

History of Architecture 1

Last Updated: Fri, 08/01/2025

Course prefix: ARCH

Course number: 2111

Section: DW1

CRN (you may add up to five):
81346

Instructor First Name: Danielle

Instructor Last Name: Willkens

Semester: Fall

Academic year: 2025

Course description:

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 learning outcomes:

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

- Recognize, describe, and assess major works of architecture from prehistory through the mid-18th century.
- Research and analyze primary and secondary sources, including texts, drawings, photographs, maps, and multimedia.
- Articulate ideas about architecture by using appropriate vocabulary and supporting evidence.
- Build critical positions on the history of architecture and its cultural contexts (e.g., read judiciously, form written arguments with clear structures and credible supporting evidence and relevant visuals, prepare legible reports).
- Identify and acknowledge the rich spectrum of influencing factors for architecture in any period.

The course will highlight the differences between unfamiliar periods and cultures, so that students are able to take the critical distance necessary to identify and explore relevant issues. At the same time, it aims to make those periods accessible, so that the cultural productions of the past become comprehensible and meaningful. In turn, historical

narratives inform our understanding of ongoing patterns of change in today's architectural design.

Required course materials:

none

Grading policy:

- Attendance/participation (Canvas-based questions in class; engagement during Critical Conversations) = 20%
- Quizzes (2) = 10%
- Sources and Synthesis (3) + Peer Reviews = 30%
- Semester Project + Peer Reviews = 40%

Grade evaluations will be based on consistent, high-quality work over the entire semester. Students will be evaluated on their timely and thorough completion, depth of exploration, and consideration of assigned work, their professional competence in presenting work, and their continuous and meaningful participation in class discussions.

The grade scale for all individual components of the course, as well as for completion of the final course grade will be as follows:

Points	Grade	Description
90 – 100	A	Excellent
80 – 89	B	Good
70 – 79	C	Satisfactory
60 – 69	D	Poor
0 – 59	F	Failure

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

Attendance policy:

Active Participation at all class meetings is mandatory and crucial to successful completion of the class. Absences will be excused only for medical or family emergencies or for 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. It is not possible to make up any missed in-class questions due to unexcused absences. Please see [this catalogue page](#) on the policy regarding Attendance and the Institute Approved Absences.

Attendance and participation will be collected through Canvas-based questions and surveys presented during class time. Excused absences will not count towards the calculation of a final grade. After three unexcused absences, the final grade will be lowered by half a letter grade.

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

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Arts, Humanities & Ethics area. Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master the course content and support their' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?
- Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:
- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts in English or other languages, or of works in the visual/performing arts.
- Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:
 - Ethical Reasoning
 - Information Literacy
 - Intercultural Competence