Architecture 553 examines the impact of politics, culture and the environment on the evolution of American architectural and urban forms from prehistory to World War II. The class explores the interchange between European architectural theory and indigenous and vernacular influences as they came together to create new national and regional forms of building and urban design. While generally chronological in presentation, lectures also examine a series of case studies in order to more closely explore the complexity of form and meaning in the American landscape.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED TEXTS:


Readings on Blackboard

RECOMMENDED TEXT:


READING:

Weekly reading assignments are listed in the lecture schedule in this Syllabus. These readings should be completed BEFORE the lecture under which they are listed.

RESEARCH PAPER:

During the course of the semester you will be responsible for researching and documenting the work of an architect, an architectural patron, a local building, building type, or a rural or urban landscape. Possible topics, methods for developing bibliographies, documenting buildings, and evolving an appropriate research model will be discussed as the semester evolves. The instructor must approve topics in advance.

Each student will be required to submit a one-page description of the paper topic and preliminary bibliography on October 4. A ten-page, double-spaced paper, with appropriate footnotes and an expanded bibliography will be due on November 29.
GRADING:

Midterm Exam, **October 11**: 30%
Research Paper, **November 29**: 30%
Final Exam, **December 13**: 40%

ATTENDANCE:

Medical or family emergencies and religious holidays are the only acceptable excuses for make-up exams, acceptance of late assignments and the granting of incomplete grades.

You will be allowed **one** unexcused absence during the semester. Every unexcused absence after that will result in your overall grade being reduced by one letter grade per absence.

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *Scampus*, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: [http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/](http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/). Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: [http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/](http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/).

CLASS SCHEDULE

**AUG 23**

**INTRODUCTION: The First People of North America**


**AUG 30**

**Indigenous Peoples of the American Southwest and the Arrival of the Spanish**

SEP 6  Building in New Spain


SEP 13  Native American Architecture and the Persistence of European Vernacular Building Traditions


SEP 20  Euro-American Architecture and Planning in Eastern North America during the 18th Century


SEP 27  Imagining the New Republic


OCT 4  Thomas Jefferson; Associationism and Eclecticism

PRELIMINARY PAPER PROPOSAL AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE


OCT 11  MIDTERM EXAM

OCT 18  The Industrial Revolution and Its Impact on the American Landscape

Upton, pp. 149-185; and Gelernter, pp. 143-165.

OCT 25  Parks, Suburbs and the Ideal of Nature

Upton, pp. 107-147; and Gwendolyn Wright, “Independence and the rural cottage,” in Eggener, pp. 142-154

NOV 1  Inventing an “American” Architecture

Gelernter, pp. 166-189; and Kenneth L. Ames, “First impressions: front halls and hall
furnishings in Victorian America,” in Eggener, pp. 155-176

NOV 8    Monuments to Commerce: Chicago and the Rise of the Tall Office Building

NOV 15    The City Beautiful Movement and Conquest of the American West

NOV 22    Frank Lloyd Wright and the Origins of an American Avant-Garde

NOV 29    Tradition and Innovation Between the Wars, REVIEW RESEARCH PAPER DUE
Upton, pp. 247-283; Gelernter, pp. 230-259; and Margaret Kentgens-Craig, “The search for modernity: America, the International Style and the Bauhaus,” in Eggener, pp. 294-312

DEC 13    FINAL EXAM: 2 PM-4 PM

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY


Kaufmann, Edgar, Jr., and Ben Raeburn, eds. *Frank Lloyd Wright; Writings and Buildings*. Cleveland, 1960.

Kelly, Bruce, Gail Travis Guillet, and Mary Ellen W. Hern. *Art of the Olmsted Landscape*. New York.


Lowry, Bates. *Building A National Image: Architectural Drawings for the American Democracy*, 1779-1912,


Street, George. *Brick & Marble Architecture of North Italy*. London, 1855


Wright, Frank Lloyd.  *In the Cause of Architecture, ed. by Frederick Gutheim.* New York, 1975.