

COURSE # ID 211

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Architecture

The Art & Design of Built Environments



Instructor: Michael Colgan
Tu,Th, 12:30 - 1:50pm

Outline:

Architecture, like Art and beauty are difficult subjects to define, yet when we see or experience it, we become aware of it's power. Architecture, at it's best, is both Fine Art and technical excellence combined, at it's worst, it is a social and economic menace. Fine Architecture has a rich heritage, the topic of art history classes the world over, but architecture is not history, it is the work of today: When we have designed, developed and built something in which people live, work, or worship, it becomes Architecture, until then it is simply Planning. Whether something is good or bad architecture will be judged by others, but they should do so with an understanding of the intent of the designer in mind. We can learn much about architecture by observing, critiquing and understanding the buildings around us, so the subject of this class will be the observation, comprehension and commentary of our current built environment. We will focus on what is standing, not what has been lost to world history.

Intent:

In this class, students explore theoretical and practical aspects of architecture and attempt a basic understanding of the roles and perspectives of architects and designers in the planning, design and oversight of the built environment. Students will learn the basic thought processes and techniques associated with the planning, design and construction of buildings and will attempt the practical and spiritual appreciation of exterior and interior three dimensional space.

Structure:

The class will include lectures, coursework and fieldwork. Class hours will be devoted to lectures and project work; homework will consist of background reading and research. Students will need to spend a minimum of three hours per week developing their comprehension out of class hours.

Professional development:

Satisfactory completion of this class will help students develop the skills required to communicate and develop design ideas with architects and others employed in the Construction Arts.

Evaluations:

Coursework and presentations will comprise 70% of the class grade, 30% will be by examination. Both parts must be taken and passed to aggregate a final grade.

Student Responsibilities:

Class attendance is essential, 2- unexcused absences may lead to a failing grade. Coursework must be completed on time or deductions will be made at 1-full grade per class session. Work not handed in during class hours must be signed, dated and left in the relevant faculty in-box.