# bcn 3012: “History of Construction”

#### **3 credit hours**

#### **fall 2023**

#### **Online sections: 064G; 24E0; 09HB**

**ONLINE COURSE NUMBERS: 11546; 11547; 18315**

Instructor: Dr. R.E. Minchin Jr., PE, ALM

Rinker Hall, 3rd Floor   
e-mail: minch@ufl.edu   
Office phone: 352-273-1153

Home phone: 386-418-37891996

Office Hours: T: 9:00am – 12:00 pm, or by appointment

teaching assistant: *Sarah Jane Montgomery*

Rinker Hall, 323   
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Office phone: TBD

Cell phone: 850-896-1712

office hours: **M: 2:00-3:30 PM; R: 1:00 – 2:30PM,** or by appointment

Course Website: http://elearning.ufl.edu

Course Communications: Students may ask general questions through the discussion board, or by contacting Patrick. Patrick may be contacted via text, e-mail, or phone call. If Patrick cannot answer the question to the student’s satisfaction, students may e-mail their questions directly to Dr. Minchin, or have Patrick relay the questions. Of course students are encouraged to see Dr. Minchin and/or Patrick in their offices during their office hours, or by appointment.

Required Textbooks:

1. Building: 3,000 Years of Design, Engineering, and Construction. Bill Addis. ISBN-10: 9780714869391, Phaidon press.
2. Stepping to Hell: March 12 – April 16, 1892. Edward Minchin, unpublished.

The Addis book is out of print, but available online, through traditional websites that sell used books. A pdf of the book is available through the UF bookstore. The Minchin “book” is actually a chapter from a book Dr. Minchin is writing, and will be posted on the class website (no cost).

Materials and Supplies Fees: None

Course Description: Part 1 traces Western building technology from prehistoric man to the late 19th century. Covers the development of the art and science of building. Part 2 discusses the journey of discovery through the Everglades that led to the most amazing and impressive construction project ever built on U.S. soil. Greater even than Hoover Dam and the Transcontinental Railroad. Construction of the project is also discussed, of course.

Prerequisite courses, Knowledge and Skills: None

Course Goals and/or Objectives (Required): By the end of this course, students will. . .

• Evaluate the key characteristics of major historic buildings and construction projects throughout the world.

• Evaluate the evolution of materials and technology in a context of history and resilience principles.

• Analyze how globalization, urbanization, mass migration, and human conflict have affected modern building technology.

Instructional Methods: The course material will be presented using readings, videos, movies, and voiced-over power points. Students will read each chapter or assigned text and take an on-line quiz. Students will be expected to participate in weekly discussion forums. All the quizzes, discussions, and tests will be held online, through e-learning. The questions will be in multiple choice, true/false, and matching relationships format. The tests, that is, the questions per se, cover only the material covered since the previous exam; however, it will be assumed that the student has understood everything in the previous chapters.

## Course Policies:

Attendance Policy:  *Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:* <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Quiz/Exam DAtes/Policies: Exams and quizzes will be timed from the commencement of the exam. Closing and reentering the exam/quiz will not be permitted. Thus, it is recommended that you set aside the appropriate amount of time before commencing the exam.

Make-up Policy: You are responsible for staying on top of your coursework throughout the semester. Be aware of the closing dates of the quizzes and tests as you WILL NOT be allowed to make up quizzes if you miss the availability period.

Assignment Policy: Discussion boards will be used to promote student interaction on topics every week in the course. To promote better interaction, it is recommended that your initial post for each discussion board be made by Thursday at the middle of the week the discussion is assigned. The comments on your classmate posts for each discussion board is due by 11:59 pm on Sunday at the end of that week.

Course Technology: *This course utilizes Canvas as a repository for all course material including lecture notes, quizzes, and grades. It is the student’s responsibility to take advantage of the university resources to learn how to utilize Canvas.*

* <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>
* (352) 392-HELP - select option 2

Online course evaluation:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

## UF and General Education Policies:

writing requirements:

There is no writing requirement in this course.

verbatim objectives – Social & Behavioral sciences

Social and behavioral science courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe and explain social institutions, structures or processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions, as well as the evaluation of opinions, outcomes or human behavior. students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities (Required):

“Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc) ) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.”

University Policy on Academic Conduct: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Class Demeanor or Netiquette: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Although this is an online course, all students are expected to act as if it were a traditional course. Course communication should be civilized and respectful to everyone and relevant to the course content, material, and E-Learning system. The means of communication provided to you through E-Learning (e-mail, discussion posts, course questions, and chats) are at your full disposal to use in a respectful manner. Abuse of this system and its tools through disruptive conduct, harassment, or overall disruption of course activity will not be tolerated. Conduct that is deemed to be in violation with University rules and regulations or the Code of Student Conduct will result in a report to the Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for a conduct code infraction.

## Getting Help:

For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

* http://helpdesk.ufl.edu
* (352) 392-HELP (4357)
* Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

* Counseling and Wellness resources
* Disability resources
* Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
* Library Help Desk support

(Required) Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

### Grading Policies:

### Grading logistics

Grades for this course will be determined by a combination of quizzes, and exams. **No late assignments will be accepted.** There will be no make-up work provided, unless there is a documented medical emergency. Please keep in contact with the Course Instructor/TA through the e-Learning email system about anticipated conflicts with submitting work in a timely manner. **Flexibility is much more likely prior to submission deadlines than after the fact.**

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points. This may be achieved by including a link to the web page:

[https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/%20) .

### Grade Release

Your score for quizzes will be available immediately following your submission, however, you will not see the questions and/or answers. Your test scores will be released after the timed period is over. Again, only your score will be released. All timed assessments will release to ‘Gradebook’ after the availability period has ended.

### Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points:

* <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

### breakdown of grade components

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Assignment | Points or percentage |
| Quizzes | 10 – Total 25% |
| Tests | 4 – Total 55% |
| Discussions | 14 – Total 20% |
| Total | 100% |

**Weekly Discussion Board:**

Each week the students will be expected to comment on at least one post from the previous week. The initial posts will be between 100 to 200 words. Your comments should be meaningful and significant to hold a conversation. Comments like “good job” “I agree with Suzy”, and “great work” will not be accepted.

Grading Scale: Based on percentage of total points

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Letter Grade | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | E |
| Numeric Grade | 93-  100 | 90-  92.99 | 87-  89.99 | 83-  86.99 | 80-  82.99 | 77-  79.99 | 73-  76.99 | 70-  72.99 | 67-  69.99 | 63-  66.99 | 60-  62.99 | 0-  59.9 |
| Quality Points | 4.0 | 3.67 | 3.33 | 3.0 | 2.67 | 2.33 | 2.0 | 1.67 | 1.33 | 1.0 | 0.67 | 0.0 |

For more information, see: <http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>]

A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit.

## tentative Course Schedule:

Critical Dates: Available in course Schedule on course website.

A Weekly Schedule of Topics and ASsignments:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date** | **Assignments** | **Topic** |
| **Week 1** | **23-27 August** | **Assign: Module 1**  **Due: 3 September (I’m providing one extra week for students to get their books)** | **Introduction (Addis)** |
| **Week 2** | **28 August –**  **3 September** | **Assign: Module 2**    **Due: 10 September** | **Ch. 1 - Building and Engineering in Ancient Times: 1000 B.C. – A.D. 500** |
| **Week 3** | **4-10 September** | **Quiz #1**  **Assign: Continue Module 2**  **Due: 10 September** |  |
| **Week 4** | **11-17 September** | **Quiz #2**  **Assign: Module 3**    **Due:** **24 September** | **Ch. 2 - The Medieval Era: 500 – 1400** |
| **Week 5** | **18-24 September** | **Quiz #3**  **Assign: Continue Module 3**  **Due: 24 September** |  |
| **Week 6** | **25 September – 01 October** | **Exam 1 Available (covers through Module 3)**  **Assign: Module 4**  **Due: 08 October** | **Ch. 3 - The Renaissance: 1400 – 1630** |
| **Week 7** | **2 – 8 October** | **Quiz #4**  **Assign: Continue Module 4**  **Due: 08 October** |  |
| **Week 8** | **9-15 October** | **Quiz #5**  **Assign: Module 5**  **Due: 22 October** | **Ch. 4 - Global Trading and the Age of Reason and Enlightenment: 1630 – 1750** |
| **Week 9** | **16-22 October** | **Quiz #6**  **Assign: Continue Module 5**  **Due: 22 October** |  |
| **Week 10** | **23-29 October** | **Exam 2 Available (covers through Module 5)**  **Assign: Module 6**  **Due: 29 October** | **Ch. 5 - Engineering Becomes a Profession: 1750 – 1800** |
| **Week 11** | **30 October – November 5** | **Quiz #7**  **Assign: Module 7**  **Due: 12 November** | **Ch. 6 - The Harmony of Theory and Practice: 1800 - 1860** |
| **Week 12** | **6-12 November** | **Quiz #8**  **Assign: Continue Module 7**  **Due: 12 November** |  |
| **Week 13** | **13-19 November** | **Exam 3 Available (covers through Module 7)**  **Assign: Module 8**  **Due: 03 December** | **Book 3 - Stepping to Hell (Minchin)** |
| **Week 14** | **20-26 November** | **Quiz #9**  **Assign: Continue Module 8**  **Due: 03 December** |  |
| **Week 15** | **27 November – 03 December** | **Quiz #10**  **Assign: Continue Module 8**  **Due: 03 December** |  |
| **Week 16** | **4-6 December** | **Assign: Exam 4 Available (covers through Module 8)**  **Due: 10 December** | **Conclusion** |

Disclaimer: This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives.  As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity.  Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

Last update: 17 August 2023