

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
**ARCHITECTURE OF THE WORLD ARC K102**

Spring 2011, Monday 3:30 - 6:15pm – or - 6:30 – 9:15pm

Instructor: Professor Mark Comeau, (885-2387,), email mcomeau@trcc.commnet.edu

Grade: Quizzes (4) 80%      Final 10%      Research Project 10%

Course Description:

The course offers a global perspective of buildings, their settings, and the dissemination of ideas about architecture from the late Neolithic period to the present. Particular attention is given to the relationships of architectural expression, meaning, and building technology and to issues arising when architectural traditions of one culture are imposed upon or otherwise adapted by another. Students will explore the impact of climate, economy, philosophy, social structure and technology on architecture by becoming familiar with some of the World's major monuments in architectural history. The course also integrates the visual arts that paralleled each era, exploring the fundamental elements of each "movement" as illustrated through aesthetic expression.

Method: Visual Slide Presentation Accompanied by Lecture

Text: **History of Western Architecture, David Watkin, (Suggested)**

*(Note: The course's weekly subjects follow the book's layout in sequential chapter order. Please read corresponding subject-chapter material prior to each class.)*

**History of Art, Janson, (Suggested)**

<u>Week 1</u> (1/24)	<b>Over-view, Ancient Cultures</b> The East & the Americas	<u>Week 9</u> (3/21)	<b>World Renaissance</b> Europe, the America's & the East
<u>Week 2</u> (1/31)	<b>Egypt, Mesopotamia &amp; Aegean</b> Ancient & Pre-Classical Architecture	<u>Week 10</u> (3/28)	<b>Early American Colonial</b> Architecture of the Enlightenment
<u>Week 3</u> (2/07)	<b>Greece</b> Classical Architecture	<u>Week 11</u> (4/04)	<b>Iron &amp; Glass 1850-1900</b> Architecture of the Industrial Age
<u>Week 4</u> (2/14)	<b>Rome</b> Classical Architecture	<u>Week 12</u> (4/11)	<b>Chicago School</b> The Columbian Exhibition
<u>Week 5</u> (2/21)	<b>Byzantium</b> Medieval Architecture	<u>Week 13</u> (4/18)	<b>The Modern Movement</b> International Style/Art Nouveau
<u>Week 6</u> (2/28)	<b>Gothic</b> Medieval Architecture	<u>Week 14</u> (4/25)	<b>Frank Lloyd Wright/Gaudi</b> Organic Roots in Modernism
<u>Week 7</u> (3/07)	<b>Italian Renaissance</b> Renaissance in Italy	<u>Week 15</u> (5/02)	<b>The Skyscraper Race</b> NY Corp Expression in the East
<u>Week 8</u> (3/14)	<b>Spring Break</b> No Classes in Session	<u>Week 16</u> (5/09)	<b>Post-Modernism &amp; Vernacular</b> World Trends Today

Educational Objectives:

- Establish chronological and thematic frameworks for the study of architectural history;
- Inform understanding of architecture's relationship to cultures from traditionalism to modernity;
- Develop skills of description and formal and historical analysis.

Course Requirements:

Students assemble a **compendium**, consisting of downloads at [www.ProfessorComeau.com](http://www.ProfessorComeau.com). A 3" "Slant-ring" notebook with plastic sheet protectors is recommended – this is basically the Professor's book.

Research Project

Students can select from three different projects available on the Professor's website.



## EXPANDED COURSE OVERVIEW

Architecture of the World is an informative and intense course. Considerable content will be conveyed to the student while building a logical basis for understanding the design philosophies and conditions which shaped architecture from pre-history to the present.

The course is divided into (four) 4 week sections:

The first section examines the origins of ancient-world architecture with specific focus on the cultures of Egypt, Mesopotamia and the Aegean. Differences in climate, geography, materials, philosophy, social structure and technology will be explored to discover how these are reflected in the architecture of each culture.

This section will also explore the classical architecture of Ancient Greece and Rome, as students are introduced to: the principles of the Architectural Orders and the elements of which they are composed; detailing; engineering advances; proportion, and planning theories.

Christian Architecture will be traced from its origins in Rome through the synthesis of form, function, philosophy and structure in the Gothic Cathedrals.

The second section examines the origins of the Renaissance in Italy and the development of the various Renaissance styles from Early Renaissance through the Baroque Period. The economic, political, social and technical influences which shaped this movement will be explored to provide a better understanding of the meaning of the forms used.

This section will also explore the spread of Renaissance ideas and designs throughout Europe, the Americas and the East. Particular attention will be placed on the development of Renaissance design in France and England.

The development of architecture in America will be traced from the Colonial Period through the Gothic Revival. Students will explore the relationship of American architecture to cultural developments in Europe as well as the search for an appropriate American style.

The third section examines how society in general and architecture in particular, reacted to the changes and technology brought about by the Industrial Revolution. Students will explore initial reactions as they found their expressions in architecture, a period covering the years roughly between 1850c and 1900c.

This section will also examine the period covering 1900c to World War I as architectural response was refined in a search to express the new century. The period covering World War I to World War II is the final portion of this section to be explored as students discover how the war graphically demonstrated the immense power of technology for both construction and destruction, thus, causing a general reassessment of values in society, architecture and design.

The fourth and final section examines the period from World War II to the present day. Students will discover how America emerged as a World power and leader in technology and architectural expression. Architectural periods covered which illustrate this include those such as the race of the skyscraper, the Modern Movement, the Chicago School, the Shingle Style, Post Modernism and more. This section will also explore the current period of architecture in practice today as well as provoke discussions concerning the civic and social responsibilities of architecture of the past and how it may influence that of the future.