

Department of Architectural Technology

ARCH 2321 HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE: 1900 TO THE PRESENT (W)

3 classroom hours, 3 credits

Course Description: A comprehensive study of architects, buildings and architectural movements from the turn of the last century until the present day. The architecture is explored in relationship to the concurrent artistic, philosophical, historical and technological contexts.

Course context: This is one of three writing-intensive courses in the department. All familiarize the student with architectural precedents.

Prerequisites: ENG 1101 and one of the following: ARTH 1101, ARTH 1102, ARTH 1103, ARTH 1104, or ARCH 1121.

Required Texts:

Colquhoun, Alan. 2002. *Modern Architecture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Course Reader (to be available from Zip Publishing).
The English Department Handbook, NYCCT

Recommended Texts:

Curtis, William. 1996. *Modern Architecture Since 1900*. 3rd Ed.: New York: Phaidon Press.
Jencks, Charles. 1987. *Modern Movements in Architecture*. 2nd Ed. Harmondsworth: Penguin.
Moneo, Rafael. 2005. *Theoretical Anxiety and Design Strategies in the Work of Eight Contemporary Architects* Cambridge: MIT Press.
Strunk, William and E.B. White. 2008. *The Elements of Style*. 50th Anniv. Edition. New York: Longman Press.
Sykes, A. Krista and Michael Hayes. 2010. *Constructing a New Agenda: Architectural Theory 1993-2009*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.
Tietz, Jurgen. 2000. *The Story of Architecture in the 20th Century*. New York: Konemann Press.

Attendance Policy: No more than 10% absences are permitted during the semester. For the purposes of record, two lateness are considered as one absence. Exceeding this limit will expose the student to failing at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Structure: This course combines lectures and seminars with instruction in the mechanics of expository writing which includes critical essays and research papers.

Grading:

Writing Assignments	25%
Class discussion	10%
Term paper	25%
2 quizzes	20%
Final exam	20%

Academic Integrity: Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting and citation of sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the college recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension and expulsion.

Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. **Understand** architecture in the context of its geopolitical, economical, social, cultural and technological trends. (Knowledge)
2. **Apply** the vocabulary of architectural criticism to contemporary buildings. (Gen Ed)
3. **Analyze (compare and contrast)** contemporary buildings. (Gen Ed)
4. **Communicate** ideas and information both verbally and through writing. (Gen Ed)
5. **Research** and **distinguish** information necessary for thesis-driven papers. (Gen Ed and Skill)

Assessment:

To evaluate the students' achievement of the learning objectives, the professor will do the following:

1. **Test** the students' ability to recall and recite the key terms and material of the readings and lectures through quizzes, midterm and a final exam. (Los:1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
2. **Determine** students' understanding of the development of contemporary architecture in their written assignments and oral presentations. (Los: 1, 2, 3, 4)
3. **Assess** the students' use of professional vocabulary in the written work and during class discussions and oral presentations. (Lo:3)

Course Outline:

Week 1: Introduction/ Roots of Modern Architecture: Industrialization, Rational Engineering, New Forms—bridges, railway stations, skyscrapers [Darby, Burton & Turner, Paxton, Eiffel, Perret, Burnham & Root, Sullivan]

Reading: [Course Reader] Benevolo, Leonardo. 1977. Preface. *The History of Modern Architecture*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Writing Assignment: Discuss the importance of World Fairs on disseminating new technologies: Are they really open to the *entire world*? (3 paragraph minimum)

Week 2: The Secession/Art Nouveau/Arts & Crafts Movement/the Werkbund [Olbrich, Guimard, Horta, Gaudi, Mackintosh, Greene & Greene, Morris, Behrens, Hoffmann]

Reading: Colquhoun, Alan. 2002. *Modern Architecture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapters 1 and 3.

Writing Assignment: Discuss the influence of Asian cultural objects on these movements. (3 paragraph minimum)

Week 3: Expressionism/Bauhaus [Poelzig, Mendelssohn, Gropius, Meyer, Mies Van der Rohe, Taut]

Reading: Colquhoun, Alan. 2002. *Modern Architecture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 87-99 and Chapter 8.

Writing Assignment: Discuss the influence of the minor arts (e.g. textiles) on these movements. (3 paragraph minimum) ***This topic may be expanded into a Term Paper.***

Week 4: The Aesthetic Avant garde: Futurism/de Stijl/Cubism [St. Elia, Marinetti, Reitveld, Le Corbusier]

Reading: Colquhoun, Alan. 2002. *Modern Architecture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 99-107, 109-120.

Writing Assignment: Discuss the influence of different modes of transportation on these movements and discuss their global applicability at the time. (6 paragraph minimum)

Week 5: The International Style and Machine Aesthetics [LeCorbusier, Mies van der Rohe, Oud]

Reading: Colquhoun, Alan. 2002. *Modern Architecture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 7.
[Course Reader] Hitchcock, H.R., and Phillip Johnson. *The International Style*. 1932. New York: Norton Press, pp. 17-34.

Writing Assignment: Discuss how the International Style was disseminated globally and how it still persists today. (6 paragraph minimum) ***This topic may be expanded into a Term Paper.***; Study for Quiz #1

Week 6: Le Corbusier/Frank Lloyd Wright

Reading: Colquhoun, Alan. 2002. *Modern Architecture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 7.
[Course Reader] Le Corbusier, 1985. *Towards a New Architecture*. New York: Dover Press.

[Course Reader] Vincent Scully Jr., 2002. *Modern Architecture*. New York: George Braziller, pp. 28-32.

Curtis, William. 2005. *Modern Architecture*. New York: Phaidon Publishers, Chapter 18.

Writing Assignment: Compare and contrast how Le Corbusier and Frank Lloyd Wright were influenced by different world cultures over the course of their careers. (8 paragraph minimum) **This topic may be expanded into a Term Paper.**

Week 7: Other Modernisms in the Interwar and Immediate Post-World War II Years [Scharoun, Saarinen, Sterling, Neutra, Kiesler]

Reading: Colquhoun, Alan. 2002. *Modern Architecture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 12.

[Course Reader] Moneo, Raphael. 2005. *Theoretical Anxiety and Design Strategies in the Work of Eight Contemporary Architects*. Cambridge: MIT Press, Chapter 1.

Writing Assignment: Choose a Research Paper topic and begin preparing outline.

The following is the suggested outline for the paper of 6-8 pages:

Introduce your paper and state the thesis or idea at the root of your paper. ½ - 1 page

Describe the building in its total context. 1-2 pages

Compare and contrast styles, techniques and materials used to those typical of the early twenty-first century. 2 pages

Analyze whether or not the building will merit landmarking in 30 years.

Support your opinion with a series of arguments. 1-2 pages

Summarize the research and thought process. ½- 1 pages

Bibliography: A minimum of 5 references are required. These may include books (give specific pages), magazine articles, newspaper clippings, or official records. Selected internet sources may be used. We will discuss in class what makes a source a valued reference. Use MLA format. If you Google MLA, you will find a lot of information and help on how to use this style. The Perdue Owl website is particularly helpful. Note that the MLA format is to be used for the bibliography, not the entire paper.

Week 8: Critical Regionalism [Aalto, Neimeyer, Legoretto, Sert] and Monumental Architecture [Kahn, Le Corbusier]

Reading: Curtis, William. 2005. *Modern Architecture*. New York: Phaidon Publishers, Chapter 18 and pp. 464-469, 483-484, & 517-543.

Writing Assignment: Continue to work on Research Paper: Hand in Draft Outline.

Week 9: The New York Five/ Brutalism/ Tectonics I/ Early Environmentalism [Meier, Eisenman, Hejduk, Gwathmey, Graves, Rudolph, the Smithsons, Kallmann, Safdie, Rogers, Piano, Foster, Barnes, Jersey Devil]

Reading: Curtis, William. 2005. *Modern Architecture*. New York: Phaidon Publishers, Chapter 22

Writing Assignment: Continue to work on Research Paper. Study for Quiz #2.

Week 10: Post-Modernism/ Architecture and Pop Culture [Venturi, Moore, Graves, Archigram, the Metabolists, Friedman]

Reading: Curtis, William. 2005. *Modern Architecture*. New York: Phaidon Publishers, Chapters 29 and 30.

[Course Reader] Nesbitt, Kate, ed. 1996. *Theorizing a New Agenda for Architecture Theory*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, pp. 72-76.

Writing Assignment: Continue to work on Research Paper: Hand in first draft.

Week 11: Deconstructivism [Eisenman, Derrida, Tschumi, Libeskind, Hadid, Coop Himmelblau, Koolhaas]

Reading: [Course Reader] Johnson, Phillip & Mark Wigley. 1988. Introduction. *Deconstructivist Architecture*. New York: Little Brown & Co.

Writing Assignment: Continue to work on Research Paper

Week 12: Contemporary Themes: Tectonics II [Zumthor, Ando, Herzog & de Meuron, Siza, Holl]

Reading: [Course Reader] Zumthor, Peter. 1998. *Thinking Architecture*. Lars Mueller Publishers, pp. 27-34.

Writing Assignment: Continue to work on Research Paper.

Week 13: Contemporary Themes: Sustainable Architecture/ Technological Architecture /Architecture as Branding [Piano, Ambasz, Foster, Ban, Vinoly, SHoP Architects, Ito].

Reading: [Course Reader] Mau, Bruce. 2000. Introduction. *Massive Change*, p. 18.

Writing Assignment: Continue to work on Research Paper. Hand in second draft.

Week 14: Contemporary Themes: Digital Architecture [Calatrava, Morphosis, UN Studio, Lynn]

Reading: [Course Reader] Wrigley, Mark. 2002. *Out of Site: Fictional Architectural Spaces*, New York: New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York: NY, p. 7

[Course Reader] Speaks, Michael. 2006. "Intelligence After Theory," *Perspecta*, 38: 103-107.

Writing Assignment: Continue to work on Research Paper and study for Final Exam.

Week 15: Final Exam and Research Paper Due.