

ARC308: Architecture and Society

*Sample Syllabus

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Prerequisites: None. This course may be used to fulfill the visual and performing arts component of the university core curriculum and addresses the following four core objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: communication skills, critical thinking skills, teamwork and social responsibility. This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of non-U.S. cultural groups, past and present.

Educational Objectives: **1)** To establish a perspective of the role and influence of architecture in society and vis-a-vis other disciplines in the arts and science. **2)** To develop an understanding of how architecture is shaped by and reflects cultural values and social organization. **3)** To present a broad picture of issues and factors which influence architectural design. **4)** To understand how global cultures create environments that both reflect and shape their values.

Educational Approach: This is a reading/looking/listening/thinking course. It will follow a lecture format supplemented by related outside reading and required participation in discussion sections that hone skills in critical thinking, communication and teamwork. Students will also give oral presentations on their research in discussion sections. Accommodations for students with special needs will be made cheerfully. See <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/> or call 512-471-6259.

Evaluation: Three tests and a final exam will be given in the course, as well as a handful of analytical exercises related to a building chosen by the student. 'Twitter Cards' will be due at the end of each lecture. Discussion sections will meet once a week with TAs.

1. Tests (3): slide ID's & short answers — 45%
2. Final: comprehensive, short answer only, during finals period — 15%
3. Participation: twitter cards in lecture & engagement in discussion sections — 20%
4. Analytical Responses: written and oral, specifics may vary year to year — 20%

Required Materials: **1)** *Experiencing Architecture* (Rasmussen, Steen Eiler). **2)** *Thermal Delight in Architecture* (Heschong, Lisa). **3)** *The Place of Houses* (Moore, Charles, et al). **4)** 3" x 5" index cards for 'twitter card' responses.

Policies: **1)** In any of your writing, if words or ideas are not your own, you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism. This is a serious offense, so please ask your TA or seek guidance from the [Academic Integrity](#) policy. **2)** Laptop computers and similar devices can only be used in class with special permission. No cell phones or other mobile devices can be out during class. **3)** Discussion sections will have field trips that go beyond the classroom, for example to the Blanton Museum of Art or the Humanities Research Center. **4)** Special sessions to replace a lecture may be scheduled outside of normal class time. **5)** No late Twitter Cards will be accepted and no make-ups will be given for tests unless there is a documented reason for absence from class—illness, family emergency or religious holiday. **6)** Grades on assignments will drop one letter for each week they are late.

**Details subject to change, please see Canvas or consult your TA for current version.*