

ARTH 472/572 HISTORY OF AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE

Fall 2017 Wednesday 5:30-8:20 PM

Dr. E. Schwartz

Overview

ARTH 472/572 is a survey course designed to introduce the student to the history of high style American architecture from colonial times to the present. Lectures and reading will focus on the development of American traditions from the seventeenth through the twenty-first centuries as exemplified by major structures and the work of important architects. Final projects will acquaint the student with architectural research, visual analysis, and presentation of findings in formal written form.

Readings

Required books for this course will be:

Leland M. Roth, *American Architecture, A History*, 2nd edition (Boulder, 2000).

John J.-G. Blumenson, *Identifying American Architecture*, 2nd edition (New York, 1990).

The first volume forms the text for the course; the second is to be consulted like a visual dictionary, especially at the beginning of each new section. Books should be available at all campus bookstores and online.

Requirements

There will be two examinations in the course, a midterm on October 26, and a final on Wednesday, December 14 (this time is Provost-mandated; please make a note of it when scheduling December vacations). Both image work (identifications and shortanswers) and essay questions will be included. Each exam will count for one-quarter of the course grade; the term project will make up the remainder. The final project will be assigned early in the semester. It will involve choosing a building worthy of study for its architectural significance, analyzing its style and period using stylistic analysis and comparisons, and discussing the restoration it might require. Graduate students will also be required to include archival research on their structures. Findings will be written up formally as a term paper. There will be several interim deadlines for the term project; please note them on the calendar page. These should help to organize your work and move the project along in a timely fashion--they were requested, in fact, by 2010's class. The first is a deadline for topic selection; each student is required to confer with me to get approval for his/her project. The second is an annotated bibliography of at least 6 juried sources for undergraduate papers, and 9 for graduate papers. To help show what the project will look like at the end, examples of undergraduate and graduate papers which received A grades are on my web page. Handouts detailing the schedule, the term paper content and style will be given out. If you are having trouble finding a suitable topic, come to office hours--I have plenty of good candidates! And I recommend meeting with me during the research/writing phases, especially if this is your first art history term paper. Also, the University Writing Center offers help with papers: <<http://www.emich.edu/uwc/>>.

Please note: Papers are due at the beginning of class on November 30. Late papers will not be accepted, nor incompletes given.

Grades will be computed as follows:

Midterm 25%

Timely completion of term project selection: 3%

Annotated bibliography 7%

Term paper 40%

Final 25%

Help!

My office is Ford Hall 218. Office hours this term are set for:

M 1:00 – 2:00 pm

W 3:30 – 5:00 pm

and by appointment

Please feel free to drop by during office hours, with or without an appointment. If these times are impossible for you, please call to schedule an appointment for another mutually agreeable time. Phone numbers where I can be reached are 487-6546 and 487-1268 (main office). I can always be reached quickly via e-mail, at <eschwartzATemich.edu> (please replace the “AT” with @). I will answer all emails within 48 hours of receipt. An electronic copy of this syllabus, course handouts and examples of term papers, along with useful links, can be found on my webpage at <<http://people.emich.edu/eschwartz/>>.

Finally, a few classroom rules:

Class begins and ends on time; a 20-minute break will be held in the middle. No smoking is permitted anywhere on campus. The nearest food is available in McKinney Hall and across Cross St.

Exams will begin on time, with the image portion first. Images cannot be shown again to latecomers. No makeup exams will be given.

I want our class to be a time and place that is comfortable and conducive to learning for everyone. To that end, please make sure to arrive on time for class with your reading done, and be prepared to stay through the end. Also, make sure all electronic devices (smart/cell phones, pagers, beepers, game or music players, etc.) are turned off, along with watch alarms as these disturb other students. Electronics must be shut down as they can interfere with the slides. If you will need your phone during class time for a medical or family emergency, please inform me before class begins, set your phone on vibrate mode, and sit near the door. Laptop computers will not be used in class.

A note about email:

You may always contact me quickly via e-mail at <eschwartzAT emich.edu> (replace the “AT” with @). Be sure to include "ARTH 472" or “American Architecture” in the subject line of any email correspondence, as I don’t open messages without a subject. Also, please put your message in the body of the email, not in an attachment--I will not open attachments I am not expecting, to save all our computers from viruses! (While I don't use text messaging, I check email several times a day.) Finally, if you use a client other than my.emich for email, or don't read your my.emich email regularly, please set up a forwarding system so that email sent through the my.emich system will reach you. It's the only way faculty have of reaching students readily. Thanks!

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Readings are in the Roth text; consult Blumenson for relevant stylistic details and examples.

- Sept. 6 W Introduction to the class, Introduction to World Architecture
13 W Seventeenth Century Architecture (Roth, 37-63)
20 W No class
27 W Eighteenth Century Architecture (68-98) **DEADLINE: TERM PROJECT SUBJECT APPROVED**
- Oct. 4 W Federalist & Early Classical Architecture (98-158)
11 W Early Victorian Architecture (160-196)
18 W Mid- and High Victorian Architecture (196-236)
25 W **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**
- Nov. 1 W Reactions to Victorian Architecture & the work of Henry Hobson Richardson (236-274; 331-332) **DEADLINE: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE**
8 W Louis Sullivan & the Development of the Skyscraper(284-302; 384-388)
15 W Frank Lloyd Wright (316-330; 396-405; 452-454)
22 W No class, Thanksgiving
29 W Reactions to Early Modernism: The Academic Revival (302-316; 333-338; 360-374); International Style Architecture, Art Deco and early modernism (388-396; 405-411; 424-452) **DEADLINE: TERM PAPERS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS**
- Dec. 6 W Reactions to the International Style (454-477; 500-563)
13 W **FINAL EXAM (5:30-7:00 pm)**