

Arch 528G

History of Architecture I

NJIT HCAD

Tuesdays 1:00 to 2:20 pm, FMH 409, in person
Fridays 1:00 to 2:20 pm, CKB 320, in person

Prerequisite: None

Fall 2024

Instructor: Etien Santiago, Ph.D.: etien.santiago@njit.edu

Office hours: Fridays from noon to 12:55 pm, in 565 Weston



Julie Caron (photographer), architecture of the Uros People on Lake Titicaca, Peru

Description

To understand today's architecture, we need to look back and understand yesterday's architecture. Where did architecture come from? Why is it a constant across all different forms of human society? How and why has architecture varied from one society to the next?

This course will chart the history of architecture across the entire globe, from the emergence of humans to the recent past. We will explore how every work of architecture is rooted in the subsistence system and belief systems of its society.

Learning Outcomes

Students who pass this course will be able to:

- Gain an overview of the role that architecture has played in various human societies over time, understanding its deep ties to the foundational structures of those societies
- Write personal responses to important readings in the history and theory of architecture
- Develop the ability to research a past architecture and situate it in its historical context

NAAB Criteria

The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) accredits NJIT's architecture program. NAAB has Program and Student Criteria that must be covered by any architectural curriculum to attain their approval. This course satisfies these criteria:

PC.4 History and Theory — How the program ensures that students understand the histories and theories of architecture and urbanism, framed by diverse social, cultural, economic, and political forces, nationally and globally.

PC.7 Learning and Teaching Culture — How the program fosters and ensures a positive and respectful environment that encourages optimism, respect, sharing, engagement, and innovation among its faculty, students, administration, and staff

PC.8 Social Equity & Inclusion — How the program furthers and deepens students' understanding of diverse cultural and social contexts and helps them translate that understanding into built environments that equitably support and include people of different backgrounds, resources, and abilities.

Required Materials

Students are not required to buy any books or textbooks. However, the bibliography at the very end of this syllabus lists two recommended textbooks. Both are available for free online via the NJIT Library.

Assignments

Throughout the semester, students will need to complete four reading responses and undertake a research project. There will be no quizzes or final exam.

Reading Responses

Each reading response will be due before our in-class discussion of that reading. A reading response should be approximately one page in length, with single-spaced text (or two pages long with double spacing). You must turn in a reading response before our in-class discussion about that reading. If there are two required texts for a given day, then, in your response, you may discuss either one or both of them.

What I am looking for in a reading response is NOT just a summary of the assigned text(s), but rather your personal reactions to and opinions about what the author(s) wrote. I want to hear your unique take on their argument. Here are some prompts that can help you get started:

- Did you agree and/or disagree with parts of the reading(s), and why?
- How does something that you saw, heard, or experienced connect to the reading(s), affecting what you take away?
- Does the author's argument allow you to think differently about an interest of yours?

Students sometimes wish that they could revisit their reading response after the reading discussion. Therefore, I am offering you the option to update or re-write a reading response after you have turned it in. You are still required to turn in some kind of initial response before all three of the reading discussions. If your updated response is a clear improvement over your initial response, then I will raise its grade accordingly.

Writing Help

Please take advantage of the Writing Center at NJIT. Its job is to help NJIT students with any kind of writing assignment as well as with assembling effective verbal and visual presentations. <https://www.njit.edu/writingcenter/>

Grading Policy

Your final grade will be based on the following:

Attendance: 10%
In-class participation: 20%
Reading response 1: 10%
Reading response 2: 10%
Reading response 3: 10%
Reading response 4: 10%
Research project: 30%

For each of these categories, you will receive the grade of either a check plus (high pass), check (pass), or check minus (low pass). A check means that you have satisfactorily achieved the task being asked of you. A check plus means that you have substantially exceeded standard expectations for the task, while a check minus means that you were below standard expectations for that task.

In the “Files” section of Canvas, I have uploaded a few anonymized student responses from past years. This allows you to get a sense of how to obtain a check or check plus.

Because working through the class material at the same time as your peers will help you learn, late work will receive only partial credit. Any assignment that is turned in late will be docked one grade level. This means that a “check plus” will be downgraded to a “check,” a “check” will be downgraded to a “check minus,” and a “check minus” will be downgraded to no credit for that assignment. The final deadline to submit any work (either late work or updated responses) to Canvas is 11:59 pm on Friday, Dec. 20.

Participation

Whenever you ask a question or make a comment during the lectures, this counts towards your participation credit. Spoken contributions during reading discussions also count toward participation credit. I never dock participation points for any reason, so never hesitate to speak up during class.

Attendance

Absences unexcused by the Dean of Students will negatively affect your attendance grade. A student is counted as absent if they arrive 10 minutes or more after the scheduled start time.

The only way to obtain an excused absence is to ask the NJIT Dean of Students to verify the absence: <https://www.njit.edu/dos/student-absence-verification> . Email dos@njit.edu with any questions. As a rule, I do NOT record my lectures.

Final Grade

Below is the NJIT grading scale for graduate students:

Grade	GPA	Significance
A	4.0	Excellent
B+	3.5	Good
B	3.0	Acceptable
C+	2.5	Marginal Performance
C	2.0	Minimum Performance
F	0.0	Failure
I		Incomplete
W		Approved Withdrawal
AU		Audited (no academic credit)
S or U		Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory

In this course, for each grade that you receive:

A check plus equals 3 points

A check equals 2 points

A check minus equals 1 point

At the end of the semester, I will tally up all of your points and attribute a final grade based on the following scale:

27 to 30 points:	A
23 to 26 points:	B+
19 to 22 points:	B
15 to 18 points:	C+
11 to 14 points:	C
10 or fewer points:	F

The grade of incomplete is given in rare instances to students who would normally have completed the course work but who could not do so because of special circumstances. In that case, coursework must be completed before final grades are due at the end of the next regular semester. If missing coursework is not completed then, a grade of F will be issued.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working toward. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: <https://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/NJIT-University-Policy-on-Academic-Integrity.pdf>

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing, or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu.

Generative AI

Student use of artificial intelligence (AI) is permitted in this course. However, **any use of AI must be cited** in the manner described here: <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/qanda/data/faq/topics/Documentation/faq0422.html>. I use a variety of tools to check whether or not a student has properly cited text that came from a generative AI chatbot. Moreover, keep in mind that the very nature of a reading response prevents it from being written entirely by generative AI.

Learning and Teaching Culture Policy

In addition to the overarching values and ethics of the university, the NJSoA is dedicated to optimism, diversity, and solidarity, professional conduct, constructive evaluation and instruction, collaborative community, health and wellbeing, time management and school-life-work balance, respectful stewardship and space management, and well-rounded enrichment. The pedagogy of architecture and design is as complex as it is rewarding, and as dynamically evolving as the people who learn and teach it. This understanding resides at the core of the NJIT Learning and Teaching Culture Policy: <https://design.njit.edu/learning-and-teaching-culture-policy>

Preliminary Schedule

Tuesday	Sep. 3	Course introduction
Friday	Sep. 6	Lecture: First Societies 1 — Origins and Savanna Societies
Tuesday	Sep. 10	Lecture: First Societies 2 — Northern Hunting Traditions
Friday	Sep. 13	Reading discussion 1: Rudofsky on architecture without architects
Tuesday	Sep. 17	Lecture: First Societies 3 — Fishing in Rivers and Seas
Friday	Sep. 20	Lecture: Pastoralism: The Maasai and the Mongolian Ger
Tuesday	Sep. 24	Lecture: Agriculture: Catal Huyuk and Batammaliba
Friday	Sep. 27	Lecture: Megaliths in Western Europe
Tuesday	Oct. 1	Lecture: First Cities and Empires: Mesopotamia and Norte Chico
Friday	Oct. 4	Reading discussion 2: Jacobs on sidewalks in cities
Tuesday	Oct. 8	Lecture: Ancient India and Ancient China
Friday	Oct. 11	Lecture: Ancient Persia and Ancient Greece
Tuesday	Oct. 15	Lecture: Imperial Ancient China and Imperial Ancient Rome
Friday	Oct. 18	Reading discussion 3: Vitruvius on the foundations of architecture
Tuesday	Oct. 22	Lecture: North American Mound-Builders
Friday	Oct. 25	Lecture: Early Buddhism in India and Beyond
Tuesday	Oct. 29	Lecture: Monotheism: Early Jewish, Christian, Islamic Architecture
Friday	Nov. 1	Lecture: Hinduism & Buddhism: Borobudur, Angkor Wat, Ellora
Tuesday	Nov. 5	Student presentations 1
Friday	Nov. 8	Student presentations 2
Tuesday	Nov. 12	Lecture: Central American Pyramid-Builders
Friday	Nov. 15	Lecture: Rock-Cut Churches of Lalibela, Ethiopia
Tuesday	Nov. 19	Lecture: Medieval Christian and Islamic Architecture
Friday	Nov. 22	Lecture: The Aztec Empire and Ming Dynasty Empire
Tuesday	Nov. 26	NO CLASS — Thursday classes meet
Wednesday	Nov. 27	(Friday classes meet) Lecture: TBD
Friday	Nov. 29	NO CLASS — Thanksgiving Holiday
Tuesday	Dec. 3	Reading discussion 4: TBD
Friday	Dec. 6	NO CLASS — Etien will be out of town
Tuesday	Dec. 10	Course conclusion and completing online course questionnaire

Bibliography

Main Textbooks

Francis Ching, Mark Jarzombek, and Vikramaditya Prakash, *A Global History of Architecture* (Hoboken: Wiley, 2017). Available online at https://primo.njit.edu/permalink/01NJIT_INST/dcbe8h/alma995307496005196

Mark Jarzombek, *Architecture of First Societies: A Global Perspective* (Hoboken: Wiley, 2013). Available online at https://primo.njit.edu/permalink/01NJIT_INST/dcbe8h/alma995307387005196