



TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE

Prof. Susan Johnson-Roehr

Office ARCH 307; Student Consult Hours: MW 12:15-1:15

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SPRING
2012

Course Objectives Students will gain an understanding of the significance of American architecture of the 20th century. Through lectures and reading students will acquire skills to visually analyze buildings. Equally important in the course is the development of communication and analytical skills through research and writing assignments.

Grading Scale

A+	= 970-1000 points
A	= 930-969 points
A-	= 900-929 points
B+	= 870-899 points
B	= 830-869 points
B-	= 800-829 points
C+	= 770-799 points
C	= 730-769 points
C-	= 700-729 points
D+	= 670-699 points
D	= 630-669 points
D-	= 600-629 points
F	= 0-599 points

Assessment: Undergraduates

Essay 1	200 points
Essay 2	200 points
Midterm 1	200 points
Midterm 2	200 points
Final Exam	200 points

Assessment: Graduates

Essay 1	200 points
Essay 2	200 points
Midterm 1	200 points
Midterm 2	200 points
Research Paper	200 points

Required Texts

Keith Eggner, *American Architectural History: A Reader*. London: Routledge, 2004.
Gwendolyn Wright, *USA: Modern Architectures in History*. London: Reaktion Books, 2008.

Required texts are on reserve at Ricker Library in the Architecture Building.

Course Website Your grades will be on Compass (<https://compass.illinois.edu/>). After the University add/drop period has ended, the Compass site will be fully updated in regard to assignments, grades, and downloadable image study sets. **Since the syllabus is subject to change throughout the semester**, you should make it a regular practice to check Compass for announcements regarding assignments, due dates and schedule adjustments.

Twitter Feed It is in your best interest to subscribe to the course Twitter feed at <http://twitter.com/@UIUCARCH416>. I will post announcements, clarifications, supplemental material, and news related to the course on Twitter.

Communication I check my e-mail a minimum of two times a day, once before the noon hour, once between six and ten o'clock at night. If you are sending me a time sensitive e-mail, please keep this schedule in mind. I may occasionally communicate with the class via e-mail, so if you have multiple e-mail addresses, please make sure to regularly check your University of Illinois account. If you do need to send me an e-mail, please put the course number in the subject line, use complete sentences (architectural history doesn't convert well to textspeak), and sign your e-mail with your full name. Remember, you can always come talk to me during my consult hours (M/W 12:15-1:15) or make an appointment outside these hours.

Teaching Assistants The Graduate Teaching Assistants for this course are Stephanie Raney (sraney2@illinois.edu) and Katie Ferrari (cferrari2@illinois.edu). If you have questions about the course material, please feel free to make an appointment with either of them via e-mail (in other words, don't hassle them when they're in studio).

Attendance Policy Students are expected to be physically present in class, awake and alert, and prepared to discuss the content of lecture and the assigned readings. Attendance in this class is expected and necessary to achieve passing grades on exams and assignments. There is no substitute for lecture and in-class discussion; the books in this class are complementary but not identical to lecture material. Simply reading the texts without attending class will not provide enough information for you to pass the exams and assignments. Missing more than one week of class puts a student at serious risk of failing the course.

Absences are at your own discretion/risk. I do not require nor do I typically consider excuses or explanations for absences when factoring attendance into final grades. We cover something important in every class meeting. If you miss a class because of illness, studio reviews, or any other reason, please check with another student for lecture notes. Although I will provide you with a set of images for study purposes via Compass, I do not give out my lecture notes, nor will I recap the content of lectures via e-mail, in office hours, over the phone, etc. Student athletes must provide advance, written notice (from the athletic director) of game days which would necessitate an accommodation in the course schedule of assignments and exams.

NB: Because of number of people obligated to miss class for all-day reviews or studio field trips, we will not meet in 01/27, 03/02, 03/14, 03/16, 04/25, and 04/27. If you have a field trip scheduled on a different date, you should arrange for a reliable classmate to take notes for you.

Academic Accomodations Students with disabilities that affect their ability to participate fully in class should bring this to my attention by the second week of the semester so appropriate accommodations can be made by me. Requests for accomodations must be supported by official paperwork from Disability Resources and Educational Services (<http://www.disability.uiuc.edu/>).

Classroom Conduct University of Illinois will not tolerate inappropriate behavior as defined in the Student Code of Conduct (http://admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/Full-Code_web.pdf). Student behavior that interferes with my ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable. Please **turn off your cell phones** when you enter the classroom. Resist the temptation to update your facebook status, tweet about course content, or add your neighbors to your Google+ circles during class. If you absolutely must eat in class, do it quietly and discreetly. Your fellow students can't hear over the wrapper you're removing from your Subway sandwich, nor can they concentrate when you fill the auditorium with the aroma of pepperoni pizza. Be considerate.

Academic Honesty University of Illinois has a very clear policy on academic honesty. The work completed for this course should be your own. Plagiarism is not an acceptable practice and will earn you **at minimum** a failing grade (F) for the course. You may also face additional sanctions at the university level. If you are not clear as to what constitutes plagiarism, review the University Student Code and the University Library's "Avoiding Plagiarism" website (<http://www.library.illinois.edu/ugl/howdoi/plagiarism.html>). If you are still not clear after reviewing the relevant sections of these websites, please ask me for clarification.

Examinations The dates of the midterms and final exams are noted on the syllabus. **No make up exams** will be given for missed exams, so plan your life and schedule accordingly. If you must miss an exam, notify me within one week and provide me comprehensive documentation from the appropriate entity demonstrating that the absence was an excused University activity, a severe illness, or a dire emergency (documented with a letter from the Emergency Dean, see <http://www.odos.uiuc.edu/emergency/>). If these conditions are met, your score on the final examination will be substituted for the exam you missed. Otherwise, I will assign you a zero for the exam. Each exam will cover 1/3 of the material covered in class. That is, exams are not cumulative. However, the final exam may include at least one essay question asking you to consider material from the entire course, so be prepared for this.

Writing Assignments All students will complete two short (4-5 page) essay assignments. These assignments will offer an opportunity to describe and analyze American architecture. The first essay will focus on a local (campus or city) monument; the second will focus on a significant building reviewed in a major architectural journal. Each essay constitutes 20% of the course grade. Always backup your paper to an external harddrive, flash drive or drop box, and plan to print well before the deadline. Computer issues do not constitute an acceptable excuse for late papers. I will **deduct a full letter grade for each day a paper is late**, so plan accordingly. Guidelines for the essay will be distributed during the third week of class.

Graduate Students In lieu of the final exam, graduate students will write a 10-12 page research paper. Your papers must focus on a very specific and manageable topic, such as a significant building, event, exhibition, publication, architect, etc., through which larger issues of modernism, nationalism, regionalism, etc. can be discussed. “Regionalism” is too broad; “Regionalism in the work of Rick Joy” is more suitable to a graduate level analysis. “Frank Gehry’s Architecture” is too general; “Local Politics of Gehry’s EMP” is much better. **All graduate students must schedule an appointment with me before February 27 to discuss your topic. In addition, you must turn in a preliminary bibliography (5 scholarly sources) on March 30.** You will not be graded on the bibliography, but you cannot pass the paper assignment without completing this step. Failure to turn in a bibliography will result in a failing grade on your research paper.

The papers must conform to professional standards, which means you should prepare footnotes and bibliography as prescribed in the Chicago Manual of Style. If you do not wish to purchase a personal copy of the style manual, you can find an online version at the University of Illinois Library website <http://www.library.illinois.edu/rex/erefs/citing.html>.

WEEK ONE (January 18, 20)

The Search for an American Style

Course Introduction, Policies and Procedures.
 Richard Morris Hunt and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts
Reading: Eggener, Chapter 12; Wright, Introduction

WEEK TWO (January 23, 25, 27)

American Style, Part Deux

H. H. Richardson, McKim, Mead & White, The Early Elevator Building
NO CLASS JANUARY 27 (Studio Field Trips)
Reading: Eggener, Chapter 10; Wright, Chapter 1

WEEK THREE (January 30, February 1, 3)

The Dynamic Duo

Burnham & Root, Holabird & Roche, Adler & Sullivan

WEEK FOUR (February 6, 8, 10)

The City Beautiful

Columbian Exposition, Architecture & Ornament
Reading: Eggener, Chapter 13

WEEK FIVE (February 13, 15, 17)

Little House on the Prairie

Purcell & Elmslie, Frank Lloyd Wright, The Prairie School
Reading: Eggener, Chapter 14; Wright, Chapter 2

WEEK SIX (February 20, 22, 24)

Sunny Southern California

West Coast Modernism
MIDTERM EXAMINATION FEBRUARY 22

WEEK SEVEN (February 27, 29; March 2)

Northern California and Manhattan Modernism

Maybeck and Morgan; The New York Skyscraper
NO CLASS MARCH 2 (Studio Field Trips)
Reading: Wright, Chapter 3

WEEK EIGHT (March 5, 7, 9)

Competition in Chicago

The Chicago Tribune Building
 Art Deco, Revivalism
ESSAY #1 DUE MARCH 7 IN CLASS
Reading: Eggener, Chapter 16

WEEK NINE (March 12 , 14 , 16)

Indigenous or Imported?

American Modernism

NO CLASS MARCH 14, 16 (Senior & Grad Reviews)**Reading:** Eggener, Chapter 15; Wright, Chapter 4

WEEK TEN

SPRING BREAK (March 21 , 23 , 25)

WEEK ELEVEN (March 26 , 28 , 30)

Living in America I

Modern Domesticity; The Second Chicago School

GRADUATE STUDENTS: BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE MARCH 30

WEEK TWELVE (April 2 , 4 , 6)

Kaaaahhhnnn!!!!

Philip Johnson, SOM, Saarinen(s), Louis Kahn

MIDTERM EXAMINATION APRIL 6**Reading:** Eggener, Chapter 16-18; Wright, Chapter 5

WEEK THIRTEEN (April 9 , 11 , 13)

Living in America II

Post-War Domesticity

West Coast Modernism, Levittown(s), Case Study House

Reading: Eggener, Chapter 16-18; Wright, Chapter 5

WEEK FOURTEEN (April 16 , 18 , 20)

Living in America III

The Pruitt-Igoe Myth

Rise of the Vernacular

ESSAY #2 DUE IN CLASS APRIL 20**Reading:** Eggener, Chapter 19; Wright, Chapter 6

WEEK FIFTEEN (April 23 , 25 , 27)

Complexity and Contradiction

Robert Venturi and the New York Five

NO CLASS APRIL 25, 27 (Senior & Grad Reviews)**Reading:** Eggener, Chapter 20

WEEK SIXTEEN (April 30 ; May 1)

Deconstructing America

Eisenman, etc.

Reading: Wright, Chapter 7**FINAL EXAMINATION: FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1:30-4:30**