

Architecture and Society

Instructor: Larry Speck
Time: TTh 12:30-2:00pm (officially)

Prerequisites

None. Required course for architecture majors. 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

The lecture content of the course will be covered primarily through pre-recorded videos, referred to as “talks,” that can be accessed asynchronously. During the scheduled lecture time there will be a short live “check-in” online. After each check-in, a single-question Canvas assignment will assess comprehension of and reaction to material in the “talks.” Some discussion sections will be held in person, and some will be held via Zoom, and students should aim to register accordingly. Accommodations will be made as necessary. This is a reading/looking/listening/thinking course. The lecture material will be 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 in discussion sections. Students with disabilities may request accommodations.

<http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/> or call 512-471-6259.

Evaluation

There will be three tests in the course. Each test will count 10% of your final grade. Tests will include multiple choice questions as well as short answer questions analyzing buildings to demonstrate understanding of material covered in lectures and reading over a five-to seven-week period. Participation in class (in the form of question responses due after most “check-ins”) will count 30%, and participation in sections will count 15%. The remaining 25% of your grade will be based on a series of five short analytical exercises that you will do through the semester. Analytical exercises will be dealt with primarily in sections.

Required Texts

Rasmussen, Steen Eiler. *Experiencing Architecture*.
Heschong, Lisa. *Thermal Delight in Architecture*.
Moore, Charles, et al. *The Place of Houses*.

Website: www.larryspeck.com

Check-Ins Schedule Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30PM

I. Introduction

- Aug. 27 - Course Description
- Sept 1 - Architecture and Society–Overview
- Sept. 3 - Architectural Values/Philosophy/Principles/Prejudices/Theory

II. Form in Architecture

- Sept. 8 - Architecture as Sensual/Visual Experience
- Sept. 10 - Architecture as an Intellectual/Artistic Experience
- Sept. 15 - Systems and Order
- Sept. 17 - Numbers/Mathematics/Geometry as Inspiration of Form
- Sept. 22 - Nature/Biology/Organisms as Inspiration of Form
[Readings in *Experiencing Architecture* to be completed by Sep. 22]
- Sept. 24 - Synthesis – Form
- Sept 29 - Test #1

III. Physical Considerations in Architecture

- Oct. 1 - Buildings and Land
- Oct. 6 - Geography/Topography/Ecology
- Oct. 8 - Structure and Materials
- Oct. 13 - Construction/Tectonics
- Oct. 15 - Architecture in Response to Climate
[Readings in *Thermal Delight in Architecture* to be completed by Oct. 15]
- Oct. 20 - Synthesis – Physical Considerations
- Oct. 22 - Test #2

IV. Human Factors in Architecture

- Oct. 27 - Designation and Organization of Use
- Oct 29 - Architectural Determinism
- Nov. 3 - Humanism at the Personal Scale
- Nov. 5 - Humanism at the Scale of Organizations/Communities/Bureaucracies
- Nov 10 - Meaning in Public Buildings
[Readings in *The Place of Houses* to be completed by Nov. 19)
- Nov. 12 - Synthesis – Human Factors
- Nov. 17 - Test #3

V. Combinations and Synthesis

- Nov. 19 - Firmness and Delight
- Nov. 24 - Perfection and Compromise
- Dec. 1 - A Few Good Buildings

Safety and Class Participation/Masks: We will all need to make some adjustments in order to benefit from in-person classroom interactions in a safe and healthy manner. Our best protections against spreading COVID-19 on campus are masks (defined as cloth face coverings) and staying home if you are showing symptoms. Therefore, for the benefit of everyone, this means that all students are required to follow these important rules.

- **Every student must wear a cloth face-covering properly in class and in all campus buildings at all times.**
- **Students are encouraged to participate in documented daily symptom screening.** This means that each class day in which on-campus activities occur, students must upload certification from the symptom tracking app and confirm that they completed their symptom screening for that day to Canvas. Students should not upload the results of that screening, just the certificate that they completed it. If the symptom tracking app recommends that the student isolate rather than coming to class, then students must not return to class until cleared by a medical professional.
- Information regarding [safety protocols with and without symptoms](#) can be [found here](#).

If a student is not wearing a cloth face-covering properly in the classroom (or any UT building), that student must leave the classroom (and building). If the student refuses to wear a cloth face covering, class will be dismissed for the remainder of the period, and the student will be subject to disciplinary action as set forth in the university's Institutional Rules/General Conduct 11-404(a)(3). Students who have a condition that precludes the wearing of a cloth face covering must follow the procedures for [obtaining an accommodation](#) working with [Services for Students with Disabilities](#).

Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited

Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited: No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class unless you have my explicit, written permission. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. I am well aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found online that are associated with you, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in sanctions, including failure in the course.

FERPA and Class Recordings

Class Recordings: Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

COVID Guidance

COVID Caveats: To help keep everyone at UT and in our community safe, it is critical that students report COVID-19 symptoms and testing, regardless of test results, to [University Health Services](#), and faculty and staff report to the [HealthPoint Occupational Health Program](#) (OHP) as soon as possible. Please see this [link](#) to understand what needs to be reported. In addition, to help understand what to do if a fellow student in the class (or the instructor or TA) tests positive for COVID, see this [University Health Services link](#).