

History of Urban Form

Last Updated: Sat, 08/02/2025

Course prefix: ARCH

Course number: 4151

Section: ED

CRN (you may add up to five):
94384

Instructor First Name: Elisa

Instructor Last Name: Dainese

Semester: Fall

Academic year: 2025

Course description:

History of the city as a collective work of architecture with an emphasis on the city's physical form and space. Credit not allowed for both ARCH 4151 and COA 6151.

Course learning outcomes:

- Explore and recognize major urban processes, protagonists, and landscapes from antiquity through contemporary times.
- Develop an understanding of urbanization in a global and comparative perspective.
- Describe and discuss the history of urbanization through a study of primary and secondary sources such as texts, images, videos, and cartographies.
- Analyze and interpret the cultural significance and ethical implications of urban processes, landscapes, and texts as they have been shaped by broad societal change, power relations, and global dynamics, as well as individual action and invention, whether in the arts, sciences, technology, law, intellectual or political revolutions, or transformations of the economy.

Required course materials:

There are no required textbooks. By the end of the term all students will be familiar with the readings required for our discussions which are part of the requirements for the course. All readings will be uploaded to Canvas. If needed, the instructor will share additional readings during the term. The slide presentations will be uploaded to Canvas. Additional reference materials to guide assignments and discussions will be posted on Canvas.

Grading policy:

Assignments

Attendance: 10%

Participation: 30%

Reports: 30%

Quizzes: 20%

Final Exam: 10%

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:

A: 90-100 Excellent

B: 80-89 Good

C: 70-79 Satisfactory

D: 60-69 Poor

F: 0-59 Failure

No incompletes will be awarded without appropriate reason or without a prior meeting, either in person or on Teams, between 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:

Attendance and active participation are essential to success in courses in the Architecture Program. Because of this, you are expected to attend class in person. Absences will be excused 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.

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) of 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>).

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

One serious kind of academic misconduct is plagiarism, which occurs when a writer, speaker, or designer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, images, or other original material or code without fully acknowledging its source by quotation marks as appropriate, in footnotes or endnotes, in works cited, and in other ways as appropriate (modified from WPA Statement on "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism"). If you engage in plagiarism or any other form of academic misconduct, you will fail the assignment in which you have engaged in academic misconduct and be referred to the Office of Student Integrity, as required by Georgia Tech policy. We strongly urge you to be familiar with these Georgia Tech sites:

Honor Challenge — <https://osi.gatech.edu/students/honor-code>

Office of Student Integrity — <http://www.osi.gatech.edu/index.php/>

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.

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 course content, and support students' 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