Topics in Architecture and Design History: Skyscraper Stories
ARTH 4845/University of North Texas/Summer 2023

Unknown, “Lunch Atop a Skyscraper” photograph, 1932 (Fair Use via Wikimedia Commons)

Professor Paula Lupkin, She/Her
MTWTH  11:00-12:50
Art 280/Office Art 311
Office Hours: Monday 3-4pm via Zoom

Since they first appeared in New York and Chicago at the end of the nineteenth century, skyscrapers have played a central role in the history of modern architecture. Key characters in cinema, literature, and art, tall buildings have been a subject of fascination as technological marvels, symbols of power and wealth, examples of design innovation, and structures that inscribe corporate hierarchies as well as gender and racial identities. Skyscrapers stories also evoke dread, fear, and disaster. This compressed undergraduate art history course will explore skyscraper stories in the United States, exploring genres and themes of storytelling from the late nineteenth century until today, including photography, film, fiction, nonfiction, painting, and more. Assignments will include four short i-clicker quizzes, a class portfolio, and a creative work on the World Trade Center based on original social media research.

Content Warning: During class and as part of required assignments students may be exposed to material about the destruction of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. This may include topics of violence, terrorism, injury, suicide, emotional distress, and grief. I will try to flag especially graphic or intense content that touches on these topics and will do my best to make this classroom a space where we can engage bravely, empathetically, and thoughtfully with this traumatic event in American History.
Course Objectives
--develop and apply interdisciplinary observational, descriptive, written, and analytic skills to the subject of the course: the skyscraper.
--gain critical and historical perspective and knowledge on the relationship between architecture and culture, tested through quizzes and assignments
--develop skills in class discussion, group work, and the development of a portfolio of your original academic and creative work.
--conduct research using social media sources, including Facebook
--become familiar with developing and recording powerpoint-illustrated oral presentations.
--develop a World Trade Center “skyscraper story” with your choice of writing, photojournalism, art, or film.

Course Tool and Book
I-Clicker Student Engagement and Assessment Platform: student.iclicker.com/
Hugh Ferris, Metropolis of Tomorrow, New York: I. Washburn, 1929 (also on 2hr. reserve at Willis Library)

Communication
Email: Canvas email is the gold standard for communication in this course. Outside of class time you can reach me via Canvas email with questions, clarifications, and documentation of excused absences. I will respond via Canvas email within 24 hours. Messages sent to my UNT or personal email accounts will be deleted unread.

Announcements: Important and timely class notices will be posted on the Announcements Page on Canvas. Please check your Canvas account daily to stay informed.

Assessment and Grading Scale
This course will be assessed using a scale of 1000 points. Assignments will total 1000 points.
A = 900-1000
B = 800-899
C = 700-799
D = 600-699
F = 500-599
Assignments

Course Portfolio: 300 points
   A semester portfolio including a cover letter, three assignments from the semester, and any additional drawings, photos or other material you choose to include.

I-Clicker Quizzes 250 points
   In-class multiple choice questions that test knowledge of a previous lesson or lessons

World Trade Center Assignment: 300 points
   WTC stories Group Presentation 50 points
   Individual Creative Story Project 250 points

Attendance, Polls, and Participation/Group Work 150 points
   Attendance 50 points
   Completion of Clicker Class Polls 50 points
   WTC presentations comment sheets 50 points
# Week 1: Introduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>05/22</td>
<td>Introduction to Syllabus &amp; WTC Assignment</td>
<td>Clicker Poll on First Day Information</td>
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<td></td>
<td>05/23</td>
<td>Lecture: Brief History of the American Skyscraper</td>
<td>Clicker Syllabus Quiz</td>
<td>50 pts.</td>
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<td>Clicker Poll: Skyscraper</td>
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<td>05/24</td>
<td>Building Tall: The World Trade Center</td>
<td>Clicker Quiz: History of Skyscrapers</td>
<td>50 pts.</td>
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<td>Clicker Poll: World Trade Center</td>
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<td>05/25</td>
<td>WTC Stories Group Work</td>
<td>Clicker Quiz: World Trade Center</td>
<td>50 pts.</td>
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<td>WTC Stories Presentations</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
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### Week 2: The Early Skyscraper in Illustration and Photography

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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<th>Points Possible</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>05/29</td>
<td>No Class-Memorial Day</td>
<td>WTC Social Media Portfolio Entry Due Begin watching films for next week</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td></td>
<td>05/30</td>
<td>Lecture: Early Skyscraper Art and Photography</td>
<td>Clicker Poll on Assigned Readings</td>
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<td><strong>Group Discussion:</strong> Storytelling with Skyscraper Photography</td>
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<td>05/31</td>
<td>Lecture: Photojournalism and the Empire State</td>
<td>Clicker Poll on Assigned Readings</td>
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<td><strong>Group Discussion:</strong> Storytelling with Photojournalism</td>
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<td>06/01</td>
<td>Lecture: The Shock of the New</td>
<td>Clicker Quiz on Skyscraper Photography</td>
<td>50 pts.</td>
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<td><strong>Group Discussion:</strong> Ferris vs. Mendelsohn</td>
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## Week 3: Skyscrapers and Film

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<th>Assignment Due</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>06/05</td>
<td>Skyscraper Celebration: View and Discussion</td>
<td><em>Skyscraper Photography Portfolio Entry Due</em></td>
<td>100 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/06</td>
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<td>Skyscraper Critique: Excerpt View and Discussion</td>
<td><em>Clicker Poll: Celebration Film Content</em></td>
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<td>06/07</td>
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<td>Skyscraper and Gender Excerpt View and Discussion</td>
<td><em>Clicker Poll: Critique Film Content</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>06/08</td>
<td>No Class Held</td>
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<td><em>WTC Individual Project Due: Upload to Canvas</em></td>
<td>250 pts.</td>
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## Week 4: The Black and Brown Skyscraper

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<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>06/12</td>
<td>Modern Art in Mexico: The Skyscraper</td>
<td><em>Clicker Poll: Mexico Readings</em></td>
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<td><em>Portfolio Comparative Film Review Due</em></td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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<td>06/13</td>
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<td>The Black Skyscraper in Art and Literature</td>
<td><em>Clicker Poll: The Black Skyscraper in Art and Literature</em></td>
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<td>06/14</td>
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<td>Skyscraper Myths Excerpt View and Discussion</td>
<td><em>Clicker Poll: Skyscraper Myths Film Content</em></td>
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<td>06/15</td>
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<td>Group Presentation Preparation Meetings</td>
<td><em>Clicker Quiz: Black and Brown Skyscraper</em></td>
<td>50 pts</td>
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Week 5: World Trade Center Project and Presentations

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>06/19</td>
<td>No class: Celebration of Juneteenth</td>
<td>Portfolio Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/20</td>
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<td>World Trade Center Groups 1-3 Presentations</td>
<td>Presentation Comment Sheet</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/21</td>
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<td>World Trade Center Groups 4-6 Presentations</td>
<td>Presentation Comment Sheet</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/22</td>
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<td>World Trade Center Groups 7+8 Presentations</td>
<td>Presentation Comment Sheet</td>
<td>250 pts.</td>
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COURSE POLICIES

Classroom Culture
I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom and email culture of open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion both for students and the professor. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please stop by my office and let me know. We are all learning together.

We will discuss our classroom’s habits of engagement and I also encourage you to review UNT’s student code of conduct so that we can all start with the same baseline civility understanding (Code of Student Conduct) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct)

Communication
Email: Canvas email is the gold standard for communication in this course. Outside of class time you can reach me via Canvas email with questions, clarifications, and documentation of excused absences. I will respond via Canvas email within 24 hours. Messages sent to my UNT or personal email accounts will be deleted unread.

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**Attendance**
Research has shown that students who attend class are more likely to be successful. You should attend every class unless you have a **university excused absence** such as active military service, a religious holy day, or an official university function as stated in the [Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy (PDF)](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039). If you cannot attend a class due to an emergency, please let me know. Your safety and well-being are important to me.

Because this course involves collaboration, participation and polling is essential to learning. Our project-based activities require you to be actively engaged discussions and group work. I-Clicker polls will be used to take attendance at each meeting of class. This will be your official attendance record.

If you must miss class, you may be excused with documentation of the following:
- medical condition
- religious holy day
- military service
- official University event

Family vacations, weddings or life cycle events, travel or work scheduled during class time are not absences that can be excused.

If your absence is unexcused your attendance grade will be docked 2 points, and you will lose any opportunity for points on that day’s I-Clicker polls and quizzes.

For more information about excused absences see: [Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy (PDF)](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039).

Absent students are responsible for catching up on missed course material. You may catch up on course material, such as powerpoints and assigned readings and films, via Canvas OR you may make an appointment to meet during my office hours Mondays 1pm-3pm. It may be possible to borrow the notes of a class member, perhaps someone in your group.

**Calendar Changes**
There may be changes to the course calendar. To understand the circumstances that will result in a campus closing consult the [Emergency Notifications and Procedures Policy (PDF)](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-049). You will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact our class.
**Academic Integrity in the Age of Online Teaching and AI**

After Covid, it has been a shift for all of us to move back to face-to-face classroom expectations. This class has a lot of face time, 4x a week. Showing up, being active in the classroom, treating faculty and peers respectfully and carrying out quizzes and written work in real time within the classroom is something you can expect this course.

All writing, discussion, group work, and quizzes in this course are expected to be 100% your own written work. This means you will compose completely original writing for assignments. Chat GPT is not an acceptable source for copy and paste, or slight alteration. You may not use another person or publication’s writing for phrases, sentences, and concepts in your written work. All written assignments will be subject to Turnitin review, which includes both a plagiarism check and an AI check. The world is definitely changing but for now, these standards are the guidelines for this course. We’ll see what happens to the quality of AI-aided education in the future. For now, it is up to you to gather, process, and write on your own without artificial intelligence.

UNT’s [Academic Integrity Policy (PDF)](https://example.com/academic-integrity-policy) is available online. We will discuss this policy during the first week of class.

Its basic principles emphasize:
--the protection of the rights of all participants in the educational process
--validate the legitimacy of degrees awarded by the University

“Cheating,” in this policy, means the use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to:
1. use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes, or other assessments;
2. use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
3. use, without permission, of tests, notes, or other academic materials belonging to instructors, staff members, or other students of the University;
4. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor;
5. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment

In addition to cheating, other violations of UNT’s Academic Integrity Policy can also include sabotage and plagiarism.

Consequences for cheating, sabotage, and plagiarism can include: Admonition, Educational Assignment, Partial or No Credit for an Assignment or Assessment, Lower Final Course Grade, Course Failure, Probation, Suspension, Page 5 of 13 Expulsion, and Revocation of Degree. Probation, Suspension, Expulsion, and Revocation of Degree may only be handed out by the AIO with the final decision on appeal by the provost or designee, the other penalties may be assigned by the instructor. Admonitions and educational assignments are not appealable.
ADA Accommodation Statement

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website (http://www.unt.edu/oda). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.