HISTORY OF AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE: Graduate Syllabus
FOLK STUDIES/ART 445G
SPRING SEMESTER 2012

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Meetings: By arrangement with instructor


Selected readings posted on Blackboard.

Course Objective: This course is an interdisciplinary survey of American architectural history. We will look at the role architecture plays in American society, the history of trends and ideas, forms and styles, while considering such topics as Old World precedents and influences, the canon of important or influential American architects, the changing nature of construction and technology. Students will learn architectural terminology to help identify elements within the array of public and private architecture. It is hoped that students will see old and new buildings with a new appreciation of the built environment by the end of the semester. The class will consist of lectures, guest speakers, group exercises, discussions, AV materials and a field trip to the Gardner House.

Students are strongly encouraged to walk around Bowling Green and other urban areas to observe the buildings and their surroundings. Spend time looking at the exteriors of buildings on campus. A great deal can be learned by taking a walk (and not talking on your cell). Observe the streets, the location of the buildings in relation to the streets, the vegetation and the buildings themselves.
Important Dates:
Feb 8th  Paper Proposal Due
Feb 15th  Evaluative exercise or Sanborn map exercise due
Feb 29th  Midterm
May 1st  Final Paper Due
May 9th  Final

Grades
Each exercise is assigned a point value. The cumulative number of points earned during the class will determine your grade. For the number of points related to each assignment or test refer to the requirement section below.

Field Trips
The trip to the Gardner House in Hart County is mandatory and is described below. There will also be a short local field trip to Riverview, a historic house in Bowling Green, or Russellville.

Attendance Policy
The course is designed to build on terminology and ideas presented in the earliest classes. American architecture becomes increasingly complex with population growth and industrial development; we must proceed quickly to cover the period from the early seventeenth century to last part of the twentieth century. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. If you are ill or have an emergency, please email the instructor.

Graduate students will meet with the instructor after five of the regular class periods to discuss additional readings, architectural topics or answer questions.

Disability Policy
Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact Student Disability Services, DUC A-200, phone (270) 745-5400, TTY 745-3030. Please DO NOT request accommodations from the professor without first getting a letter of accommodation from Student Disability Services. But please do talk to your professor, as early in the semester as possible.
Graduate Requirements

Short Class Presentation-Given during the appropriate chapter discussion during the semester. Make a five to ten minute presentation on one building that pertains to an architect we are studying in class such as Peter Harrison's Redwood Library, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, James Renwick's St. Patrick's Cathedral, Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House or Fallingwater, etc. The topic & timing of the presentation should be approved by the instructor. The student may want to expand the presentation and use it within her final paper. Worth 35 points.

Class Participation. Worth 20 points.

Final Paper Proposal-Feb 8th
You must submit a proposal outlining what your final paper entails on or before February 8th. The proposal should include a discussion of the topic along with a list of sources that will be utilized and should not exceed one or two pages. Worth 10 points.

Evaluative paper OR Sanborn map exercise. Due Feb 15th.
Focus upon one noted architect-designed building in Nashville, Louisville, Frankfort, or elsewhere. A list of buildings will be forthcoming as will details on the paper. If you don't have access to a car, inform the instructor. It is imperative that you actually visit the building in person, walk around the perimeter if possible and access the interior if it is open to the public. This is not a research paper on the architect, although minimal research on the architect will be necessary, but a paper that focuses on the building, its surroundings, its relationship to other buildings and the street or landscape. The paper should be three to five pages with photos, if necessary, in the appendix. OR Grad students have the option of exploring and recording information gleaned from historic Sanborn maps in the Kentucky Building. Due February 15. Worth 30 points.

Midterm February 29. Worth 40 points.

Gardner House field trip & Work Session in Hart County. The Gardner House of Hart County is located within the Upper Green River Biological Preserve. An orientation will be given on-site. To pass this assignment, the student must undertake a task as directed by the restoration specialist. Plan to spend several hours at the house and remember to bring your lunch and water. Due to weather conditions, this activity will take place in March and April. Sign up sheets will be handed out in class for students to pick a day to work. Students can expect an email
from the restoration specialist regarding the requirements for their time at the
Gardener House; if they have specific questions about the activity, they can direct
them to the specialist. Pass or Fail activity. Worth 20 points.

**Final Paper-Due by May 1st.** Graduate students' research papers must be *fifteen
to twenty five pages in length plus* the bibliography, endnotes and illustrations. The
paper may deal with topics such as: the specific buildings of an architect (H. H.
Richardson's Alleghany County Courthouse and Jail or William Strickland's
Tennessee capitol building & his Egyptian Revival church); or the influence of the
Industrial Revolution on American architecture; or the evolution or a building type
such as a railroad depot or Kentucky armories; or the use of innovative
construction materials such as iron used in storefronts of the nineteenth century,
etc. Topics such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Frederick Law Olmsted or Mies Van der
Rohe are too broad a topic for one collegiate paper. But discussions of a more
defined nature such as Olmsted's design for the Columbian exposition or Mies's
Farnsworth's house are acceptable topics. Photo montages, artwork, creative
writing projects alone are not acceptable but can be used to illustrate/augment the
paper.

Papers must be based upon secondary and primary resources. Specific
bibliographic and textual requirements are specified on Blackboard.
Worth 60 points.

**Final. May 9.** Worth 60 points. **Total Points 275.**

**READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS**

**Jan 25th.** Dr. Williams guest speaker. Class expectations. Architectural elements
presentation. Building types, styles.

**Before Feb 1st.** Read chapter one, *Handlin*. Read preface, introduction and pages
pages 164-177 for glossary and sketches. Take a walk and find roofs, cladding
materials, windows, etc. in local buildings.

**Before Feb 8.** Read chapter two from pages 39 thru 57, *Handlin*. Chapter four,
*Baker*. Blackboard Reading. Continue observation of buildings. **Paper proposal
due.**

**Before February 15th.** Chapter Two 57-69. *Handlin*. Blackboard Reading.
Evaluative paper or Sanborn exercise due.

Before February 22nd Read pages 87-91 on religious structures, Handlin. Read chapter five, Baker. Blackboard Reading. Midterm review in class

February 29th Midterm.

March 7th. Spring Break!!

Before March 14th Read pages Chapter 3, Handlin. Read chapter 6, Baker but skip Swiss and Exotic Eclectic sections. Blackboard Reading.


Before April 4th Read Chapter 6, Handlin. Blackboard Reading. Read chapter 9, Baker.


Before April 18th Read Chapter 8, Handlin. Blackboard Reading.

Before April 25th Read Chapter 9, Handlin. Blackboard Reading.

May 2. Catch up and in class review for final.

May 9th FINAL EXAM.