

ART 103-001: Introduction to Architecture

Fall 2018

Instructor: Theana N. Kastens
Days & Time: MW 12:00 pm -1:15pm
Room: Robinson B 113
Office Hours: Robinson B 373A, Mondays 1:30-2:30pm
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

ART 103: Introduction to Architecture, surveys the history of global architecture from the Prehistoric era up to the present. This course serves as an introduction to other more advanced courses within the discipline of art history. Art history employs many different approaches to an object, sometimes we will be concerned with technology and construction, other times we will be examining politics and patrons, money and its message. Every now and then we will be concerned with the more abstract notions of architectural theory, aesthetics, and the psychology of architecture. This course satisfies the General Education requirement for the Arts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objective is for students to gain an appreciation and understanding of the importance of architecture and its impact in this world. Students will learn how to identify and talk about the evolution of global architecture from its inception to present day. By the end of the semester, Students will have been exposed to many spectacular buildings around the world, variety of technology and medium, and also new vocabulary.

Upon the completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Identify systems of buildings and techniques of construction
- Discuss the development of building typology, such as tombs, palaces, temples, religious buildings, domestic and commercial architecture
- Discuss the larger context of the building including, but not limited to, the nature of the buildings immediate environment.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and Participation	10%
Exam #1	15%
Exam #2	25%
Architecture Paper	25%
Final Exam	25%

Textbook: Michael Fazio, Marian Moffett, and Lawrence Wodehouse, *Buildings Across Time: An Introduction to World Architecture*. Fourth edition (Thames & Hudson, 2014)

Attendance: Much of the material will be covered in our lectures. You are responsible for getting notes, and for all consequences of missed classes. If you do not understand something that I covered in class, there is no way I can explain that material better in an email. If you missed class, you will need to get notes from a classmate. Class participation and attendance will affect your grade.

Absences for religious observances or university activities: If you will be missing class for a religious holiday or a university-sponsored activity, you need to provide me, within the first two weeks of the semester, with the dates of the major religious holidays on which you will be absent, or the dates for which you are requesting an excused absence for participation in any university-sponsored activity.

Tech Requirements: I can only communicate with you via your Masonlive email account or Blackboard, so please activate and check your GMU email & Blackboard site regularly for any communication regarding the class.

Email Etiquette: Please remember that when you send an email to any professor, you are addressing a teacher, not your best friend. Thus, try to remember the following: (1) include a subject, (2) which class you are in, and (3) be specific.

Exams:

All exams will test for terms. Exams will have slide identification of those key buildings that we designate in class – not just the name of the building, the architect, its location, date, and the style or period to which it belongs – but also why they are important for the evolution of architecture. This involves knowing something about those larger issues and concepts that we will develop in class. **Unless arrangements have been made prior to the exam, NO make-up exams will be given.**

Architecture Paper: For your term paper, I would like you to visit the National Gallery of Art (NGA) in Washington D.C. Think of it as a scavenger hunt where you will be answering questions based on your observations of the NGA's West and East buildings. It will be metro-accessible and should take about an afternoon, especially if you stop for coffee along the way. You can work in groups of no more than two, turning in one assignment for the two of you. You will need to hand in a **hard copy** with your typed answers on the **due date, Wed November 14.**

GRADING SCALE

- **A** (90-92 is an A-; 93-96 is an A; 97-100 is an A+)
- **B** (80-82 is a B-; 83-86 is a B; 87-89 is a B+)
- **C** (70-72 is a C-; 73-76 is a C; 77-79 is a C+)
- **D** (60-69)
- **F** (Below 60) Unacceptable as college-level work; see me immediately if you find yourself in this situation.

CLASSROOM ATMOSPHERE

Courtesy and common sense please. Always respect your peers and classmates. This means you should not talk over anyone when he or she is talking or when I am lecturing. Please keep your phones on silent or turned off. Please arrive on time and if you happen to be late or cannot make it to class, contact me as soon as you can. If you need to leave early for certain reasons, please notify me as well.

Laptops are allowed for note taking. However, if using laptops enables you to be disruptive or distracted, I will ask you to put them away instead. If it becomes a bad habit in which all students are using their laptops for other things not related to the class (social media, surfing the web, chatting), I will make a decision to ban laptops for the rest of the semester.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

These are grave offences. Your written work is to be the product of your own thinking (and even imagination). When writing your papers, please give credit where credit is due and this means you should always cite your sources. **Please use MLA or Chicago Style format** when writing your papers. If you cheat or plagiarize any of your writings (and on your exam), **you will have a zero for the assignment.** You may also be reported to the dean. Please visit <https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/full-honor-code-document/> for more information.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE: If English is not your first language please discuss any concerns you might have about the writing assignment with me. And don't forget about the Writing Center (<https://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>)

SUPPORT SERVICES:

If you have a learning disability, it must be properly documented by the Office for Disability Support Services. I am happy to assist and make the necessary accommodations. Please provide me the proper documentations by the office in time before assignments and exams begin. Feel free to see me after class, office hours, or even contact me via email regarding this matter (<https://ds.gmu.edu/>).

During your time at GMU, you may experience challenges including struggles with academics, finances, or your personal well-being. GMU has support resources available. Please visit <http://ssac.gmu.edu> if you are seeking resources and support or if you are worried about a friend or classmate.

*****Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking:** As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as the Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at (703) 380-1434, or Counseling and Psychology Services (CAPS) at (703) 993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX coordinator by calling (703) 993-8730 or emailing titelix@gmu.edu

Important Dates

Monday, September 3 - Labor Day recess. No Class.

Tuesday, September 4 - Last day to add classes

Sunday, September 9 - Last day to drop with a tuition refund

Monday, October 8 - Columbus Day recess. No Class. **Monday classes meet on Tuesday that week.**

Course Schedule and Assignments:

I reserve the right to alter the schedule when circumstances arise

Monday, August 27: Introduction

Introduction to the course & syllabus

Wednesday, August 29: Basic Premises of Architecture

Required Reading:

- Moffett, Introduction, 1-7

Monday, September 3: **NO CLASS. Labor Day**

Wednesday, September 5: The Beginnings of Architecture

Prehistoric Settlements and the Rise of Cities

Required Reading:

- Moffett, p. 9-20
 - Fazio, “The Sumerian View of the World” p. 15

Monday, September 10: Ancient Egyptian Architecture to Die For

Required Reading:

- Moffett, p. 20-33
 - MacGilvray, “Hydraulic Civilizations,” p. 22

Wednesday, September 12: Aegean Cultures and the Archaic Period

Minoan, Mycenaean, and Archaic Greece

Required Reading:

- Moffett, p. 35- 47

Monday, September 17: The Golden Age of Greece

Classical and Hellenistic Period

Reading:

- Moffett, p. 47-61
 - Lewis, “Celebrating Athena’s Birthday” p. 51

Wednesday, September 19: India and Southeast Asia

Reading:

- Moffett, p. 63-79
 - Smart, “Bamiyan and the Colossal Buddha” p.70

Monday, September 24: China and Japan

Reading:

- Moffett, p. 81-103
 - Craig, “Elder Brother Rock” p.91

Wednesday, September 26: *Review Day*

Monday, October 1:

******EXAM #1: ******

Wednesday October 3: Roman Achievements

The Ingenuity of Roman Concrete

Reading:

- Moffett, p. 105
 - MacGivray, “The Engineering Might of the Romans” p. 117

Monday, October 8: NO CLASS. Columbus Day- Monday class meets on Tuesday of that week.

Tuesday, October 9: Late Antiquity and Byzantine Architecture

Reading:

- Moffett, p. 133-151
 - Barker, “Eusebius and Constantine” p. 138

Wednesday, October 10: Islamic Architecture

Reading:

- Moffett, p. 153-175
 - Barker, “Eusebius and Constantine” p. 138

Monday, October 15: Early Medieval and Romanesque Architecture

Reading:

- Moffett, p. 177-211
 - Moffett, “The Mystic Mill from Vezelay” p. 200

Wednesday, October 17: Gothic Architecture

Reading:

- Moffett, p. 213- 249

Monday, October 22: Indigenous Architecture

Pre-Columbian Mexico and Central America

Reading:

- Moffett, 259-274

Wednesday, October 24: Architecture of the Renaissance

Italian Renaissance

Reading:

- Moffett, 287-339

Monday, October 29: Architecture of the Renaissance

Italian Renaissance, France, and England

Reading:

- Moffett, 287-339

Wednesday, October 31: *Review Day*

Monday, November 5:

******EXAM #2: Roman to Renaissance******

Wednesday, November 7: Baroque Twirls and Swirls

Reading:

- Moffett, p. 341-379
 - Smyth-Pinney, “Piazza Navona—A Space for Spectacle” p. 356

Monday, November 12: 18th Century Rococo and 19th Century Revolution

Rococo, Neoclassicism, Romanticism

Reading:

- Moffett, p. 381-409

Wednesday, November 14: Eclecticism, Industrialization, and Newness

Steel, Gothic Revival, Art Nouveau

Reading:

- Moffett, 411-437

******MUSEUM PAPER DUE******

Monday, November 19: Eclecticism, Industrialization, and Newness

Beaux Arts, Louis Sullivan

Reading:

- Moffett, 437-453

Wednesday, November 21: NO CLASS, Thanksgiving Break

Monday, November 26: 20th Century Modern Aesthetic

Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, Bauhaus

Reading:

- Moffett, 455-485

Wednesday, November 28: 20th Century Modern Aesthetic

Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, De Stijl, Art Deco

Reading:

- Moffett, p. 485-513
 - Fazio, “Futurism and Constructivism” p. 480

Monday, December 3: Mid-and Late 20th Century to Now

Post Modernism and Deconstruction

Reading:

- Moffett, 515-581

Wednesday, December 5: *Review Day*

Wednesday, December 17: 10:30 am – 1:15 pm

******FINAL EXAM: Baroque to Now******