

## School of Architecture | Georgia Tech | Summer 2026

ARCH 2111/6105: History of Architecture I (3 credits)

Required Course for B.S.Arch., M. Arch 2, and /or M. Arch 3

Undergraduate and Graduate Offering

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Credit Hours: 3 credits  
Classroom: East Architecture, Room 207  
Days and hours of class: M, T, W, Th | 12:30 PM - 2:40 PM

Prerequisites: None  
Co-Requisites: None

Instructor: Zahra Mirzaei: zahra.mirzaei@gatech.edu  
Office location: Room 234 Hinman Research Building  
Office Hours: by appointment only (please email)

TA: Name: TBD Email address: TBD

### Course Description (from the Catalog)

Architectural history from antiquity through the eighteenth century emphasizing buildings in their cultural context as informed by social, technological, and constructive factors and theoretical positions.

### Course Overview

This course examines key moments in architectural history and theory, beginning with prehistory and moving through the ancient world, the medieval period, and the early modern era. We will study well-known buildings, along with sites that are less familiar, to discuss how architecture has changed over time, how the architect's role has shifted, and how buildings respond to what people need and how they want to be seen.

### Course Objectives

This course is designed to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To familiarize students with the history of architecture and its cultural context from antiquity through the eighteenth century.
2. To help students acquire the ability to understand, research and analyze the history of architecture.
3. To teach students how to build a critical and ethical position on the history of architecture and connect it to different contexts, protagonists, and conditions.
4. To encourage effective written/oral communication and visual literacy through exercises.

### Learning Objectives

**Note: For all M. Arch courses, see also "Professional Standards Addressed."**

Those students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

1. To recognize, describe, and discuss major architectural moments and examples from antiquity through the eighteenth century.
2. To analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance and ethical implications of architectural texts and architectural works
3. To analyze and research the history of architecture through a study of primary and secondary sources such as texts, images, and maps.
4. To build and articulate a critical and ethical position on the history of architecture that is supported by evidence and connects different contexts, protagonists, and conditions.

## Course Requirements and Deliverables

According to Georgia Tech norms for lecture classes, students are expected to spend a minimum of 2 hours studying outside of class for every hour spent in class. This means that the schedule during the summer session is substantially concentrated and accelerated.

### Assignments

1) Attendance and Participation	10 pts
2) Quizzes (2)	30 pts
2) Sources and Synthesis (2)	20 pts
3) Semester Project	40 pts

### Required Texts/Readings/Special Materials

No required purchases. However, the following are suggested:

Ching, Francis D. K, Mark Jarzombek, and Vikramaditya Prakash. 2017. *A Global History of Architecture*. Third edition. Wiley.

Ingersoll, Richard, and Spiro Kostof. *World Architecture: A Cross-Cultural History*. Oxford University Press, 2013.

All additional readings and resources will be available on Canvas.

### Instructional Methods

Course information (syllabus, calendar, assignments) and announcements will be conveyed via Canvas.

### Course Schedule

Please see the annotated class schedule on Canvas. Please note that this schedule is subject to periodic revisions throughout the term. Updated schedules will always be posted on Canvas.

#### Week 1: INTRODUCTIONS + FIRST SOCIETIES

M   06.29	Introduction and Course Overview
T   06.30	Lecture
W   07.01	Lecture
TR   07.02	GT HOLIDAY   No classes

#### Week 2: ANCIENT HISTORY

M   07.06	Lecture
T   07.07	Lecture
W   07.08	Lecture
TR   07.09	Lecture

#### Week 3: MIDDLE AGES

M   07.13	Lecture
T   07.14	Lecture
W   07.15	Lecture
TR   07.16	Lecture

#### Week 4: EARLY MODERN TIMES

M   07.20	Lecture
T   07.21	Lecture
W   07.22	Lecture
TR   07.23	Lecture

#### Week 5

M   07.27	Lecture
T   07.28	Lecture
W   07.29	Lecture
TR   07.30	Review session   Last day of classes

## Assessment

The assignments are scaffolded, with each one building upon the previous one. Therefore, from the very beginning of the semester, the more care you put into each individual assignment, the better prepared you will be for all subsequent assignments. There is no better guarantee of success in the class than consistent engagement and determination to complete the weekly readings and review of lecture images.

## Grading Rubric:

- A grade of "F" indicates failure to meet requirements, including attendance and minimum submission requirements.
- A grade of "D" means significant attendance problems and failure to meet basic submission requirements.
- A grade of "C" means the basic requirements of the course have just been met, with undeveloped products and limited research interaction.
- A grade of "B" means steady completion of course requirements, including regular attendance and participation. The projects demonstrate clear engagement with sources and course materials, as well as competent analysis and well-developed arguments.
- A grade of "A" means excellent work across the entire course requirements, with consistent attendance and active participation. Projects demonstrate in-depth analysis of sources and present original arguments that clearly connect to the course themes.

## Grading Scale

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	Below 60%

Students are asked to complete the online course evaluation of all courses at Georgia Tech at the end of the term.

No incompletes will be awarded without an appropriate reason or a prior meeting between the student and the instructor, either in person or on Teams. All assignments must be completed to receive a passing grade in the class. Incompletes will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances.

## CIOS

At the end of the term, students are asked to complete the online course evaluation for all courses at Georgia Tech (<https://gatech.smartevals.com>). Please note that CIOS scores and comments have different degrees of visibility based on roles:

Reporting access by role	CIOS Scaled Results	CIOS Comments	TA's Scaled Results	TA's Comments
Instructor	Their Own	Their Own	All within their own course	All within their own course
TA Supervisor	N/A	N/A	All within their own course	All within their own course
Teaching Assistant	None	None	Their Own	Their Own
School Administration	All within their own unit	None	All within their own unit	All within their own unit
Students	All - Summary only	None	None	None

More information is available here: <https://academicffectiveness.gatech.edu/surveys/cios/cios-faqs/studentfaq>

**Supplemental Information** (required for all M. Arch courses)

**Professional Standards Addressed**

**NAAB Conditions for Accreditation**

**For Professional Degree Programs in Architecture (2020)**

The accredited degree program must demonstrate that each graduate possesses the knowledge and skills defined by the criteria below. The knowledge and skills defined here represent those required to prepare graduates for the path to internship, examination, and licensure, and to engage in related fields. The program must provide student work as evidence that its graduates have satisfied each criterion.

The criteria encompass two levels of accomplishment:

- *Understanding*—The capacity to classify, compare, summarize, explain, and/or interpret information.
- *Ability*—Proficiency in using specific information to accomplish a task, correctly selecting the appropriate information, and accurately applying it to the solution of a specific problem, while also distinguishing the effects of its implementation.

**Program Criteria (PC) and Student Criteria (SC):** The NAAB establishes PC and SC to help accredited degree programs prepare students for the profession while encouraging education practices suited to the individual degree program.

For the purpose of accreditation, while this course will cover more criteria than the ones listed below, the following will be actively covered:

PC.4 History and Theory— How the program ensures that students understand the histories and theories of architecture and urbanism, framed by diverse social, cultural, economic, and political forces, nationally, and globally.

This content is Practiced, meaning students practice, understand, and are assessed on it.

**Supplemental Information** (ONLY required for courses carrying GenEd credit)

**General Education Credit**

Undergraduate students not taking the course for the B.S. in Architecture degree or for a certificate or minor in Architecture may receive General Education credit in Area C (Humanities) or Area E (Social Sciences) of the Core Curriculum.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Academic Integrity and Conduct**

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. All Georgia Tech students should familiarize themselves with and abide by the Georgia Tech Honor Code: <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>. Faculty shall report instances of academic dishonesty to the Office of the Dean of Students.

For expectations of student and instructor conduct more generally, consult section 19 of the catalog listed above, entitled "Code of Conduct," <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/19/>, and section 22, entitled "Student-Faculty Expectations," at <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/>.

All persons in the classroom are expected to behave with courtesy towards others and in a way that does not interfere with the regular conduct of the class. Cell phones are to be turned off when students enter the classroom and should remain off for the duration of the class; laptop computers are to be used only for taking notes; and students should not engage in private conversations while the instructor or other students are speaking. Anyone not adhering to these basic courtesies will be asked to leave.

### **AI Policy**

#### **Limited Generative AI Use Permitted**

Use of Generative AI (insert appropriate AI tool(s) here) is permitted in this course but only within instructor-approved boundaries (e.g., drafting assignments, stages of writing, or support tasks such as grammar refinement or coding assistance). If allowed, its use must be transparent and documented in a required AI Usage Statement with each submission.

The statement must include:

- Tool used and date of access
- The input (prompt) you provided
- A copy of the output
- A description of how you used or edited the AI-generated content

Failure to follow these guidelines—including using Generative AI when it is not permitted or failing to disclose its use—may be considered a violation of Georgia Tech's academic integrity policies. When in doubt, always consult your instructor before using Generative AI.

#### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Any student with a disability who may require accommodation should contact the Office of Disability Services at 404-894-2563 or visit <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu> to make an appointment to discuss their special needs and obtain an accommodations letter. They should also schedule an appointment with the course instructor to discuss their learning needs.

#### **Active Participation/Attendance**

Active Participation at all class meetings is mandatory and crucial to the successful completion of the class. Absences will be excused only for medical or family emergencies, Institute-approved events, and religious holidays documented in writing. (According to a new policy, you must notify your instructor in writing during the first two weeks of the semester about any anticipated absences for religious holidays.) Late arrivals will be counted as absences.

Attendance of SoA lectures during studio time on Monday or Wednesday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. is required for M. ARCH students and highly recommended for our BS ARCH, MS, and Ph.D. students.

NOTE: Absences due to special and/or unforeseen circumstances must be discussed with the instructor as early as practically possible.

Missing three classes without an approved excuse will result in a letter grade reduction. Missing more than three classes, excused or unexcused, might result in a meeting with your instructor and the Architecture Program Office to determine a course of action, and can result in an incomplete grade (I) or a failing grade (F) in this course.

Students are highly encouraged to submit any class absence verification that is required due to documented illness, hospitalizations, accidents, death in the family, family emergencies, and lengthy illnesses to the dean of students.

( <https://studentlife.gatech.edu/request-assistance> )

### **Approved Communication Platforms**

[https://gatech.service-now.com/home?id=kb\\_article\\_view&sysparm\\_article=KB0023604](https://gatech.service-now.com/home?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0023604)

### **Archiving**

At the end of the semester, all students are required to submit physical and/or digital examples of their work to their instructors or administration for archiving no later than one week after the end of term. By enrolling, each student grants a license to reproduce and display their work online, in forthcoming print publications, and in public exhibitions.

[SPRING 2026 ARCHIVE](#)

### **College of Design Facility Rules and Guidelines**

Please consult the [Georgia Tech Student Handbook](#) regarding the use of facilities and all Institute policies. Aerosol sprays of any kind are strictly banned from the studio and surrounding areas. A spray painting booth is now in operation in the College of Design shop on the ground floor of the East Architecture Building.

### **Course Expectations & Guidelines**

Per the [GT Catalog](#), all work produced in the College of Design as part of a degree program becomes the property of the College; it may be retained or returned at the discretion of the faculty. The faculty of the School of Architecture also reserves the right to refuse credit for any project executed outside the precincts of the College or otherwise produced without proper coordination with the faculty.

### **Emergencies**

In case of emergency (e.g., fire, accident, or criminal act), please call the Georgia Tech Police at 404-894-2500. Please note that Perry Minyard, IT Support Administrator for the College of Design, is also a firefighter and an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certified in performing CPR.

### **Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams**

Any requests for assignment extensions or prior arrangements for missed quizzes must be made as soon as possible and no later than three days before the due date. Accommodations will be made for unanticipated student illnesses, but communication is key for flexibility: email your TAs or the instructor as soon as possible!

Georgia Tech makes some exceptions for "approved Institute activities" (e.g., field trips and athletic events) and religious observances. See this catalog page for more information. Consideration will also be made for the impact of events like the All-Majors Career Fair and off-campus interviews and to plan accordingly. Once again, a minimum of one-week advanced notice is essential.

### **Library & Archives**

Need to do research but don't know where to start? Contact your Architecture Library subject specialist, Catherine Mancini ([catherine.mancini@library.gatech.edu](mailto:catherine.mancini@library.gatech.edu)), for research help and information on available resources.

Contact your Architecture Archives liaison, Jody Thompson ([jody.thompson@library.gatech.edu](mailto:jody.thompson@library.gatech.edu)), for assistance with archival research and collections.

Georgia Tech Library website: <https://library.gatech.edu/>

Georgia Tech Archives website: <http://library.gatech.edu/archives>

### **Georgia Tech Values Statement**

At Georgia Tech, we see different backgrounds and perspectives as essential to learning, discovery, and creation. We strive to remove barriers to student success and to build a welcoming community where everyone has the opportunity to contribute to our mission. As outlined in our strategic plan (<https://strategicplan.gatech.edu/values>). We want to create an environment of holistic learning where all individuals can grow and learn to lead healthy, purposeful, impactful lives.

### **Ownership**

For the purposes of continuous improvement efforts, such as accreditations and periodic program reviews, the School will select samples of student work submitted to satisfy course requirements. This includes digital files, papers, drawings, models, etc. Collected samples may be returned to students upon request.