



SYLLABUS

Survey of Architecture History ARC 1720

3 credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This general survey course of architecture history is offered for non-architecture major students. The course examines architectural intentions in human history from prehistoric ages to the contemporary age. The primary objective is to help students develop their own historical perspective in interpreting the built environment. With a primary focus on Western civilizations, the course also includes Non-Western civilizations in order for students to procure a comparative perspective for understanding architectural history across cultural differences. The course demonstrates the interaction between form and idea in architectural creation. As a result of the course, students are expected to understand how history defines the horizon of human dwelling. Throughout the course, meaning, expression and cultural context will be stressed. It is hoped that certain basic principles of design will become apparent and, as a result, principles that will prove useful to personal, cultural and professional growth will be learned.

INTRODUCTION:

The best way to begin is to define architecture. One of the earliest and best definitions was made by the Roman architect Vitruvius in his "Ten Books on Architecture." He said architecture had three essential qualities: *utilitas, firmitas, and venustas*. This translates as COMMODITY, FIRMNESS and DELIGHT.

COMMODITY - Architecture provides basic human shelter.

FIRMNESS - Architecture involves building and engineering.

DELIGHT - Architecture meets man's spiritual, psychological and aesthetic needs.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Special Instructor: Phyllis J. Henderson

Phyllis J. Henderson received her graduate education in both architecture and fine art.

She has practiced architecture for years, is a LEED accredited professional and an Associate Member of the American Institute of Architects. Based on her research in adaptive reuse of brownfields in central Europe, she was awarded the American Association of University Women Selected Professions Fellowship in 2002-2003. Her current doctoral research focuses on the history of human intention for beautiful landscapes and how this fundamental desire is embodied through poetical dwelling.