal from the university. (See "Academic Integrity" Undergraduate Catalogue 2013-14)

#### **SPECIFIC NEEDS**

Students requiring special accommodations based on a Disability must contact the Office of Disability Services at 25 Capen Hall, North Campus, to obtain a letter of approval. The letter should be delivered to me or the TAS at the beginning of the semester.

#### **TEXT**

The required text for this class is a *Reader* available at Queen City Imaging, 3100 Main Street, Buffalo. Ideally the reading assignments for each lecture should be completed **BEFORE** class.

#### **UBLEARNS**

The class website at UBLearns will serve as a facilitator for the course. The site will list: the syllabus, each lecture, study aids for the exams, project assignment, attendance, grades, and any additional information necessary to successfully complete this course.

## COURSE OUTLINE

(The course outline is subject to change. Unless stated, the reading assignments are in the *Reader*)

- AUG** 27                    **Introduction**
- AUG** 29                    **Architectural Conventions: Drawings and Models**  
Reading  
David DeLong, "A Note on Architectural Drawings," in H. W. Janson's *History of Art*
- SEP** 3                     **The Invention of Architecture**  
Reading  
Leland M. Roth, "The Beginnings of Architecture: From Caves to Cities," in *Understanding Architecture*; and Vitruvius, "The Department of Architecture," in *The Ten Books on Architecture*, Book I, Chpt. 3
- SEP** 5                     **Building Typology: The Villa and Its Morphology**  
Reading  
James S. Ackerman, "The Typology of the Villa," in *The Villa: Form and Ideology of Country Houses*; and Pliny the Younger, *Letters*, Book II, XVII 1-5
- SEP** 10                    **Space**  
Reading  
Steen Eiler Rasmussen, "Solids and Cavities in Architecture," in *Experiencing Architecture*
- SEP** 12                    **The Dancing Column: Post and Lintel Construction**  
Reading  
Roth, "Firmness": How Does the Building Stand Up?" in *Understanding Architecture* pp. 19-27

## COURSE OUTLINE

- SEP 17**                    **Frames**  
Roth, "Firmness": or How Does the Building Stand Up?" p. 27 (see Frames); and Siegfried Giedion, "The Balloon Frame," and "The Chicago School," in *Space, Time and Architecture*
- SEP 19**                    **Exam I - In Class**
- SEP 21**                    **Boat Trip for all Non-Architecture Students**  
Reading  
Francis R. Kowsky, "Monuments of a Vanishing Prosperity: Buffalo's Grain Elevators and the Rise and Fall of the Great Transportational System of Grain Transportation," in Linda Schneekloth ed., Reconsidering Concrete Atlantis: Buffalo Grain Elevators
- SEP 24**                    **The Arch**  
Reading  
Roth, "Firmness": or How Does the Building Stand Up?" pp. 27-29 (see The Arch)
- SEP 26**                    **Vaults**  
Reading  
Roth, "Firmness:" How Does the Building Stand Up? pp. 29-33
- OCT 1**                    **Trusses and More**  
Reading  
Roth, "Firmness": How Does the Building Stand Up?" (see Trusses, Suspension and Membrane Structures)
- OCT 3**                    **Materials and Texture**  
Reading  
Paul Scheerbart, Glass Architecture," in Ulrich Conrad ed., *Programs and*

*Manifestoes on 20<sup>th</sup> Century Architecture*

**COURSE OUTLINE**

- OCT 8           **Ornament**  
Reading  
George Hersey, "Architecture and Sacrifice," in *The Lost Meaning of Classical Architecture*
- OCT 10          **Light**  
Reading  
Rasmussen, "Daylight in Architecture," in *Experiencing Architecture*; and Jun'ichiro Tanazaki, *In Praise of Shadows*
- OCT 15          **Exam II - In Class**
- OCT 17          **Geometry**  
Reading  
Hersey, "The Colosseum: The Cosmic Geometry of a Spectaculum," in Alberto Pérez-Gómez and Stephen Parcell eds., *Chora Four: Interval in the Philosophy of Architecture*
- OCT 22          **Scale, Symmetry, Proportion**  
Reading  
Rasmussen, "Scale and Proportion," in *Experiencing Architecture*
- OCT 24          **The Picturesque**  
Reading  
Ackerman, "The Picturesque," in *The Villa: Form and Ideology of Country Houses*  
**HANDOUT OF GROUP PROJECT**
- OCT 29          **Vernacular Architecture: A Global Perspective**  
Reading  
Paul Oliver, "Introduction," in *Dwellings: The Vernacular House World Wide*; and James Steele, "New Gourna: 1945-47," in *An Architecture for the People: The*

**COURSE OUTLINE**

- OCT 31                    **Architecture and Affordability:  
Wright's Prairie and Usonian Houses:  
Case Studies**  
Reading  
Frank Lloyd Wright, "Building the New  
House," "The Usonian House I," and  
"The Usonian House II," in *The  
Natural House*
- NOV 5                    **Exam III - In Class**
- NOV 7                    **Le Corbusier's "Five Points of  
Architecture**  
Reading  
Le Corbusier, "Mass Production  
Houses," in *Towards a New  
Architecture*
- NOV 12                   **The Grid and The Colony**  
Reading  
J. B. Ward-Perkins, *Cities of Ancient  
Greece and Italy: Planning in  
Classical Antiquity*
- NOV 14                   **The Baroque City Plan: Rome,  
Washington D.C., and Paris**  
Giedion, "Sixtus V (1585-1590)  
and The Planning of Baroque Rome,"  
and "City Planning in the 19<sup>th</sup>  
Century," from *Space, Time and  
Architecture*; and John W. Reps,  
"Planning the National City," in  
*The Making of Urban America*
- GROUP PROJECT DUE IN CLASS**
- NOV 19                   **Anti-City: The Rise of Suburbia and  
Urban Sprawl**  
Reading  
Kenneth Jackson, "The Baby Boom and  
The Age of the Subdivision, in

*Crabgrass Frontier*

**COURSE OUTLINE**

- NOV 21 **Frederick Law Olmsted and the Park Movement in America**  
Reading  
Kowsky, "Municipal Parks and City Planning: Frederick Law Olmsted's Buffalo Parks and Parkway System," in Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians
- NOV 26 **Contemporary Issues in Architecture: The Green Revolution**  
Reading  
William McDonough, "Design, Ecology, Ethics and the Making of Things," and "The Hannover Principles," in Kate Nesbitt ed., *Theorizing a New Agenda for Architecture: An Anthology Of Architectural Theory*
- NOV 28 **THANKSGIVING RECESS - NO CLASS**
- DEC 3 **Review of Group Projects**
- DEC 5 **Exam IV - In Class**



