

URBS 110: The City
Section 01, 9:30 – 10:45, MH 206
Section 03, 12:30 – 1:45
Tuesday, Thursday
Fall 2009

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Office Hours:
Tuesday:
8:00 – 9:30
11:00 – 12:30

Wednesday:
3:00 – 6:00*

** Via e-mail or by appointment on Edina campus*

Thursdays:
8:00 – 9:30
11:00 – 12:30

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to give you a comprehensive understanding of the evolution of cities and the social forces that drive city structure and architecture. The goal is for you to become “consumers” of the cities you live in, understanding how cities emerged as a power center, and how cities of the past influence the cities you live in today.

The course will place a great significance on teaching students how to “read” a city, how to look at architecture and city form in a broad manner and place it into a historic context. The course will emphasize analytical ability to look at cities and buildings, and understand the forces behind their evolution.

This is *not* a history course, art history survey, engineering course, or even an architecture course. Instead it will cross these disciplines, and focus more on applied concepts. As a General Education course, the intention is to give you a broad perspective of how our cities evolved and how historic design has left a physical record of the past, not just in the western world, but from a spectrum of cultures and historic periods.

D2L Use

D2L will be used heavily for the course. Not only will it contain assignment sheets and quizzes, it will contain all announcements, and class slides (which you can access if you miss class). You can also check your test and final grades here. **If class has to be cancelled, I will post the announcement as soon as possible.**

Books and Materials

Required:

Patrick Nuttgens, The Story of Architecture (2nd edition). This is available at the campus bookstore, Maverick Bookstore, or online at Amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com., or other book retailers.

Recommended (for good additional information if you wish to pursue the topic further, but not required for class):

Marian Moffat, *A World History of Architecture*
Edmund Bacon, *Design of Cities*

Lewis Mumford, *The City in History*
Jacobs, Jane, *The Death and Life of the Great American City*
Jonathan Glancey, *The Story of Architecture*

Course Grades

University policy has changed to allow “shaded” grades – A+, A, A-, etc. This course will use this format rather than the traditional A, B, C grades.

There will be 260 total points available for the class. Grades will be given based on the scale:

Percentage			
A+	97 - 100%	C+	77 - 79%
A	94 - 96%	C	74 - 76%
A-	90 - 93%	C-	70 - 73%
B+	87 - 89	D+	67 - 69%
B	84 - 86%	D	64 - 66%
B-	80 - 83%	D-	60 - 63%
		F	59% ↓

Course Tests & Quizzes (210 points)

The test and quiz schedule is fixed. Consider this “notice” of the tests and make sure to mark your calendar.

Sept 1 D2L Syllabus Quiz (testing the system) 10 points
Sept 22 Segment 1 Test, The Ancient World, 40 points
Oct 8: D2L Segment 1 Refresher Quiz, 20 points
Oct 15: Segment 2 Test, The Emerging City, 50 Points
Nov 17: Segment 1 and 2 Refresher Quiz, 30 points
Dec 3: Final Exam, 60 Points

Make up tests are given only in the case of emergency (family birthday parties and oversleeping are not considered legitimate reasons for missing a test. Funerals, severe illness, and car accidents are).

If you must miss a test, e-mail or call me immediately to set an appointment to make up the test. Students have one week from the test date to make up the test. After that, the score drops 10 points per day. Make-up tests are short answer/essay format at instructor’s discretion.

Assignments (50 points)

There is one major assignment in this course, aside from exams and quizzes. To complete the assignment, you will need a camera (digital, film, disposable, any of them will work). These assignments will ask you to document the architectural forms from class as you encounter them in your communities. The assignment is worth 50 points.

Late assignments will be penalized 5 points per day late, whatever the excuse, unless documentation of medical emergency is provided.

Extra Credit

Students have an opportunity to add to their point totals by earning Participation Points. These are randomly assigned in-class questions I pose at the beginning of class that will allow students to share their opinions and thoughts. There is no pattern to when I assign the Participation Points, so again, it benefits you to show up to class. **You can not make up Participation Points if you miss class.**

Attendance

I will not take attendance. You are all adults, responsible for obtaining the course material on your own.

People get sick, have car trouble, or other legitimate reasons for missing class. If you are unable to attend class, please ask a classmate to share their notes. If you don't feel confident that the material in the notes you borrowed is sufficient, arrange a time with the T.A. to go over them. You must bring the notes you borrowed to these sessions. We cannot help you if you don't help yourself.

If you miss a class, please allow enough lead time to meet with the T.A. to go over the notes. Contacting the T.A. the day before the test (or even worse, the day of) is not enough time to set up an appointment.

One question I get quite a bit is *Can I borrow your notes?* The short answer is no. First, I don't use notes in my lectures; after doing this a while, it is coming from my memory. Second, this would make it easy for people to skip class and just use my notes, and as stated ATTENDANCE IS CRUCIAL (and I've never been one to let others "copy my homework."). If you miss a day, borrow notes from one of your group members or a friend, or that person who has caught your eye in class, and meet with the T.A.

Enrollment

You must be enrolled in the course during the semester to earn a grade. I will not "hold over" a grade, allowing you to take the class one semester and officially enroll in another. This sometimes happens if the tuition bill cannot be paid, or there is another dispute on student status. Basic rule: if you don't have D2L access, you cannot participate in the class.

Students with Disabilities

MSU provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodation to participate in educational programs, activities, or services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodation to participation in class activities or meet course requirements should first register with the Office of Disability Services, located in 0132 Memorial Library, telephone 507/ 389-2825, TDD 711, and then contact me as soon as possible.

Cheating, Plagiarism, and Other Academic Fraud

Simply put, don't do it, even for extra credit. The worst original work is better than the most perfectly plagiarized. It's okay to insert other people's ideas, just make sure you cite them; after all, you would want credit for an idea you had, right? And remember, I've read and seen a lot of stuff; they actually pay me to do it, so do you want to take the odds that it's a paper I've used for my dissertation research?

Cheating is not tolerated in any case. If you are caught cheating (and both the T.A. and I are watching!), you will receive an automatic 'F' for the class and your case will be handled according to University policy.

Missing Class for MSU Sanctioned Activities

You must provide written documentation of a necessary absence to be considered an "excused absence." This must be presented at least one week prior to the absence. Presenting the documentation the day of or after the absence will not be excused.

Texting and Cell Use

Keep it polite. Turn off all ringers and other distracting noises. Keep the screen brightness down. Also, be subtle: I should never know what your cell phone looks like.

General Education Requirements

URBS 110: the City fulfills a General Education requirement, Category 6: Humanities and the Arts. The goal of this category is stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin as follows:

To expand student's knowledge of the human condition and human cultures, especially in relation to behavior, ideas, and values, expressed in works of human imagination and thought. Through study in disciplines such as literature, philosophy, the fine arts, students will engage in critical analysis, form aesthetic judgments, and develop an appreciation of the arts and humanities as fundamental to the health and survival of any society. Students should have experiences in both the arts and humanities.

Students will be able to:

- A. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities;
- B. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context;
- C. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities;
- D. Engage in the creative process or interpretive performance;
- E. Articulate an informal personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

MAJOR/ MINOR REQUIREMENTS

URBS 110: The City does NOT fulfill an URSI major requirement, nor does it fulfill an URSI minor requirement.

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General Course Schedule and Topic Listing (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Aug 25	Course Introduction/ Syllabus	
Aug 27	Interpreting Design and Architecture	
Segment 1: The Ancient World		
Sept 1	DVD: Engineering an Empire, Persia	D2L Syllabus Quiz Due, 10 points Reading: Chapter 2
Sept 3	Ancient Egypt	Reading: Chapter 3
Sept 8	Ancient Greece	Reading: Chapter 7
Sept 10	Ancient Rome	Reading: Chapter 8
Sept 15	Ancient Rome	
Sept 17	DVD; Engineering an Empire, Rome	
Sept 22	Segment 1 Test	40 points
Segment 2: The Emerging City		
Sept 24	Dark Ages/ Medieval Europe	Reading, Chapter 12
Sept 29	Dark Ages/ Medieval Cathedrals	
Oct 1	Renaissance Europe	Readings, Chapters 13 - 15
Oct 6	Grand World Tour: Asia	Reading, Chapter 5
Oct 8	Grand World Tour: Africa, India, Middle East	Reading, Chapters 4 and 11 Segment 1 Refresher Quiz
Oct 13	DVD: The Maya	Reading: Chapter 6
Oct 15	Segment 2 Test	50 points
Segment 3: United States Cities		
Oct 20	Native American/ Colonial America	
Oct 22	Federal Republic	Reading: Chapter 17
Oct 27	Romantic Era/ Age of Steam and Iron	Reading: Chapter 18
Oct 29	Expanding City	Reading, Chapter 19
Nov 3	City of Towers	
Nov 5	Special Topics: Frank Lloyd Wright	Reading, pages 260 - 265
Nov 10	Video: Empire State Building	
Nov 12	Post-Industrial Cities (Andrews)	Reading, Chapter 20
Nov 17	No class session	Segment 2 Refresher Quiz
Nov 19	Modern Cities: Trends and Issues	
Nov 24	Modern Cities: Trends and Issues	
Nov 26	No class session	class time to complete assignment
Dec 1	Cities of the Future - Video: Sky City	Reading, Chapter 21 TURN IN ASSIGNMENT
Dec 3	Final Exam	60 Points