

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ARCHITECTURE OF THE WORLD ARC K102
 Spring 2010, Monday 2:00 - 4:45pm –or– Tuesday 6:00 – 8:45pm

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

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

Course Description: The course introduces students to the rich heritage of architecture as a basis for developing, understanding and appreciating both his/her own design philosophy and those of others. Students will explore the impact of climate, economy, philosophy, social structure and technology on architectural design 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: Lectures, Slide Lectures, Simulations, Class Discussion

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)

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| <u>Week 1</u> (1/25) | Over-view, Commence with Egypt Historical Perspective/Ancient Cultures | <u>Week 9</u> (3/22) | Renaissance in Western Europe Renaissance in France & England |
| <u>Week 2</u> (2/01) | Egypt & Mesopotamia & Aegean Ancient & Pre-Classical Architecture | <u>Week 10</u> (3/29) | Early American Colonial Architecture of the Enlightenment |
| <u>Week 3</u> (2/08) | Greece Classical Architecture | <u>Week 11</u> (4/05) | Iron & Glass 1850-1900 Architecture of the Industrial Age |
| <u>Week 4</u> (2/15) | Rome Classical Architecture | <u>Week 12</u> (4/12) | Chicago School The Columbian Exhibition |
| <u>Week 5</u> (2/22) | Byzantium Medieval Architecture | <u>Week 13</u> (4/19) | The Modern Movement Arts & Crafts, Deco, International |
| <u>Week 6</u> (3/01) | Gothic Medieval Architecture | <u>Week 14</u> (4/26) | Skyscrapers Capitalism, Corporate Expression |
| <u>Week 7</u> (3/08) | Spring Break No Class in Session | <u>Week 15</u> (5/03) | Frank Lloyd Wright American Genius |
| <u>Week 8</u> (3/15) | Italian Renaissance Renaissance in Italy | <u>Week 16</u> (5/10) | Post-Modernism & Vernacular Abstraction & Deconstruction |

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Notebook

Students will assemble a notebook, to be made up of handouts downloaded at www.ProfessorComeau.com. A 3” “*Slant-ring*” notebook with plastic sheet protectors is recommended – this will be a good resource for future reference.

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 information 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 architecture in 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 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 it's 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. 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 the 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.