

ARC 308
Architecture and Society

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

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

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. 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 15% of your final grade. Tests will include building identification and multiple-choice questions as well as essay questions analyzing buildings on campus or nearby 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 in most class periods) will count 20%, and participation in sections will count 10%. 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

Readings will be assigned from the following three texts:
Rasmussen, Steen Eiler. *Experiencing Architecture*.
Heschong, Lisa. *Thermal Delight in Architecture*.
Moore, Charles, et al. *The Place of Houses*.

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