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## ART 277-01, Survey of Western Architecture, Spring 1999

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Prof. Victor Coonin  
412 Clough, x3824  
coonin@rhodes.edu

**Art 227: Survey of Western Architecture**  
Spring 1999  
TTh, 1:00-2:30 417 Clough

**Course Objectives and Description**

The objective of the course is to introduce students to Western architecture from its prehistoric beginnings to the present day. Particular emphasis will be placed on the historical context of buildings, the effects of new technology, the relationship between a building's form and its function, and the effects of architecture on its environment and the viewer. Architecture will be interpreted broadly and will include discussions of both functional and decorative buildings, architectural monuments, and urban planning.

**Textbooks**

Marvin Trachtenberg and Isabelle Hyman, Architecture from Prehistory to Post-Modernism, New York, 1986.

William J.R. Curtis, Modern Architecture Since 1900, 3rd ed., Upper Saddle River, NJ, 1996.

Additional readings will be assigned.

**Grading**

Students will be evaluated by the following criteria:

3 Exams

1 Research Paper

Each assignment counts 25% towards the final grade.

\*Note that an optional service-learning component may be incorporated into the course through participation with Habitat for Humanity. Further details will be provided as they become available.\*

## Schedule of Classes

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Lecture Topics</u>
<b>Part I: The Ancient World</b>	
Jan. 14	Introduction & Prehistoric Architecture
19	The Ancient Near East and Ancient Egypt
21	Aegean and Archaic Greek
26	Classical Greek
28	Late Classical and Hellenistic Greek
Feb. 2	Etruscan and Roman
4	Roman Architecture (cont.)
9	Early Christian and Byzantine
11	<b>First Exam</b>
<b>Part II: The Middle Ages through the 19th Century</b>	
16	Islamic
18	Early Medieval and Romanesque
23	Gothic
25	Early Renaissance
Mar 2	High Renaissance and Mannerism
4	Renaissance to Baroque
<b>*Spring Break*</b>	
16	Baroque
18	18th Century
<b>*Saturday, March 20th Marvin Trachtenberg Lecture at Brooks Museum*</b>	
23	19th Century
25	<b>Second Exam</b>
<b>Part III: Modern and Contemporary Architecture</b>	
30	Introduction to Modern Architecture (Curtis 2, 4, 13)
<b>*Easter Break*</b>	
Apr 6	Frank Lloyd Wright, Part I (Curtis 7, )
8	Early Modernism (Curtis 9-11)
13	Corbusier and The International Style (Curtis 15, 16, 22-24)
15	Frank Lloyd Wright, Part II (Curtis 18, 22)
20	Contemporary Architecture, I (Curtis 28-30)
22	Contemporary Architecture, II (Curtis 31-35)
27	Memphis Architecture (Videotape of Moss lecture by E.J. Johnson)
29	<b>Exam 3</b>

**Note on Readings:** Students should read the relevant chapters in Trachtenberg or Curtis before each lecture.

## **Paper Assignment**

I. Choose an architectural structure (henceforth: building) to study. It can be almost any building, site, monument, bridge, etc. that is relevant to the course and that we do not cover in lecture. Topics **MUST** be approved by me.

II. Prepare Preliminary Bibliography. This must be approved by me before spring break and should include at least two substantial sources concerning your building other than general texts on architecture. Due before March 2nd.

III. Writing the Paper. The purpose of the paper is to fully analyze a building in terms of its structure, form, function, and meaning. This is to be a paper on one building (or site) and **NOT** on the architect responsible. I do not want any more biographical information than is absolutely necessary for understanding your building. After a brief introduction to establish the basic facts (dates, architect, setting, etc.), papers should focus intensely on the following three areas:

A) Structure: Identify the materials, methods, and processes by which the building was created.

B) Form and Function: Discuss the building's formal elements, the ostensible reasons for its construction, and the way(s) in which it is used--both intended and unintended. Pay attention to the site, viewpoint, accessibility, practicality, etc.

C) Meaning: Discuss the building within its historical, cultural, and geographic context. The building should particularly be analyzed for its symbolic content. Discuss what the building meant at the time it was built as well as what it means today (not necessarily the same).

Length: 8-10 pages.

Due dates:

**Preliminary Bibliography due March 2nd**

**Final Paper due April 15th**

## **Helpful Hints for Bibliography**

**Books:** You will find that our library holdings are inconsistent--sometimes wonderful and sometimes lacking. Therefore you should begin your research early in case you need to consult outside material. Be creative in your research. Start with general books on the architect, period, or place and you should then find more specific bibliography. You should also be consulting Architectural Journals.

### **Architectural Journals:**

Burrow Library also has the following **Art and Architectural Journals** which may prove to be extremely helpful:

**Architecture**  
**Architectural Forum**  
**Architectural History**  
**Architectural Record**  
**Architectural Review**  
**Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians**  
**Progressive Architecture**

**Art Bulletin**  
**Burlington Magazine**  
**American Art**

### **World Wide Web Sites**

Finally, you should take advantage of **online resources**, particularly sites that are listed on my web page: <http://artslides2.art.rhodes.edu/coonin/homepage.html>