

# ARHS 1306: 001C Introduction to Architecture

(UC: CA1, HC1, GE)

May Term 2014

10 AM – 2 PM, OFAC B600

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Architecture constitutes a central theme in the history of society, culture, and human sensibility. Built spaces define who we are, where we are, and who we want to be. This introductory course surveys the history of architecture in Europe, Asia, and the Americas from antiquity to the present. Students will come away from this course with an understanding of the vocabulary of architectural form, an awareness of architecture as cultural expression, and an understanding of the world's major monuments and buildings.

## COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Students will learn to identify major styles in the history of architecture, and will gain an understanding of the larger ideas that underpinned the work of architectural traditions and their individual practitioners. The course will also make students more aware of the nature of space, human sensory experience, and culture.

## UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM OUTCOMES:

- **Pillars/Creativity & Aesthetics (Level 1): Students will be able to evaluate sources and analyze the role and value of creative works to the cultures (context) that create and adopt them.**
- **Pillars/Historical Contexts (Level 1): Students will be able to identify the main events, actors, and evidence involved in a defined historical period.**
- **Proficiencies & Experiences/Global Engagement: Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the material culture, underlying values, beliefs, or practices that are central to the culture(s) being visited or studied.**

## REQUIRED TEXTS:

Michael Fazio, *A World History of Architecture*

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

<u>First Paper</u>	10% of grade	Due May 20 (no late papers)
<u>Second Paper</u>	20% of grade	Due May 28 (no late papers)
<u>Exam 1</u>	30% of grade	May 24
<u>Final Exam</u>	40% of grade	in class May 31

### Assignments and quizzes:

Various assignments will require students to answer a question or describe and/or draw a local building. There will also be quizzes over assigned readings on Blackboard. Students will be asked to answer in writing three questions about the reading. The quizzes are pass/fail, and students need to get two of the answers right to pass. Students are strongly encouraged to take detailed notes when they do the readings, and are welcome to bring them to class to review during the quiz. **If a student misses or fails four or more assignments and/or quizzes (e.g., a student fails 3 assignments and 1 quiz), their final course grade will be lowered by one letter grade. Conversely, if a student passes all of the assignments and quizzes, it will raise their course grade by 1/3 of a letter, say from a B+ to an A-. Assignments and quizzes will only be announced in class.**

### Readings and Images on Blackboard:

In addition to the assigned textbook, readings and powerpoint presentations will be posted on blackboard. Go to the class's SMU Blackboard site and type all 8 digits of your SMU ID, including any zeros. You will then need to create a new password. Be sure to click *Logout* at the top of the screen every time you finish your session.

**Exams:** Each exam will consist of three parts:

1) The first section will be composed of five identifications. You will be asked to identify the images by providing the name, location, and date of the building, as well as the architect's name if known. The date must be within five years of the date provided on the slide sheet (handed out one week prior to each exam). The images will also be available at that time on Blackboard. All names and titles should be spelled correctly. You will have one minute per slide. This section is worth twenty points.

For extra credit (two points), in one minute, you will be asked to identify by architect and date (within twenty five years) a building not previously shown in class.

2) The second part of each exam will consist of one short essay question concerning one of the buildings listed on the slide sheet. The image will be projected during the fifteen minute period you have in which to answer the questions. This section is worth forty points.

3) The third part of each exam will consist of one comparison. After providing the same information required for the identifications, you will be asked to answer a series of questions. You must show a detailed understanding of the buildings, based on lectures and on the text. Fifteen minutes will be given for the comparison. This section is worth forty points.

**No examination makeups will be allowed without documentation of a medical or family emergency.**

Students must follow SMU's Honor Code.

Students with learning disabilities should bring a letter verifying that they have been tested by SMU officials, and then discuss the exam procedures with the instructor.

**First Paper:** The second paper asks you to write a short analysis of a portion of SMU's campus. Step One: Stand at the fountain on the broad lawn in front of Dallas Hall. Step Two: Make careful notes on this space. What are the elements by which this architectural context is defined? Think in terms of masses, surfaces, and spaces—what materials, colors, textures, are employed in this space? What effect do they have? How does the ensemble of those elements create an ordered logic of form and experience? The more details the better. If you so choose, you may select another spot or vantage at the center of SMU's campus—the steps of Dallas Hall, for instance—or you might consider a route of movement through the campus. Keep in mind that this paper is a short exercise: you will not be able to consider all of the campus' architecture, only some portion that you select. In every case, your language must be specific and pointed, and your paper must have a clear thesis or argument concerning the architecture of SMU's main campus. Paper length: 3 pp, double-spaced. The paper is due May 20. **No late papers will be accepted unless there is a documented health or family emergency.**

**Second Paper:** Go to the Meadows Museum of Art on campus. Your ID will get you in FREE. If you have not visited the Meadows Museum, you are in for a treat. This one of the finest collections of Spanish art outside the Iberian Peninsula, "The Prado on the Prairie" as its founder Al Meadows liked to say. Walk through the galleries upstairs. Choose any work of art. Discuss the element of architecture in this painting. Are any buildings represented in the painting? How are they used in the composition? What function do they serve as building blocks for the painting's larger representational project? What does the architecture communicate in the painting. And most important: HOW does the architecture in the painting do all these things? Your paper can be very specific (a certain building that appears in a painting) or it can be more about more general issues of architectural or spatial logic in the painting (how a room configures a narrative scene). Paper length: 3 pp, double-spaced. This paper is due May 28. **No late papers will be accepted unless there is a documented health or family emergency.**

### **Lectures and Required Readings**

May 15: Thurs.      Introduction

May 16: Fri.      Near Eastern, Egyptian, and Greek Architecture  
Reading: Michael Fazio, *A World History of Architecture* (a textbook),  
pages 20-61.

- May 19: Mon. Roman and Byzantine Architecture  
Reading: Michael Fazio, *A World History of Architecture*, pages 105-151.  
**First Paper Due.**
- May 20: Tues. Architecture of South Asia, China, Japan  
Reading: Michael Fazio, *A World History of Architecture*, pages 71-98.  
NB: Class will end one hour early today.
- May 21: Weds. Islamic Architecture, Ancient Mexico, the Ancient Andes  
Reading: Michael Fazio, *A World History of Architecture*, pages 153-175.  
NB: Class will end one hour early today.
- May 22: Thurs. Romanesque to Gothic  
Reading: Michael Fazio, *A World History of Architecture*, pages 177-248.
- May 23: Fri. Early Renaissance to High Renaissance  
Reading: Michael Fazio, *A World History of Architecture*, pages 285-311.
- May 26: Monday No Class!
- May 27: Tues. Baroque to Eighteenth Century: Europe and the Americas  
Reading: Michael Fazio, *A World History of Architecture*, pages 339-376.  
**Second Paper Due.**
- May 28: Weds. Nineteenth-Century Architecture  
Reading: Michael Fazio, *A World History of Architecture*, pages 379-399
- May 29: Thurs. The Twentieth Century: Modernism and its Aftermath  
Reading: Michael Fazio, *A World History of Architecture*, pages 451-505
- May 30: Fri. **Final Exam**