Arch 100: Architecture and Ideas Syllabus

**Required Textbooks:** None  
**Course Prerequisites:** None  
**Course URL:**  
Content and Lectures: [https://elearning.psu.edu/courses/arch100](https://elearning.psu.edu/courses/arch100)  
Communication and Assessment: [https://cms.psu.edu](https://cms.psu.edu)  
PSU E-Reserve Readings: [http://www.libraries.psu.edu//psul/home.html](http://www.libraries.psu.edu//psul/home.html)

**Technical Requirements:**  
This course is delivered entirely online; see the Technical Requirements section under the Syllabus tab.

**Course Description:**  
This course introduces architecture and urbanism through theory. It presents key normative concepts that may have shaped the built environment from antiquity into the modern era. Themes include evolving definitions of the architect, how ideas about aesthetics, technology, and tradition shape buildings, and cultural forces that influence notions of what constitutes "good" architecture.

These topics will demonstrate multiple ways of understanding buildings and cities, as well as influential concepts, authors, and texts. Lectures and assigned readings will explore design theories and significant illustrative structures. They will also help students analyze and judge arguments critically, and better understand buildings and cities as ideologically charged artifacts.

**Course Website (ANGEL):**  
Information about this course is available online through the ANGEL course support system at: [https://cms.psu.edu](https://cms.psu.edu). Viewable (PDF) and printable versions of lectures with images, an outline of topics, key terms, and space for note-taking will be available to download. NOTE: These will NOT provide all the information you need to know for exams and quizzes.

**Discussion Forum (In ANGEL):**  
An additional student resource is an online discussion forum, available under the ‘Communications’ tab in ANGEL. This will allow you to post questions about the course material and discuss them with fellow students.

**Objectives**  
This course provides an introduction to architecture for a general audience. It emphasizes the analytical criteria used to evaluate buildings as cultural, aesthetic, and technological artifacts. Related questions include the professional identities and priorities of architects and engineers and the evolving standards for successful built environments. The architectural works discussed are drawn from prehistory to the present, and combine explanations of the western tradition with topics and examples of global scope.

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:  
- Identify key ideas that have traditionally defined ‘good’ architecture  
- Explain the influence of specific architects and authors on these measures  
- Analyze how specific works of architecture reflect these varying criteria  
- Relate different measures of architectural success to broader cultural, political, and philosophical issues
• Know the linked professional histories of architecture and engineering
• Critically assess the human-made environment using the ideas discussed as an initial framework
• Evaluate the priorities and decisions that influence the built environment

**Course Schedule**
The course will be taught in three units. Each unit will be composed of 8 lessons to be covered over three, five-week segments. This allows for roughly two lessons per week. There will be three unit exams corresponding with the three major units. There will also be two smaller quizzes per unit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 1</th>
<th>Unit Readings: Thomas Barrie (SS); A.J. Downing (House); Jane Jacobs (City) Begin reading now in preparation for Reading Activity 1, due in ANGEL</th>
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| Week 1 | Review syllabus & Course Intro  
Course Orientation  
**Orientation Quiz** (Available for two weeks in ANGEL)  
Intro survey (optional)  
Lesson 1.1: Architecture and Ideas |
| Week 2 | Lesson 1.2: Sacred Spaces 1  
Lesson 1.3: Sacred Spaces 2  
**Quiz 1** (lessons 1.1-1.3): Available in ANGEL |
| Week 3 | Lesson 1.4: Sacred Spaces 3  
Lesson 1.5: The House 1 |
| Week 4 | Lesson 1.6: The House 2  
**Quiz 2** (lessons 1.4-1.6): Available in ANGEL  
Lesson 1.7: The City 1 |
| Week 5 | **UNIT 1 READING ACTIVITY DUE** (Activity Deadline: Must be submitted in ANGEL)  
Lesson 1.8: The City 2  
**EXAM 1** (lessons 1.1-1.8 + unit readings): Available in ANGEL |

| Unit 2 | Unit Readings: Vitruvius (A&E); Le Corbusier (A&E); Loos'(Ornament and Crime)  
Begin reading now in preparation for Reading Activity 2, due in ANGEL |
|---|---|
| Week 6 | Lesson 2.1: Architects and Engineers 1  
Lesson 2.2: Architects and Engineers 2 |
| Week 7 | Lesson 2.3: Architects and Engineers 3  
**Quiz 3** (Lessons 2.1-2.3): Available in ANGEL  
Lesson 2.4: Aesthetics and Design 1 |
| Week 8 | Lesson 2.5: Aesthetics and Design 2  
Lesson 2.6: Aesthetics and Design 3  
**Quiz 4** (Lessons 2.4-2.6): Available in ANGEL |
| Week 9 | Lesson 2.7: Originality vs. Method 1  
**UNIT 2 READING ACTIVITY DUE** (Activity Deadline: Must be submitted in ANGEL)  
Lesson 2.8: Originality vs. Method 2 |
### Unit 3

**Unit Readings:**
M.-A. Laugier (TF), Reyner Banham (TF), Horatio Greenough (MI), Hassan Fathy (ER)
Begin reading now in preparation for Reading Activity 3, due in ANGEL

**Week 10**
**EXAM 2** (Lessons 2.1-2.8 + unit readings): Available in ANGEL
Lesson 3.1: Technology and Form 1

**Week 11**
Lesson 3.2: Technology and Form 2
Lesson 3.3: Memory and Identity 1
**Quiz 5** (Lessons 3.1-3.3): Available in ANGEL

**Week 12**
Lesson 3.4: Memory and Identity 2
Lesson 3.5: Memory and Identity 3

**Week 13**
Lesson 3.6: Ethics and Responsibility 1
**Quiz 6** (Lessons 3.4-3.6): Available in ANGEL
Lesson 3.7: Ethics and Responsibility 2

**Week 14**
**UNIT 3 READING ACTIVITY DUE** (Activity Deadline: Must be submitted in ANGEL)
Lesson 3.8: Ethics and Responsibility 3
**EXAM 3** (Lessons 3.1-3.8): Available in ANGEL

**Epilogue Film**
Week 15
View FILM
**Final Film Quiz**: Available in ANGEL

### Activities and Assessment
The successful student will listen to all lectures, take careful notes, and read all assigned texts. You will be responsible for all material presented in assigned readings and classroom presentations, including visual images from readings and lectures (see “Exams and Quizzes” below).

### Course Grades and Grading Scale:
- 30% 6 Lesson Quizzes (5% each)
- 15% 3 Reading Activities (5% each)
- 15% Discussion Forum Participation (5% per Unit)
- 30% 3 Unit Exams (10% each)
- 10% Film Quiz

In addition, an Orientation Quiz must be completed after working through the course orientation here. Your grade on the orientation quiz can be used to replace your lowest content quiz score.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-76%</td>
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Examinations and Quizzes:
Three Exams will each cover roughly one-third of the course material. Six Quizzes (two per unit) occur during each unit and review material from previous lectures. The Film Quiz will cover the film viewed in the last week of class.

Format and Schedule:
Exams and quizzes will use multiple-choice, True/False, Matching, and other objective question formats. The film quiz will also include short-answer written items. All material covered in classroom lectures and assigned readings is eligible for inclusion. Some questions and answers will be cued to images.

All exams and quizzes will be available through ANGEL according to the schedule posted in the Course Schedule.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All quizzes and exams are "open-notes." This means that you may use notes you have prepared from the course lectures as a reference. However, quizzes and exams are timed. Even with notes available, you will need to know the material well to complete all questions within the time limits set.

Makeup Exams/Quizzes:
If you have a situation or emergency that makes it impossible for you to take a quiz or exam as scheduled, you MUST contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss, preferably ahead of time. Makeup outside the allotted schedule will be permitted at the instructor's discretion, and will be in an essay format (for exams) or short answer (for quizzes).

Required Readings:
You will be assigned short excerpts from selected primary texts we discuss in class. These readings will be available through the PSU Libraries’ e-reserve system. To access e-reserve, go to the PSU Libraries’ home page at: [http://www.libraries.psu.edu//psul/home.html](http://www.libraries.psu.edu//psul/home.html) Go to the “Start Here” field at the top, then the “Course Reserves” tab, and search by instructor name (“Costanzo”) or course ID (“Arch 100”)

Reading Activities:
For each of the course's three units, you will need to complete an activity based on the assigned readings. Instructions will be available online through ANGEL. These activities can be completed in stages, as soon as you finish each of the readings. However, they must be completed by the posted deadline to receive full credit. Late activities will be penalized by 10% if received before the relevant unit exam. They will NOT be accepted after the exam becomes active.

Lecture Review Questions:
A list of questions is provided to accompany each individual lesson. These questions are designed to help you review and synthesize the material discussed in each lecture. They are a resource to help you prepare for quizzes and exams, and may be discussed in the online forum.

Discussion Forums:
Each week, an online Discussion Forums is provided in ANGEL. These sites are meant to encourage student responses to the topics and issues presented in the lectures and readings. Participation in these forums will be monitored and be part of your course grade.
A Question of the Week will be provided to help start discussions. Students can also post any questions or comments on the week's material. More detail about the forums and how participation will be assessed will be provided early in the semester.

Course Policies
Email Policy:
Since this is an online course, your most direct form of communication with the instructor will be via e-mail. I will communicate important information about the class this way, so check your PSU e-mail regularly.

University policy dictates that the instructor CANNOT discuss academic information with students via e-mail EXCEPT when messages are sent to and from your PSU e-mail account. Please remember this when writing.

Also, all e-mail correspondence with the instructor should be MINIMAL, NECESSARY, and PROFESSIONAL in writing style. Messages should look like business letters, not text messages. Always begin with a formal salutation, use complete sentences and proper spelling, and identify yourself in the body of the text or with your signature. This is how I will write to you, and is a good model for e-mail in general. It also ensures that your e-mail will be taken seriously and receive a timely resp. Messages that do not are likely to be ignored.

I will use ANGEL to send e-mail to the class as a whole, and will copy each message to your regular PSU account. However, when responding to your e-mails I will often use my regular e-mail program for convenience. If you PREFER that I respond to you within ANGEL, simply state this in your message and I will gladly do so. When you e-mail me from ANGEL, please check the box that sends a copy to my regular PSU e-mail. This ensures that I will see your message as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity Statement:
All students in this class agree to abide by the principles of academic integrity. All cases of dishonesty in this course, including cheating on examinations and quizzes, will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to the policies of the University. Cheating by sharing information during or about exams and quizzes will result in an AUTOMATIC ZERO for the student’s examination and further action as outlined by University policy.

According to the Penn State Principles and University Code of Conduct:
"Academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at Penn State University, allowing the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. In accordance with the University's Code of Conduct, you must not engage in or tolerate academic dishonesty. This includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person, or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Any violation of academic integrity will be investigated, and where warranted, punitive action will be taken. For every incident when a penalty of any kind is assessed, a report must be filed."

For more information on Penn State Academic Integrity policies, including definitions of plagiarism and the University’s penalty system, see the following website:
http://tlt.its.psu.edu/plagiarism/tutorial/
For the College of Arts and Architecture Academic Integrity Policy Statement, see: [http://artsandarchitecture.psu.edu/fac/acad_integrity](http://artsandarchitecture.psu.edu/fac/acad_integrity)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** All quizzes and exams are "open-notes." This means that when you are taking a quiz or exam you MAY use materials you have prepared from lectures as a reference. However, you may NOT share information about quizzes and exams with other students.

**Affirmative Action & Sexual Harassment:**
The Pennsylvania State University is committed to a policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by Commonwealth or Federal authorities. Penn State does not discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Direct all inquiries to the Affirmative Action Office, 211 Willard Building.

**An Invitation to Students with Learning Disabilities:**
It is Penn State's policy to not discriminate against qualified students with documented disabilities in its educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for modifications in your testing or learning situation, your instructor should be notified during the first week of classes so that your needs can be accommodated. You will be asked to present documentation from the Office of Disability Services (located in 116 Boucke Building, 863-1807) that describes the nature of your disability and the recommended remedy. You may refer to the Nondiscrimination Policy in the Student Guide to University Policies and Rules.

**Technical Requirements**

**Operating System:**
Windows 2000/XP or Vista, Mac OS X 10.2 or higher (10.3 or higher recommended).

**Web browser:**
Mac OS X: Firefox, Safari (current version)
Windows: Firefox, Safari, Internet Explorer (current version) Firefox and Safari are preferred as they will provide the fastest experience possible for e-Learning Institute courses.

*Note:* Due to nonstandard handling of CSS, JavaScript and caching, we do not support using Internet Explorer 6 as your browser.

*Note:* Cookies, Java, and JavaScript must be enabled. Pop-up blockers should be configured to permit new windows from Penn State Web sites.

**Other:**
- Adobe Flash Player 9 or later
- A minimum of 256 MB of RAM
- 1 GHz or higher processor
- 500 MB of available (a.k.a "free") hard disk storage is recommended
- Broadband (cable or DSL) connection required