ARC 308
Architecture and Society

Instructor: Larry Speck
Lecture Time: TTh 12:30-2:00pm
Lecture Place: BUR 106
Office Hours: TTh: 2:00-3:00pm in GOL 4.142B

Prerequisites
None. Required course for architecture majors. This course may be used to fulfill the visual and performing arts component of the university core curriculum and addresses the following four core objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: communication skills, critical thinking skills, teamwork and social responsibility. This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of non-U.S. cultural groups, past and present.

Educational Objectives
1. To establish a perspective of the role and influence of architecture in society and vis-a-vis other disciplines in the arts and science.
2. To develop an understanding of how architecture is shaped by and reflects cultural values and social organization.
3. To present a broad picture of issues and factors which influence architectural design.
4. To begin an acquaintance with the history and development of architecture.

Educational Approach
This is a reading/looking/listening/thinking course. It will follow a lecture format supplemented by related outside reading and required participation in discussion sections that hone skills in critical thinking, communication and teamwork. Students will also give oral presentations on their research in discussion sections.

Evaluation
There will be three tests as well as a final exam in the course. Each test will count 15% of your final grade. The final will also count 15%. Participation in class (in the form of question responses due most class periods) and in discussion sections will count 20%. The remaining 20% of your grade will be based on a series of short papers that you will write through the semester. Tests will involve standard questions as well as essay questions analyzing buildings on campus or nearby to demonstrate understanding of material covered in lectures and reading over a five- to seven-week period. The final exam will deal with comprehensive material covered in the course. Paper assignments will be dealt with primarily in discussion sections. Students with disabilities may request accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/.

Required Texts
Readings will be assigned from the following three texts:

Website: www.larryspeck.com
Course Outline

I. Introduction

Aug. 25 - Course Description
Aug 30 - Architecture and Society—Overview
Sept. 1 - Architectural Values/Philosophy/Principles/Prejudices/Theory

II. Form in Architecture

Sept. 6 - Architecture as Sensual/Visual Experience
Sept. 8 - Architecture as an Intellectual/Artistic Experience
Sept. 13 - Systems and Order
Sept. 15 - Numbers/Mathematics/Geometry as Inspiration of Form
Sept. 20 - Nature/Biology/Organisms as Inspiration of Form
[Reading in Experiencing Architecture to be completed by Sep. 20]
Sept. 22 - Synthesis - Form
Sept. 27 - Test #1

III. Physical Considerations in Architecture

Sept. 29 - Buildings and Land
Oct. 4 - Geography/Topography/Ecology
Oct. 6 - Structure and Materials
Oct. 11 - Construction/Tectonics
Oct. 13 - Architecture in Response to Climate
[Readings in Thermal Delight in Architecture to be completed by Oct. 13]
Oct. 15 - Frank Lloyd Wright and Physical Considerations
Oct. 20 - Synthesis – Physical Considerations
Oct. 25 - Test #2

IV. Human Use in Architecture

Oct 27 - Designation and Organization of Use
Nov. 1 - Architectural Determinism
Nov. 3 - Humanism at the Personal Scale
Nov. 8 - Humanism at the Scale of Organizations/Communities/Bureaucracies
Nov. 10 - Meaning in Public Buildings
Nov. 15 - Sam Mockabee and Human Use
Nov. 17 - Synthesis—Human Factors
[Readings in The Place of Houses to be completed by Nov. 17]
Nov. 22 - Test #3

V. Combinations and Synthesis

Nov. 29 - Perfection and Compromise
Dec. 1 - A Few Good Buildings
Policies and Information

Make-up exams will only be given to students with satisfactory justification for excused absences.

Excused absences can be justified in one of three ways:

1. Absence due to illness—Student Health Center can document even minor illness quickly and easily. A note from them is satisfactory for absence due to illness.

2. Absence due to family emergency which requires travel out of town—A note from a parent or other responsible family member can document such required absence.

3. Absence due to student observance of a religious holiday. Arrangements must be made in advance with instructor or TA.

ALL REQUESTS FOR MAKE-UP EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING WITHIN ONE WEEK OF THE MISSED EXAM ALONG WITH PROPER DOCUMENTATION.

-A notice regarding academic dishonesty. UT Honor Code (or statement of ethics) and an explanation or example of what constitutes plagiarism (Link to University Honor Code: http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/the-university/#universitycodeofconduct)

-See the following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, http://www.utexas.edu/safety/

-Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. Please familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

-Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050