

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Discipline: Art History

Fall 2008

ARTH 106Z: History of Architecture

Lower Division

Faculty Name: Lawrence E. Butler

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the history of architecture worldwide, from prehistory through the present day. The course will organize material by period, region, type and building technology, taking best advantage of each port visit. In the early part of the course, major structural systems will be presented chronologically—alignments, post-and-lintel, vaulted systems, frame structures and so on—with appropriate field assignments. In the middle part of the course we will study the social dimensions of architecture—cultural background, use, patronage and urban planning—through selected examples and appropriate field assignments. In the final part of the course, students will present their research based on fieldwork, while lectures will concentrate on contemporary architecture worldwide. There will be one textbook and a variety of shorter assigned readings. This course is introductory, with no prerequisites.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through lectures, discussion and fieldwork, students will:

- Learn the major structural systems of world architecture
- Learn major historic periodization in the Western tradition
- Learn distinctive characteristics of architectural traditions world-wide
- Learn to analyze and critique buildings within their own cultural contexts
- Develop an analytical descriptive vocabulary
- Dust off (previously unknown?) skills of sketching and plan-making
- Explore a variety of appropriate materials and responses to regional climates
- Come to appreciate the peripherals of architecture, such as patronage and economics
- Become familiar with and appreciate UNESCO World Heritage sites worldwide

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Introductory

- The study of architecture: people, purposes, climate and materials
- How to analyze a building
- Styles and their markers

Brazil field assignment: describing architecture

History of the Western tradition

- Antiquity: stones and alignments
- Classical systems: the orders
- Vaulted architecture
- Renaissance and Baroque
- European colonial architecture

African field assignment: colonial architecture and appropriate materials

Social parameters of architecture (Indian Ocean)

- Domestic architecture in southern Africa
- Palaces
- Religious buildings: Christian basilicas
- Religious buildings: Islamic architecture
- Religious buildings: the Buddhist traditions of South Asia
- Religious buildings: Hindu architecture

Asian ports: topical discussions

- The Mughals and the Taj Mahal
- Malaysia: Malay and colonial traditions in Penang
- Malaysia: the Petronas Towers and modern skyscraper identity
- Khmer Hindu-Buddhist architecture: the monuments of Angkor
- Confucian and Buddhist architecture in Vietnam
- Vietnam and Cambodia: French colonialism
- China: Temple and palace
- Modern/contemporary architecture in Hong Kong and Shanghai
- Japanese vernacular traditions and materials
- Japanese and Chinese gardens
- Kyoto and Himeji: Japanese castles and palaces
- Modern Tokyo: seismicity and style

Pacific Ocean/Caribbean:

- Polynesian vernacular and colonial traditions
- Hawaii's future: sustainable eco-architecture
- Indigenous traditions of Central America
- Central America's Spanish colonial heritage
- Miami: what's now? What's next?

FIELD COMPONENT

Students will be required to write five 2-page field reports, based on their own observations of the architecture or architectural museums they encounter in port. These may be based on FDP's, independent practica, or my informal museum and site tours. The first field report will be a museum or architecture practice paper based on visits in Brazil. The other four will be written based on field experiences in Namibia, South Africa, India, Malaysia, Vietnam, China, Japan, Hawaii or Costa Rica.

Students should plan to participate in at least two of my FDP's or informal port/museum tours. Students should plan a mix of visits, to include roughly one museum, one temple, one palace/domestic structure, and one modern structure. World Heritage sites along the voyage will present particularly good opportunities.

Guidelines for the field reports will be presented and discussed in class. Individual projects not on the list below will require my prior approval. Monuments, museums or cities marked with an asterisk* are highly recommended for this course.

SUGGESTED PRACTICA:

- BRAZIL:** *Baroque art and architecture of the Pelourinho district (FDP); *Cachoeira (Field office tour); Individual monuments in the World Heritage zone (IND); Major historic monuments in Rio de Janeiro and *Manaus (tour or IND); *Brasilia, if you find yourself there (IND)
- NAMIBIA:** Swakopmund architecture (IND or tour); Lüderitz architecture: Goerke House (IND or tour); Tataleni Village relocation site; Tribal village architecture (tour)
- SOUTH AFRICA:** Tribal or township vernacular structures (tour); *Major historic buildings of Cape Town: Parliament, St. George's Cathedral; Groote Kerk, Great Synagogue; Castle of Good Hope; Bo-Kaap neighborhood & museum
- INDIA:** *Kanchipuram & Mahabalipuram (tour); *Mughal monuments of Delhi & Agra (tour); *Varanasi & Sanchi (tour); *Madurai and Cochin monuments (tour); A Hindu, Sikh or Jain temple (IND)
- MALAYSIA:** *Straits Chinese neighborhoods in Penang (FDP); *Kek Lok Si or other Buddhist or Hindu temples (tour or IND); Chung Keng Kwee or Cheong Fat Tze mansions; Leong San Tong Khoo Kongsi clan temple; *Malacca museums: Baba-Nonya, Malay Palace, & Malacca Museums (IND or tour); *Little Malaysia outdoor house museum near Malacca; Kuala Lumpur: Pedang monuments, *Petronas Towers; Long houses of Borneo. Singapore: Colonial architecture or modern architecture, by permission.
- VIET NAM:** Ho Chi Minh City: Major French Colonial monuments; Central Mosque; Hue: *Citadel; Nguyen Dynasty tombs; Thien Mu Pagoda (tour); Hanoi: Fine Arts Museum, *Temple of Literature (IND), Ho Chi Minh tomb; *Hoi An: clan temples, museums (tour or IND); Other Buddhist temples (pagodas); *Angkor; Phnom Penh: *Royal Palace and National Museum; *Killing Fields pagoda
- CHINA:** *Hong Kong HSBC Bank; modern architecture in Central (IND or my informal tour); Man Mo Temple (IND or my tour); *Shanghai Museum, *The Bund; *Pudong district; *Yu Yuan Gardens (IND); *Suzhou gardens;

*Beijing: Imperial monuments (tour); *Xi'an: City walls, *Great Wild Goose Pagoda (tour); *Great Mosque (tour).

JAPAN: Walking tour of Kobe (FDP), including the Ikuta Shrine; Sorakuen Gardens; *Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum; *Kyoto: Temples, *Nijo Palace, *gardens (tour or IND); *Himeji Castle (Tour or IND); *Nara: *Todaiji, *Horyuji (Tour or IND); Osaka Castle & museum (IND); Tokyo: Municipal Building complex, National Museum, Meiji Shrine gardens (IND); Other great shrine complexes are fine: Ise, Kamakura, etc.

HAWAII: *Honolulu Academy of Art and Shangri-la mansion (IND); *Bishop Museum (IND); Byodo-in Temple; Aloha Tower

COSTA RICA: San José Opera House.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

The five field reports, taken together as a group, will constitute 50% of the class grade. The two quizzes with count 10% each, and the final exam 20%. The final 10% will be awarded for class participation. This includes regular attendance, willingness to contribute to class discussion, and clear preparation for class discussions through prior reading.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Mario Salvadori

TITLE: *Why Buildings Stand Up: The Strength of Architecture*

PUBLISHER: Norton

ISBN #: 0393306763

DATE/EDITION: paperback, 2002

COST: \$16.95

AUTHOR: Poppeliers, John

TITLE: *What Style is It?*

PUBLISHER: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

ISBN #: 0471250638

DATE/EDITION: 2003

COST: varies, seemingly

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

1. Francis Ching, *A Global History of Architecture*. Wiley, 2006. ISBN 0471268925.
2. M. Moffett, M. Fazio & L. Wodehouse, *A World History of Architecture*. McGraw-Hill, 2004. ISBN 0071417516.
3. Ovidio Guaita, *On Distant Shores: Colonial Houses Around the World*. Monacelli, 2000. ISBN 1580930514.
4. Leland Roth, *Understanding Architecture: Its Elements, History and Meaning*. Westview, Icon Editions, 2006. ISBN 0813390451.