San José State University
Department of Art & Art History
ARTH-161, Contemporary Architecture, Section 2, Spring 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Caroline M. Riley
Office Location: ART 123
Telephone: n/a
Email: caroline.riley@sjsu.edu (preferred method of contact)
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10:15–12:00pm, or by appointment
Class Days/Time: Monday/Wednesday 9:00–10:15
Classroom: Art Building, Room 135
Prerequisites: ARTH 70B, completion of Area Z, or instructor consent
Department Office: ART 116
Department Contact: Email: art@sjsu.edu

Course Description

What is contemporary architecture? The answer is dependent on what architectural historians employ as evidence. This course provides an broad introduction to the history of contemporary architecture (1930-present). It will explore the relationships between historical developments in architecture and wider changes in the social, technological and aesthetic realms. In this sense, the study of architecture will serve as a window into broader aspects of cultural history. Simultaneously, however, the course will examine architecture as a unique medium, with its own visual codes, spatial forms and material structures. The subject of contemporary architecture will be analyzed thematically following a narrative that is grounded in the built environment of today. Themes and problems will be explored from different perspectives (social, cultural, economic, institutional, etc.) while, at the same time, diverse geographical realities will be taken into account. The goal of the course is to acquire an overview in order to understand the contemporary debate on architecture.

Course Goals

The study of the history of contemporary architecture asks you to pay attention and to look closely at the built environment. It also asks you to think, speak and write thoughtfully and affectively about your visual experience. Instruction will involve the following: Slide lecture, class discussion, and projects and presentations. It may also include videos, visits to local sites, museums and/or exhibitions, student peer evaluation/writing workshops, and attendance of Department of Art and Art History or other lectures. The course textbook is supplemented by primary and secondary source materials including manifestoes, interviews, press releases, critical essays and popular press articles posted to Canvas and available through specified King Library articles databases. Study Guides for review and self-guided study and key images from lecture will be available on the Course Website within seven days after the completion of related lectures. Lectures will develop these materials and questions based on them will be presented on course exams. In addition, key images from lecture will be made available on the Course Website.
Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

The objective of this course is for students to acquire a broad perspective on the changing technologies, cultural ideals, and popular tastes that have historically influenced architecture as a whole. A secondary goal is to develop the communication skills necessary for translating your visual perceptions into words and, more generally, to securing your academic and professional success.

Students will:

• Conduct self-directed study of basic terminology and concepts using required course readings and Study Guides available on the Course Website (at http://arth.sjsu.edu/courses/index.php);
• Memorize terms, names, dates, and historical facts about iconic works of contemporary architecture;
• Recognize the dominant period-styles of contemporary architecture through the characteristics of each one;
• Use required readings, lecture notes and on-line Study Guides to increase knowledge of the concepts and contexts of iconic works, major designers and key movements;
• Complete a written research project on an approved graphic design innovation and/or designer; papers will require independent research, submission of a thesis topic and bibliography, a graded draft, strategic problem solving, peer evaluation, and demonstrated mastery of design terminology;
• Translate your visual perceptions of works of graphic design into papers and essays;
• Develop critical thinking skills by engaging in in-class discussion and writing about contemporary architecture;
• Develop your verbal communication skills through in-class discussion and (for writers of the four best research papers) in-class presentations; and
• Write clearly, effectively, and critically using terminology appropriate to the history of contemporary architecture.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook
William J.R. Curtis, Modern Architecture since 1900. Both required textbooks are available for purchase at the SJSU Bookstore.

Recommended books
Dennis Doordan, Twentieth Century Architecture; Donald McNeill, The Global Architect and Luigi Prestinenza Puglisi, New Directions in Contemporary Architecture. For strong papers, I recommend Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writers, Strunk and White, The Elements of Style, Roget’s Thesaurus, and a good dictionary such as Webster’s New World Dictionary.

Other Readings
All mandatory non-textbook readings are posted to the SJSU Canvas site at <https://sjsu.instructure.com> or available through the King Library Articles & Databases at <library.calstate.edu/sanjose/databases>. Use your student number to access Canvas and King Library card to access article databases such as JSTOR. Acrobat Reader is required to open and read articles.

Library Liaison
Gareth Scott: gareth.scott@sjsu.edu
Course Requirements and Assignments

There will be a quiz; bibliography/thesis; midterm; an individual paper submission; presentation; and a final exam. Papers will be subject to peer review prior to submission. Grading criteria for all writing assignments is posted to the Course Website, as are writing guides intended to help with structure and citation formats. All papers will be evaluated and returned with instructor comments intended to improve future writing assignments;

• All drafts and papers will require scholarly research as well as analytical and affective responses to works of design. Insomuch as is possible, they will require observing, describing and discussing actual examples of design (as opposed to reproductions);

• Required paper formats. Type all written assignments with one-inch margins and a 12-point font. Use Chicago Style citation formats. Double-space, use page numbers, and put your name, title and assignment number on a cover page (see Course Website writing guides for example). Use separate pages for captioned illustrations of featured works and include these pages at the end of the paper and before the bibliography. Staple pages together at the upper left-hand corner and turn in with outline and draft versions at beginning of class on the date due. Keep a printed copy and a back-up disk of all your work. Papers must be received in hard copy;

Students are urged to remain current by taking effective lecture notes and researching and writing out answers to the on-line Study Guides as they are posted. It is recommended that students form study groups outside of class as this is a highly effective means of assimilating information into knowledge.

Midterm and Final Examination

Material covered on exams will derive from class lectures and assigned readings from the course textbook, assigned readings, and Course Website. Quiz and exam format consists of a combination of slide identification and analysis of design works, comparisons of design works, terminology, multiple choice and/or short essay answer questions. Both the Midterm and Final will follow the same format. Part I will be the identification and significance of single artworks and Part II will be comparisons of artworks.

Grading Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments:</th>
<th>Due Date:</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>February 4</td>
<td>Participation Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper thesis and bibliography</td>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>Participation Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
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<td>Participation Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual paper</td>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>May 6-14, &amp; 16</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Determination of Grades

• There are no extra credit options in this course.
• There are no early exams. There are no make-up exams or late assignments without prior approval or valid excuse (i.e., documentation such as a doctor’s note). Unexcused missed exams and late assignments will receive a grade of “0”.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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</table>
| 1    | 1/28  | **Course Introduction: “Why it looks the way it does”**  
Optional:  
Nick Mafi, “14 of the Most Beautiful Buildings That Defy Gravity” *Architectural Digest*  
https://www.architecturaldigest.com/gallery/most-beautiful-buildings-defy-gravity |
| 1    | 1/30  | **The Architect, The Building, and The City Plan**  
Readings:  
Andrew Saint, Ch. 1 “The Architect as Hero and Genius,” in *The Image of the Architect* (Yale University Press, 1983), 1-18 (CANVAS)  
Optional:  
On-Line: Study Guide and Images |
| 2    | 2/4   | **The Architect, The Building, and The City Plan, continued**  
Readings:  
Georg Simmel, “The Metropolis and Mental Life” (CANVAS)  
Antoine Picon, “Learning from Utopia: Contemporary Architecture and the Quest for Political and Social Relevance,” *JAE* 67, no. 1 (March 2013), 17-23 (CANVAS) |
| 2    | 2/6   | **The International Style and Organic Variations**  
Reading:  
Curtis, Chapter 15, pp. 257-274 |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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| 3/15 | The International Style and Organic Variations, continued  
Reading:  
Curtis, Chapters 21 and 22, pp. 371-415. |
Reading:  
Curtis, Chapter 25 pp. 453-470.  
On-Line: Study Guide and Images |
Curtis, Chapter 26, pp. 471-489 |
| 3/24 | Louis Kahn and Monumentalism  
Reading:  
Curtis, Chapters 28 and 34, pp. 513-527, 635-655.  
Optional:  
On-Line: Study Guide and Images |
| 3/28 | Louis Kahn and Monumentalism, continued  
Optional:  
| 4/2 | Postmodernism  
Reading:  
Doordan, Chapter 7, pp. 201-227  
On-Line: Study Guide and Images  
Paper thesis and annotated bibliography due |
| 4/4 | Postmodernism, continued  
Reading:  
Curtis, Chapters 32-33, pp. 589-633.  
Optional:  
| 4/9 | Deconstructivism  
Reading:  
Curtis, Chapter 30, pp. 547-565  
On-Line: Study Guide and Images |
<p>| 4/11 | Deconstructivism, continued |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>3/13</td>
<td><strong>MIDTERM</strong>-covers weeks 1-6 (Postmodernism only)</td>
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| 3/18  | ‘High Tech’ Architecture  
**Reading:**  
Curtis, Chapter 35, pp. 657-689; McNeill, Chapter 1, pp. 7-33 |
| 3/20  | Five Architects: Eisenman, Graves, Gwathmey, Hejduk, Meier  
**Reading:**  
**On-Line:** Study Guide and Images |
| 3/25  | Five Architects: Eisenman, Graves, Gwathmey, Hejduk, Meier, continued |
| 3/27  | Suburbia, sprawl, Congress for New Urbanism, Duany Plater-Zyberk  
**Reading:**  
Curtis Chapters 21, 23 & 28, pp. 371-391, 417-435, 513-527  
**On-Line:** Study Guide and Images  
**Individual Paper due** |
| 4/1   | **SPRING BREAK** |
| 4/3   | **SPRING BREAK** |
| 4/8   | Suburbia, sprawl, Congress for New Urbanism, Duany Plater-Zyberk, continued |
| 4/10  | Contemporary Institutions and New Monuments  
**Reading:**  
**On-Line:** Study Guide and Images |
| 4/15  | American Prisons  
**Reading:**  
Michel Foucault, “Space, Knowledge and Power,” in *Foucault Reader*, pp 239-256 (CANVAS) |
| 4/17  | Rising Skylines: London, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur, Shanghai and Beijing  
**Reading:**  
Curtis Chapters 18 & 22, pp. 305-327, 395-435  
**On-Line:** Study Guide and Images |
| 4/22  | Rising Skylines: London, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur, Shanghai and Beijing, continued |
| 4/24  | Blob Architecture  
**Reading:** |

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**On-Line:** Study Guide and Images
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4/29 Blob Architecture, continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>5/1 William McDonough and green building practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>5/6 Student Presentations/ Mandatory Attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>5/8 Student Presentations/ Mandatory Attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>5/13 Student Presentations/ Mandatory Attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>5/16 Non-cumulative Final Exam Part II. Presentation notes and typed summary due.</td>
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<td>7:15-9:30</td>
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