**ARC 350W ARCHITECTURAL THEORY AND DESIGN FACTORS**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

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**Course Description:**

ARC 350W Architectural Theory and Design Factors. (3 credits). This course will examine a series of architectural theories and design factors that attempts to explain, predict or influence design decisions that result in the built environment. Topics include: historical theory; form and aesthetics; architectural technology; the urban, natural and human environment; economic, zoning and code factors; the social and behavioral implications of architecture, the design process itself and the architectural profession.

**Textbook:** Stein, Jay M., Kent F. Spreckelmeyer, Classic Readings in Architecture, WBC/McGraw-Hill, Inc., New York

**Reference:** Instructor handouts / material

**Grading:**

The final grade will be based on the following

* Class participation and peer review = 15%
* Journals (each week) = 05% (optional)
* Four (4) 250-400 word short essays = 30% (All essays will be peer reviewed)
* One (1) 3000 word min. final essay = 30% (Final term paper will be peer reviewed)
* One take-home midterm essay exam = 20% (If needed; given only if the instructor believes the class does not know the theories for the term paper.  This percentage will be equally added to the final (10%) and the short essay (10%) assignments above if not used)
* Note, this is your Writing Intensive Course in the Discipline.  ***You must get a C grade or better to graduate!***
* Please see the College Catalog for the current Farmingdale State College Grading System.

**Student Journals:**

Students are required to keep a journal. Journals form the basis and starting point of ideas for the essays. They may be informally reviewed with the instructor when developing the essays.

**Short Essay:**

The short essay must follow the format listed:   
 -  Comparison of two articles pointing out similarities and specific differences.

Each essay should be developed from in-class journal writing.

Each essay can include the definition of either two new words or two words used in a new context. The definitions are in addition to the 250 words.

**Student discussion of topics:**

Students will be called on to present ideas in the readings and lead discussion.

**Student Peer Review:**

All short essays will be peer reviewed to improve the clarity of the student's work. Two types of peer review will be used, private one to one review of papers and public reading / group review of papers. Student papers will be revised from peer review comments and the student's improved grade will be averaged. These are friendly reviews!

**Final Essay:**

An architectural work shall be selected (by the student and approved by the instructor) for analysis. A minimum of six readings will be used in the analysis. Your short essays will form the basis for developing the term paper. An outline must be submitted 4 weeks prior to the paper's due date. All papers will be peer reviewed and revised to improve the student's paper.

**Formal Exams/Quizzes:**

None! Architectural theory is about a thought process of critical inquiry and objectivity. Initial ideas will be formed through reading and discussion. They will then be developed and refined through the writing process. Emphasis is on a qualitative understanding of the material and its application in explaining architectural issues.

**Course Readings from Stein & Spreckelmeyer Classic Readings in Architecture:**

There will be two or three readings per week grouped around a common theme. The list of readings is outlined below. *(Note: not all readings are required and the Process of Architecture will only be partly covered)*

**Prologue**

1              Vitruvius (Marcus Pollio)"Book 1"

**ARCHITECTURE AS ARTIFACT**

***I. Architectural History and Theory***

2              Kenneth Frampton "Cultural Transformation" and "Territorial Transformation"

3              Colin Rowe "The Architecture of Utopia"

4              Vincent Scully "The Architecture of Community"

5              Robert Venturi "Historical and Other Precedents: Towards an Old Architecture"

***II. Architectural Forms***

6              Geoffrey Broadbent "Architects and Their Symbols"

7              Alan Colquhoun "Historicism and the Limits of Semiology"

8              James Marston Fitch "Experimental Context of the Aesthetic Process"

9              Bruno Zevi "Listing as Design Methodology" and "Asymmetry and Dissonance"

***III. Architectural Technology***

10            Reyner Banham "A Breadth of Intelligence"

11            Peter McCleary "Some Characteristics of a New Concept"

12            Mario Salvadori "Form-Resistant Structures"

13            Louis Sullivan "The Tall Office Building Artistically Considered"

**THE CONTEXT OF ARCHITECTURE**

***IV. The Urban Environment***

14            Delores Hayden "Placemaking, Preservation and Urban History"

15            Jane Jacobs "The Need for Aged Buildings"

16            Lewis Mumford "Retrospect and Prospect"

17            William H. Whyte "Return to the Agora"

***V.  The Natural Environment***

18            John B. Jackson "The American Public Space"

19            Kevin Lynch "The Waste of Place"

20            Ian McHarg "On Values"

***VI. The Human Environment***

21            Clare Cooper Marcus "The House as Symbol of Self"

22            Edward T. Hall "The Anthropology of Space"

23            Amos Rapoport "On the Cultural Responsiveness of Architecture"

24            Robert Sommer "Space-Time"

**THE PROCESS OF ARCHITECTURE**

***VI. The Design Process***

25            Christopher Alexander "Goodness of Fit"

26            Peter Rowe " A Prior Knowledge and Heuristic Reasoning in Architecture"

27            Donald A. Schon "Toward a Marriage of Artistry and Applied Science in the Architectural Design Studio"

28            Frank Lloyd Wright "The Cardboard House"

***VIII. The Social Implications of Architecture***

29            R. Buckminster Fuller "Accommodating Human Unsettlement"

30            Donlyn Lyndon "Design: Inquiry and Implication

31            Victor Papanek "Design Responsibility"

***IX. The Architectural Profession***

32            Judith R. Blau "Architecture and the Risk"

33            Robert Gutman "Challenges in Architecture"

34           David S. Haviland "Some Shifts in Building Design and Their Implications for Design Practices and

Management"

35           Wolfgang F. E. Preiser "Built Environment Evaluation: Conceptual Basis, Benefits, and Uses"

36            Ernest L. Boyer and Lee D. Mitgang "Profession in Perspective"

**Course Objectives:**

* Students will develop a basic understanding of classic and contemporary architectural theory.
* Students should be able to apply this knowledge in analyzing and understanding a contemporary work of architecture.

**Relationship to ABET Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. an appropriate mastery of the knowledge, techniques, skills and modern tools of their disciplines,

(g) an ability to communicate effectively

(h) a recognition of the need for, and an ability to engage in lifelong learning

(i) an ability to understand professional, ethical and social responsibilities,

(j) a respect for diversity and a knowledge of contemporary professional, societal and global issues.

**Means of assessment and criteria for success:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Standards:** | **Grade Range** | **Course Targets % of students** |
| Exceeds Standards | 100-85 (A to B+) | Criteria for Success  70-80% |
| Meets Standards | 84-70 (B to C-) |
| Approaches Standards | 69-60 (D+ to D) | 5-15% |
| Does not met the Standards | >59 (F) | 5-10% |

**Continuous Improvement:**

All writing assignment drafts will be student peer reviewed (using 5 reviewers) with corrective suggestions and recommendations for improvement for final essay. The instructor will outline the review criteria for the student peer reviewers. Review of final student essays is by the instructor noting corrective suggestions and recommendations for improvement for subsequent essays. This is a continuous improvement writing process.

**Attendance Policy:**

Students are required to be prepared for each class and bring with them the articles from the text (printed out) and journal assignments. They are also required to participate in the peer review and bring 5 or more copies of their draft papers (based on group size) when that activity is assigned. Students are also required to submit assignments on time due to the holistic review and grading of papers by the instructor. Failure to do so will result in zeros on the assignment and class participation.

**Religious Absences:**If you are unable to attend class on certain days due to religious beliefs, please consult with your instructor well in advance of the absence so that appropriate accommodation can be made.

**Use of Email:**It is College policy that instructors and students use the Farmingdale email system or the Blackboard email system to contact one another.

**Copyright Statement:**Course material accessed from Blackboard or the Farmingdale website is for the exclusive use of students who are currently enrolled in the course. Content from these systems cannot be reused or distributed without written permission of the instructor and/or the copyright holder. Duplication of materials protected by copyright, without permission of the copyright holder, is a violation of the Federal copyright law, as well as a violation of SUNY copyright policy.

**Disability Services Center:**

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Disability Services Center, Roosevelt Hall, Room 151, or call 631-420-2411, or 420–2607 as soon as possible this semester.

**Academic Integrity Policy**

Because intellectual honesty is a cornerstone of all academic and scholarly work, each member of the Farmingdale State College campus community is expected to maintain academic integrity. Farmingdale State College has developed regulations concerning academic dishonesty and integrity to protect all students and to maintain an ethical academic environment. For more information, click the updated link for the [Academic Integrity Policy](http://www.farmingdale.edu/academics/pdf/acad_integrity_policy_0517.pdf).

It is important for you to understand the concept of plagiarism. Plagiarism is intentionally representing the words, images or ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise. This includes words, images or ideas in either print or electronic format.

**Student Code of Conduct**The President of the College and the Vice President for Student Affairs recognize the rights of designees including University Police, to enforce all regulations, policies, license agreements, laws and codes on campus. If any individual allegedly violates the laws, Student Code of Conduct or campus policies, a President’s designee will institute proceedings against the offender (s). For more information on the student code of conduct, see the Code of Conduct section in the current [Student Handbook,](http://www.farmingdale.edu/campus-life/dean/student-handbook.shtml) or choose Code of Conduct from the A-Z Links.

**University Police**631-420-2111