

HISTORY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT FOR PRESERVATION PRACTICE

Fall 2016

SYLLABUS

Course Number: DCP 6711

Credits: 3 credit hours

Day: Wednesday

Time: 5:10-7:05

Location: ARCH 411

Instructor: Christine Madrid French, Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Program

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Christine Madrid French

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: madridfrench@gmail.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the history of the built environment, and how the interpretation of historic structures and construction of a compelling historic context can impact successful preservation practice.

Lectures will examine the effects of social, political, material, technological, and cultural forces on the design and construction of the built environment. The role of the architect, patron, contractors, tradespeople, and stewards of significant sites will be incorporated into lectures. The focus will be on American architecture and heritage resources, with an understanding of the global context for buildings, structures, landscape and related documentation and preservation efforts.

Through readings, class discussions, and individual and class research projects, students gain an understanding of the history of the built environment and conservation theories and methodologies, used to assess and conserve significant sites. In addition to philosophical issues, students acquire knowledge of materials and systems and approaches to investigating and assessing existing conditions and developing conservation and rehabilitation recommendations. Advocacy strategies for raising public awareness will also be examined and incorporated throughout the course content.

The history content of the course will be divided into three typological sections:

- Materials & Building Types
- Design Movements
- Architecture and Culture

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Gain an understanding of the process and methodology for researching a site, determining historic significance, and writing a history of a building, structure or site within local, regional, national, and global contexts.
- Examine and develop strategies for advocating, conserving, and interpreting historic buildings and sites.

- Acquire knowledge of cultural heritage conservation theory and methodologies and their application in the field as they relate to conserving heritage, including architecture, interiors, landscapes, etc.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

- There will be two research projects:
 - Mid-Term Project: Photographic study and a historical analysis (2000 words) of a Gainesville-area building type or typology (context statement). Powerpoint presentation of the same in class.
 - Final Project: Study a specific historic structure in the Gainesville area from the post-World War II period (assigned by professor), prepare a historic narrative document according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Architectural and Engineering Documentation for inclusion in the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER, a unit of the National Park Service) collection at the Library of Congress, followed by a class presentation of the same.
<https://www.nps.gov/hdp/standards/index.htm>
- Short Powerpoint presentations in class, assigned weekly, to synopsise readings, present draft materials, or initiate class discussion.
- Prepare a two-page synopsis, with high-resolution images, detailing the building history, significance, and the regional context for the Final Project structure.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

The class meets once per week for two hours. Presentations and case studies on course topics are followed by class discussion of assigned readings. Students also make class presentations on their individual research projects.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class. More than one unexcused absence will result in a failing grade. Students are expected to be on time for class. Three unexcused late arrivals (more than 10 minutes) count as an unexcused absence. Three unexcused, early departures count as an unexcused absence.

Lectures

During lectures and other class activities, students are asked to turn off all cell phones and to refrain from talking. Lecture notes will not be made available. If a student misses class, it is her or his responsibility to obtain class notes from a class member. Copies of powerpoint presentations made by the instructor will be available through Canvas e-learning.

Honor Code

The University of Florida Honor Code applies to exams and assignments completed in this course: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity." (Adopted by UF student body in 1995)

Grades

Course grades are based on full class attendance and participation, ability to discuss readings, and the completion of two research projects (due at Midterm and Final). Letter grades are based on the following scale:

A	93-100;	A-	90-92		
B+	88-90;	B	83-88	B-	80-82
C+	78-80	C	73-78	C	70-72
D+	68-70	D	58-68	D-	55-57
F	55 and Below				

TEXTS and READINGS

The majority of readings will be assigned one week in advance for discussion the following week. Readings will be posted online through Canvas eLearning whenever possible. Books will be put on reserve at the library for hard-copy access and digitized whenever possible. There is one assigned book which students are required to read: Goldberger, Paul. *Why Architecture Matters*. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 2009.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The following course schedule is tentative and subject to change. Changes in the schedule and weekly readings will be announced in class. It is each student’s responsibility to remain informed of changes.

Week Date Lecture Topic

1	August 24	Course Introduction and Brain-Storming Discussion: The Changing Culture of the Built Environment and Historic Preservation
2	August 31	Architecture & Culture: Researching and Writing About Historic Architecture; Archival Research and Standards for Accessions
3	September 7	Architecture & Culture: Memorialization, Sites of Memory, Battlefields, Cemeteries, Pulse Nightclub
4	September 14	Design Movements: Hemispheric Design Migration, “Waiting for Columbus,” First Florida
5	September 21	Design Movements: Victorian Era and the Global Impact
6	September 28	Design Movements: Revivals, Neo Classicism, Neo Colonial, Post Modern
7	October 5	Architecture & Culture: Who Built America? The role of the architect, patron, contractors, tradespeople, and stewards of the built environment. Understanding the significance of high-style versus vernacular construction.
8	October 12	Architecture & Culture: Cultural Interpretations and Representations of Historic Architecture in Film, Photography, and Literature

9	October 19	MID-TERM STUDENT PRESENTATIONS – Research Project 1
10	October 26	Materials & Building Types: Residential, Suburban, Commercial
11	November 2	Materials & Building Types: Infrastructure – Roads and Bridges, Highways and Interstates, Urban Renewal/Housing Projects
12	November 9	Materials & Buildings Types: Civic/Governmental, Educational, Sacred Spaces
13	November 16	Design Movements: 20 th Century, Art Deco, Bauhaus, Modernism, Mid-Century Modern, Brutalism
14	November 23	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break
15	November 30	Architecture & Culture: 21 st Century Built Environment. New Technologies for interpreting and visualizing the historic built environment: Virtual Reality, 3-D mapping, Rome Reborn, Virtual Jamestown, Myst, Google Streetview, Worlds Columbian Exposition Project (UCLA Simulation Lab)
16	December 7	FINAL STUDENT PRESENTATIONS -- Research Project 2 (assigned buildings)