

ARTH 103: An Introduction to Architectural History, The Classical Tradition

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Office hours: Mondays 12:30-1:20 or by appointment

Course Description

Columns, domes, pyramids and vacant-eyed sculpture: this is the vocabulary of cityscapes and monuments from the sands of the Egyptian desert to the Las Vegas strip. Why do these architectural forms carry such meaning from generation to generation and culture to culture? This course is intended to offer some answers to that question. We will begin with architecture from ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome discussing form, function and technique. The class will then examine the continuity and re-imagining of these forms in successive periods of Western civilization with specific attention played to the Italian Renaissance, 19th century Neo Classicism, and mid 20th century Fascist Italy. The course will culminate in an exploration of Washington D.C. as the inheritor of this tradition as well as looking at the 21st century (re)vision of our architectural past. Requirements will include exams and a written assignment based on an individual visit into Washington, DC. This course fulfills the University's Fine Arts Requirement.

Objectives

To learn architectural terminology and apply it appropriately
To perform visual identification of architectural styles
To recognize the functions of architecture within various societies
To understand the symbolic power of architecture the within Western Cultural tradition
To appreciate the continuity of the Western Architectural tradition in American cities

Text

Ian Sutton, *Western Architecture*. Thames and Hudson, 2001.

G. Martin Moeller, jr. *AIA Guide to the Architecture of Washington, D.C.* AIA Press, 2006.

Readings in pdf format uploaded to the class Blackboard site.

Assignment Due Dates

Exam 1	September 30 th	25%
Exam 2	October 31 st	30%
Worksheet	November 16 th	15%
Exam 3 (Final)	Consult Mason Bulletin	30%

Note: No early final exams and no extra credit assignments will be offered in this course.

Grading Scale:

A+ (100-97) A (96-93) A- (92-90) B+ (89-87) B (86-83) B- (82-80) C+ (79-77) C (76-73)
C- (72-70) D (69-60) F (59 and below)

Exams

Exams will include short answer and multiple choice questions based on images or plans shown in the exam. The bulk of the information will be derived from class lectures (see below). A review guide for each exam will be posted on Blackboard one week prior to the exam.

Review Guides

Guides are not intended to be comprehensive. They will emphasize material that I think is

particularly important and likely to appear on the exam; however, you should review all notes for that section prior to the exam. Review guides and review images will be posted on the class Blackboard site approximately one week before the exam date.

Lectures and Notes

This course covers many monuments in detail. Exams will require knowledge of basic information (name, date, architect, period) as well as details of design and historical context. Some of this information is found in the readings, but much of it will come from lecture. Attendance is, therefore, necessary. Taking detailed notes is also necessary. If you miss a lecture, get the notes from a reliable classmate and come to my office hours with any questions that you have. I do not have lecture notes to handout.

DC Fieldtrip Worksheet

An independent field trip into Washington, DC is a required component of the course. The worksheet will be uploaded to Blackboard. At that point, you can take it into DC at your leisure and complete the questions on site at major buildings/monuments. The worksheet is due in class on November 16th—before we begin our class lectures on Washington. **NOTE:** Worksheets will **not** be accepted once we begin the DC lectures. The grade will be recorded as a “0” with no make-up options if it is not handed in on time, in class. Also be aware that the worksheet will likely involve a trip the National Building Museum: because of the current economy, the NBM has initiated a paid admissions policy, however there is a student discount if you have your Mason id. As of August, the admission was \$5 for students.

Important Notes

- **Attendance at exams is MANDATORY: no make-up exams will be offered without a doctor’s excuse or other official documentation. If you miss an exam, you must contact me within 24 hours to schedule the re-take with valid documentation.**
- **I encourage questions and open discussion in class. Please, however, refrain from “quiet” talking to one another during lectures. It is distracting both to your classmates and to myself. If you persist in this during lectures, I will ask you to leave the classroom.**
- **Please turn off cell phones when class begins. Texting during class will be treated the same as talking during lectures. Texting during exams will be treated as a honor code violation.**
- **Arrive on time for class. Coming in late is disruptive for everyone. If you have a class prior to ours which causes a problem with arriving on time, please discuss it with me.**
- **Discuss any special academic needs with me at the start of the term. Do not wait until just before or even after the first exam!**
- **All reading assignments should be completed before class each day.**
- **No extra credit assignments are offered in the course.**
- **The schedule and pace of the course may be adjusted as needed. If the need arises, a revised syllabus will be distributed. It is your responsibility to keep up with the most recently distributed version of the syllabus**

All university policies of academic integrity and honesty will be enforced in this class: it is your responsibility to know, understand and adhere to these policies.

If you have not already signed up for the Mason Alert system, which will send texts concerning weather cancellations, etc. please do so at: <https://alert.gmu.edu>

Assignment Schedule

August

Week 1

M 29th *Introduction*

W 31st *The Origins of Architecture: Paleolithic and Neolithic structures*
Scara Brae
Stonehenge
Lascaux Caves
Chatal Huyuk

Reading: Blackboard pdf from Stokstad's *Art History*

September

F 1st *Egyptian 1*
City planning and domestic architecture
Mastabas
Saqqara
The Bent Pyramid

Reading: Blackboard pdf "Egypt 1" from Oaks and Gahlin's *Ancient Egypt*

Week 2

M 5th [Labor Day: No class](#)

W 7th *Egyptian 2*
The Giza Pyramid Complex
Middle and New Kingdom Tombs
Funerary Temple of Hatshepsut

Reading: Blackboard pdf "Egypt 2" from Oaks and Gahlin's *Ancient Egypt*

F 9th *Egyptian 3*
Egyptian Temples

Reading: Blackboard pdf "Egypt 3" from Oaks and Gahlin's *Ancient Egypt*

Week 3

M 12th *Aegean Bronze Age*
Knossos
Thera
Mycenae

Reading: Blackboard pdf "Aegean Architecture" from G. Aaltonen's *History of Architecture*

W 14th *Greek 1*
The Greek Orders of Architecture
Greek Building Techniques
Architectural Sculpture

Reading: Sutton, pp. 10-17

Blackboard pdf "Greek 1" from Woodford's *The Art of Greece and Rome*
[Reading carries through all Greek lectures]

F 16th *Greek 2*
The Athenian Akropolis, part 1

Week 4

M 19th *Greek 3*
The Athenian Akropolis, part 2

W 21st *Greek 4*
The New Akropolis Museum, Athens
The “typical” Greek house
The Stoa
Lysikrates Monument, 8*
The Theater, 7
The Stadium

*Refers to illustrations—not page numbers—in Sutton.

Reading: Blackboard pdf “Greek 2” from Woodford’s *The Art of Greece and Rome*

F 23rd *Greek 5*
Tholoi: Epidaurus, Delphi
Mausoleum of Halikarnassus
The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus and Apollo at Didyma
The Pharos at Alexandria

Week 5

M 26th *Roman 1*
Roman masonry
Arches, Concrete and Vaults
Sanctuary of Fortuna Primigenia
Sanctuary of Hercules Victor
Sanctuary of Jupiter Anxur

Reading: Sutton, pp. 17-23

Blackboard pdf “Roman Architecture” from Woodford’s *Art of Greece and Rome*
[Reading carries through all Roman lectures and contains a brief, useful glossary of terms]

W 28th [To Be Announced](#)

F 30th **Exam 1:** covers material through the last Greek lecture

Week 6

October

M 3rd *Roman 2*
Maison Carrée, 9*
Golden House of Nero
Pantheon, 10
Temple of Venus at Baalbek
The Treasury at Petra

W 5th *Roman 3*
Roman Theaters
Amphitheaters: The Colosseum in Rome, 13

The Roman Circus

- F 7th *Roman 4*
Basilicas, 12
Roman Baths
Houses
Tombs

Week 7

- Tuesday 11th** *Roman 5* (Monday Academic Schedule)
Triumphal Arches
Arc de Triomphe, Paris
Arch de la Defense, Paris 432
Fora
Diocletian's Palace at Split
City planning

- W 12th *Early Christian and Byzantine*
Old S. Peter's in Rome, 14*
Santa Sabina, Rome
Santa Costanza, Rome
San Vitale, Ravenna, 19
Hagia Sophia, Constantinople (Istanbul), 16
Reading: Sutton, pp. 24-37
*In all readings from Sutton, these numbers represent illustrations—not page numbers. Pay particular attention to these buildings in the images and in the text.

- F 14th *Medieval 1*
Monastery of St. Gall, 28
Palatine Church, Aachen, 26
Romanesque church design
Pisa Cathedral Complex, 64
Reading: Sutton, pp. 38-44, 49-50, 65-67

Week 8

- M 17th *Medieval 2*
Gothic church design
Notre Dame, Paris, 75-76, 84
Cathedral at Amiens, 78, 81-83
Sainte Chapelle, Paris, 85
Castel del Monte, 129
Doge's Palace, Venice, 137
Reading: Sutton, pp. 74-87, 96-102, 113-123

- W 19th *Renaissance*
Dome of the Duomo, Florence, 142
Foundling Hospital in Florence, 143
Santa Maria della Pace courtyard, Rome, 146
Tempietto of S. Pietro in Montorio, Rome, 147
Palazzo Caprini (House of Raphael), 148

Palazzo del Té, Mantua, 153
Reading: Sutton, pp. 126-136

- F 21st *Renaissance*
The work of Palladio
The Campidoglio in Rome
Inigo Jones' Banqueting House, London, 178
West façade of the Louvre Museum, 182
Salamanca University, 183
Charles V's palace at Granada, 184
Reading: Sutton, pp. 143-149, 157-167

Week 9

- M 24th *Renaissance and Reaction*
S. Peter's in Rome, 196
Vierzehnheiligen in Bavaria, 188
S. Maria della Pace, 194
Reading: Sutton, pp. 168-176

- W 26th *Baroque*
San Andrea, 195
San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane, Rome, 198
S. Ivo alla Sapienza, 200
Spanish Steps, 201
Trevi Fountain
Reading: Sutton, pp. 176-183

- F 28th *Baroque and the Rise of Neoclassical*
Karlskirche, Vienna, 207
St. Paul's, London, 246-247
East façade of the Louvre Museum, 240
Lord Burlington's Villa at Chiswick, 260
Radcliffe Camera, 256
The Admiralty, St. Petersburg, 257
Reading: Sutton, pp. 205-211, 222-223

Week 10

- M 31st **Exam 2:** covers material from Roman through Baroque

November

- W 2nd *Neoclassical*
The Granary, Paris, 258
The Virginia State Capitol, Richmond, 263
The Church of the Madeleine, Paris, 264
Cenotaph for Isaac Newton, 267
Walhalla near Regensburg, 266
Reading: Sutton, pp. 224-230

- F 4th **To Be Announced**

Week 11

M 7th *Neoclassical*
Altes Museum, Berlin, 265
British Museum, London, 290
New St. Pancras, London
Interior of "the Old Dividend", England, 304
University of Virginia and Monticello, 288-289
The William Cochrane House, 287
Reading: Sutton, pp. 232-267

W 9th *The 19th Century: Revivals and Exoticism*
Ste. Clotilde, Paris, 311
Temple Mill, Leeds, 312
Brighton Pavillion, 313
Houses of Parliament, London, 316
St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, 325
Reading: Sutton, pp. 268-290

F 11th *Modernism and the Rise of the Skyscraper*
The Palm House at Kew, 356
The Woolworth Building, 366
The Jarhunderthalle, 357
Chrysler Building, 373
Empire State Building
Villa Savoye, 382
Reading: Sutton pp. 304-327

Week 13

M 14th *Modernismo in Spain*
Casa Battló, Barcelona, 339
La Sagrada Familia, Barcelona 340
Parc Guell, Barcelona
Reading: Sutton, pp. 290-303

W 16th *Mid 20th Century Authoritarianism* (pp 340 ff)
EUR and Fascism in Rome
Speer's Germany
Soviet Realism
EUR Reading: pdf on Blackboard
DC Worksheets due in class: no electronic submissions accepted!

F 18th *Washington, DC*
L'Enfant's city plan
The Mall
The Capitol, A 1*
The Smithsonian Castle, D 5
Reading: AIA Guide, 1-17, 70-71 (The Mall)
*For readings in the AIA Guide, letter-number combinations are used to refer to the Guide's organization system. For example, A1 runs from pp. 27-32

Week 13

- M 21st To Be Announced
W 23rd Thanksgiving Break

F 25th Thanksgiving Break

Week 14

- M 28th *Washington, DC*
The White House, H1
The Lincoln Memorial, D 15
The Washington Monument, D 21
The Jefferson Memorial, D 11

W 30th *Washington, DC*
The Supreme Court Building, A 7
Library of Congress, A 5
Union Station, A 10
The National Gallery of Art: West and East Buildings, D 25-26

F 2nd *Washington, DC*
The National Archives, F 3B
The National Portrait Gallery, E 8
The National Building Museum, E 2
Federal Trade Commission Building, F 3A

May

Week 15

- M 5th *Washington, DC*
The Cairo, L 22
National Cathedral, P 25
D.C.'s Spanish Steps
Scottish Rite Temple, S Street NW, L 26
Masonic Monument, Alexandria

W 7th *Las Vegas: [Distorted] Reflection of our architectural past*
[Reading to be announced](#)

F 9th *Wrap Up: Architecture of the New Millennium*
[Reading to be announced](#)

**Consult Mason Schedule for final exam date and time.
It is the policy of the University and the Department of Art History not to give early
exams. Make your travel plans accordingly.**