AEAH 5801 Topics in Art History: American Architecture, Design, and Urbanism
Fall 2015
Meeting Time: Wednesday 9-11:50
Classroom: Art 251

Instructor: Paula Lupkin, Ph.D.
Office: Art 224D
Office Hours: Mondays 11-12 and by appointment
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The history of architecture in the United States is one of the most active, interesting fields in art history. This graduate seminar offers an introduction to the field, offering students insight and tools to examine and analyze the rich, layered architectural and cultural landscape that surrounds us in Denton, in Texas, and across the country. Through readings of key texts we will engage with themes, problems and writings, including gender, race, the vernacular, park design, city planning, regionalism and identity, preservation, and collective memory.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOME
If you attend each class meeting and engage actively in discussion, do the required reading, work conscientiously on your research and presentation assignments, and participate in fieldwork and discussions, by the end of the semester you should:

-- be familiar with important themes, theories, and writings in the fields of American architecture, design, and urbanism.
-- acquire visual and spatial literacy: the ability to critically “read” and understand the significance of the designed, built world.
-- develop research, presentation, and writing skills, using fieldwork, archival, and online resources.

TEXTS
Dell Upton, Architecture in the United States (Oxford University Press, 1998)
Gwendolyn Wright, USA (Reaktion Books, 2009)

LIBRARY RESERVES
The course texts are available, on two-hour library reserve, at the Eagle Commons Library Reserve desk. Find the reserve course page at: http://iii.library.unt.edu/search/r

COURSE WEBSITE
The Blackboard website for this course can be accessed at learn.unt.edu with your EUID. This is an important source of information and you should check it regularly. I will post announcements on Blackboard, as well as the syllabus, assignments, class handouts, calendar, and gradebook. Blackboard will also be a site for your research work, including your final presentation.
COURSE EVALUATION
Your grade will be determined by the following criteria:

Class Attendance and Discussion Participation 20%
Weekly Precis Essays 30%
Topic Presentations 10%
Mid and Final Research Presentations 15%
Final Research Paper 25%

FINAL GRADE SCALE
A 90-100
B 80-89
C 70-79
D 65-70
F 64 and below

SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES
Reading Precis Assignments Sept 2, 9, 16, 30 Oct. 7, 14
Individual Conferences September 21, 24 November 2-3
Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography Oct 21
Research Presentation I November 18
Written Rough Draft Due November 25
Research Presentation II December 3
Final Research Paper December 9

SCHEDULE AND READINGS:

August 26 Introductions
September 2 Reading Assignment: Upton, Chapter 1 “American Icon”
September 9 Reading Assignment: Upton Chapter 2 “Community”
September 16 Reading Assignment: Upton Chapter 3 “Nature”
September 23 NO CLASS: Yom Kippur SIGN UP FOR INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS
September 30 Reading Assignment: Upton Chapter 4 “Technology”
October 7 Reading Assignment: Upton Chapter 5 “Money”
October 14 Reading Assignment: Upton Chapter 6 “Art”
October 21 Reading Assignment: Wright Chapters 1-2
November 4 NO CLASS: SACRPH CONFERENCE SIGN UP FOR INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS
November 11 Reading Assignment: Wright Chapters 3-4
November 18 Reading Assignment: Wright Chapters 5-6
November 25   NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING

December 2   FINAL STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

December 9   FINAL PAPERS DUE

Writing and Research Assignments

Reading Precis Essays
For the first half of the semester, you will be required to produce a concise analysis, or precis, of the assigned reading each week. This can be challenging on a weekly basis, but it is an extremely helpful way for you to master the reading, gain critical perspective, improve your writing skills, and prepare for active discussion. A detailed guide to this writing assignment will be distributed separately.

Topic Presentations
Once during the semester you will be asked to research and prepare a 10 minute powerpoint presentation on a building you know that is related to the weekly reading. A signup sheet will be distributed on the first day of class.

Research Projects
Beginning with the very first day of class, you will be engaged with a research project on a single building here in Denton. Over the course of the semester you will be asked to visit and document the building, conduct library and archival research, analyze its form and meaning, develop a thesis and present your findings to the class, both orally and in writing.

Denton Research Topics
Silk Stocking House
Little Chapel in the Woods
Denton City Hall
Denton County Courthouse
Gulf Service Station
Business Leadership Building, UNT
Whitehawk Community, Denton
African-American Museum

Course Policies

Attendance: Your success in this lecture course will depend on your grades but also in part, upon your attendance and active engagement. You are expected to be in class at every assigned meeting.

Sometimes an illness, emergency, or other circumstances may cause you to miss class. Absence will only be excused in the case of serious medical or family problems. To be excused for an absence please notify your TA before class or immediately afterwards and provide proper documentation.

More than two unexcused absences will result in a reduced grade. Each absence beyond two will result in a reduction of your final earned grade. 5 points of your total score will be deducted from your final grade for each absence after two absences. For example, 3 absences=5 points deducted from your total points. A final course grade of 90 (A) will become and 85 (B). If you experience serious personal or academic problems that interfere with your attendance please let me know before it wrecks your grade.
If you miss class, try to borrow a classmate’s notes. The instructor and teaching assistant will not assume responsibility for providing class notes to you.

**Late or Missing Assignments:** All assignments must be completed to pass the course, and submitted on the due dates, in person or through previously arranged electronic submission. Students will only be permitted to turn in late projects in the case of religious holiday observance or medical or family emergencies. Computer, disk, or printer malfunction are not valid excuses. Back up your work at all times. Late assignments will be penalized, with a drop of 10 points per day, including weekend days. Incompletes will be awarded only in instances of medical or severe family emergencies, or other unusual situations beyond the student’s control. Documentation will be required.

**Electronic Citizenship:** As many students have reported to me, the use of music players, email, or video games during class is distracting to those around you, and detrimental to your own learning and performance in class. A Canadian study has proven that laptop use in the classroom negatively affects student grades. [http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/parenting/back-to-school/laptops-in-class-lowers-students-grades-canadian-study/article13759430/](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/parenting/back-to-school/laptops-in-class-lowers-students-grades-canadian-study/article13759430/) Therefore there will be no use of electronic devices in class. Please turn off your cell phones, put away your ipad and laptops when you sit down. Accommodations may be made in the case of students with disabilities with official documentation.

In this course, I will often use email to send messages to students regarding announcements, assignments, and answers to questions. I am receptive to email messages from students; however, I prefer to meet with students in person during my office hours. I hold office hours every Monday 10-11 and by appointment. I encourage every student to take advantage of this opportunity to meet with me one on one.

When that is not possible, feel free to email me, but you must allow at least 24 hours for my reply. Because email often takes the place of face-to-face communication, please maintain the same level of courtesy and respect in electronic communications that you would in conversation. Do not write something in an email that you would not feel comfortable saying in person.

**Academic Integrity:** Students in this class have the right to expect that their fellow students are upholding the academic integrity of this University. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense because it undermines the bonds of trust and honesty between members of the community and defrauds those who may eventually depend on our knowledge and integrity. Such dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism.

The University of North Texas has established a range of penalties for students guilty of plagiarism or academic dishonesty. Appropriate penalties include a failing grade for the course, a failing grade for the assignment, or a reduced grade or redone assignment or even expulsion from the University. All instances of serious plagiarism are reported to the Dean of Students.

Plagiarism is the most common form of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism can be a difficult concept to define; however simply put, plagiarism is using other people’s ideas and words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information. It is important to note that at the university we are continually exposed to other’s ideas. We read ideas and words in textbooks, hear them in lectures, discuss them in class, and incorporate them into our own writing. You must always keep in mind that you must give credit where credit is due.
Plagiarism can occur in many forms and media. Although most commonly associated with writing, all types of scholarly work, including interior design projects, music, scientific data and analysis, and electronic publications can be plagiarized. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, and receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any other means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

To avoid plagiarism you must give credit (for example, in a footnote) whenever you use:
- another person’s idea, opinion, or theory;
- any facts, statistics, graphics, visual images (i.e.: drawings, videos, etc.) that are not common knowledge.
- quotations of another person’s spoken or written words; or
- paraphrase of another person’s spoken or written words

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, or have difficulty addressing source material in your papers, please consult with the instructor.

**Syllabus Changes:** The syllabus is a reliable outline for the semester’s work, but readings and assignments may be changed at any time at the discretion of the instructor.

**American Disabilities Act:** The College of Visual Arts and Design is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. In keeping with this commitment and in order to facilitate equality of educational access, faculty members in the College will make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with a disability, such as appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies when doing so does not fundamentally alter the course.

If you have a disability, it is your responsibility to obtain verifying information from the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) and to inform me of your need for an accommodation. Requests for accommodation must be given to me no later than the first week of classes for students registered with the ODA as of the beginning of the current semester. If you register with the ODA after the first week of classes, your accommodation requests will be considered after this deadline.

Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodations can be found in UNT Policy 18.1.14, at www.unt.edu/oda, and by visiting the ODA in Room 321 of the University Union. You also may call the ODA at 940.565.4323.

**Course Risk Factor:** According to University Policy, this course is classified as a category one course. Students enrolled in this course will not be exposed to any significant hazards and are not likely to suffer any bodily injury. Students will be informed of any potential health hazards or potential bodily injury connected with the use of any materials and/or processes and will be instructed how to proceed without danger to themselves or others.

**Building Emergency Procedures:** In case of emergency (alarm will sound), please follow the building evacuation plans posted on each floor of your building and proceed to the nearest parking lot. In case of tornado (campus sirens will sound) or other weather related threat, please go to the nearest hallway or room on your floor without exterior windows and remain there until an all clear signal is sounded. Follow the instructions of your teachers and act accordingly.
Student Rights and Responsibilities: Students in this course are subject to the University of North Texas code of student rights and responsibilities. By taking this course, you agree to refrain from any and all forms of physical and/or verbal abuse, harassment, threats, or intimidation towards students, faculty, staff or others associated with course delivery or instruction. Cases of harassment, threats or abuse will be reported to University authorities. See www.unt.edu/csrr for further information.

Student Behavior in the Classroom: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr
Please sign this declaration of understanding and agreement with the above syllabus provisions and risk factor.

I ________________________________ (print) acknowledge that I have read the course syllabus. I understand the course structure, grading and attendance policies as well as the risk factor rating. I hereby agree to the syllabus and its provisions.

__________________________________  ______________________________________
Course number and section  Risk Rating

__________________________________  ______________________________________
Student phone #, e-mail address (print)  Signature  Date

__________________________________  ______________________________________
Faculty Name  Signature  Date