AR3222 HISTORY AND THEORY OF WESTERN ARCHITECTURE

AIMS & OBJECTIVES
This course comprises two components: a series of lectures which explore key architectural traditions in the European Continent from the ancient Greeks to nineteenth-century Europe, and a set of guided seminars through which close readings of texts dealing with contemporary themes related to the ones covered in the lectures, are made. For this module, the relational aspect of Western architecture is emphasized, so that students are able to trace the impact and lineage of this history to contemporary movements and ideas.

The lectures are structured thematically so that relationships across time, space and cultures may be drawn by students. The five themes covered in the lecture series look at architecture in relation to, the body, spectacle, nature, technology and utopia. The lectures aim to understand intellectual, political, socio-cultural and aesthetic conditions of historical periods, and how differences in these conditions influenced architectural production. Although a wide range of material is covered for this survey course, the lectures will focus on the development of key architectural ideas through a detailed study of specific buildings and architects connected to particular historical milieu, for example, the Renaissance, the Baroque and the Enlightenment.

The seminars develop a relational focus to the lecture topics, and at the same time, introduce students to contemporary positions in Western architectural discourse. Readings are pre-assigned to students based on four key themes: architecture and the metropolis, architecture and nature, architecture and art, and architecture and ideology. The seminars expose students to the provisional and discursive nature of architectural knowledge. It emphasizes the situated nature of historical knowledge and encourages students to independently engage questions, evidence and to understand the limits of historical explanation.

Summarily, the module attempts to convey architectural knowledge as a contextual and constructed narrative of its own historical period, which is, at the same time, subject to contemporary readings, encounters and speculation made through texts, buildings and ideas. It adopts critical reading and discourse as fundamental tools, and trains students to perceive writing not as a means to an end but as a key intellectual process where thought may be actively engendered.

The overall ambition is for students to gain a broad overview of canonical projects but also to grasp the intricacies of Western architectural historiography.

PREREQUISITES
prerequisites: Students should have a reasonable grasp of the English language. Reading and writing assignments are requisite to this course.

Preclusions: None

Students are required to do weekly readings and must come to class prepared, having completed the requisite texts especially for the seminar sessions.

ASSESSMENT

Seminars, Reading Response: 20%
- Active participation in 5 weekly seminars.
- Submission of one 800-word reading response made in relation to pre-assigned seminar topic/question(s).
- Verbal presentation of reading response

Draft Outline and Critical Essay: 50%
- Submission of 1000-word draft outline in preparation for the final essay. The outline should detail the main argument, proposed framework and list of references consulted.
- 2400-word critical essay written in response to a range of given themes and texts covered over the seminar series. Students are expected to make close readings of the given texts, and subsequently to forward a critical argument engaging a chosen theme, its assigned texts, and to initiate further independent reading/research related to the topic.

Test: 30%
Closed book test examining the student's knowledge of themes covered in the lecture series. This knowledge should be supplemented by the student's independent research into material introduced during the
lectures.

**WORKLOAD**

2 lecture hours per week.

1 tutorial hour per week, on weeks 2-6.

8 hours preparatory work per week.

**SCHEDULE**

**AR3222 LECTURE SCHEDULE:**

All Lectures are held on **Friday, 11am-1pm** unless otherwise stated
All Seminars are held on Friday, 2-4pm.

Introductory lecture and sign up for seminars

Lecture 1 (Pt. 1): Architecture and the Body (Perikles’ Athens)
Lecture 1 (Pt. 2): Architecture and the Body (Hadrian’s Rome)
Lecture 2: Architecture and the Body (The Renaissance)
Lecture 3: Architecture and Spectacle (The Baroque)
Lecture 4: Architecture and Spectacle (Haussmann’s Paris)
Lecture 5: Architecture and Nature (The Picturesque Tradition)
Lecture 6: Architecture and Nature (The Arts and Crafts)
Lecture 7: Architecture and Technology (The Industrial Revolution)
Lecture 8: Architecture and Technology (The Gothic Revival)
Lecture 9: Architecture and Utopia (The Enlightenment)
Lecture 10: Architecture and Utopia (Paper Architecture)

Revision