HISTORY OF AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE
Spring 2017
Dr. Richard Cleary

Time and place:  Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-1:45, Sutton 2.114

Instructor contact information
Office Location: Sutton 4.122
Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:00-3:00, and by appointment
cleary@austin.utexas.edu; 471-6165

Prerequisites
Undergraduate students in the School of Architecture program must have completed ARC 318L World Architecture: Industrial Revolution to Present. Upper-division undergraduate and graduate students from other departments are welcome to enroll with the consent of the instructor.

Description
This lecture/discussion course surveys architecture in the United States from Pre-Columbian times to the present. It is arranged chronologically and thematically to consider topics such as Native American architecture, national and regional identity, and responses to rapid economic and social change. In addition to examples by celebrated architects such as Thomas Jefferson, H. H. Richardson, Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Kahn, and Charles Moore, the course examines aspects of vernacular building and modern commercial architecture. Architecture in Texas is considered within these broader contexts.

Educational Objectives
This is an intermediate-level, lecture/discussion course building on the foundation of the world architecture survey sequence. It offers frameworks for interpreting the history of architecture in the United States and opportunities for developing research and writing skills.

Texts
- Additional readings are posted on Canvas
Assignments and Evaluation

Examinations (take-home essay format)

- Take-home midterm due Tuesday, 7 March (25% of final grade)
- Take-home final due at 5:00 p.m., Monday, 15 May (25% of final grade)

Canvas Discussion Posts (10%)

For the designated classes in Weeks 3, 6, 11, and 14, respond to the discussion prompts on Canvas. Think of your posts as short essays (approximately 250-300 words) that take a position on the topic.

Books and Buildings Essay (10%)

Due Tuesday, 14 February
Books were important design sources for architects (professionals and amateurs) and builders in the 18th and 19th centuries. For this assignment, analyze the translation from a source document to a building in an essay of about three, double-spaced pages (about 750-1000 words), not including illustrations, which may include your own diagrams. More detailed instructions and a list of suggested buildings are available on Canvas.

Research paper (30% of final grade)

Proposal due Thursday, 23 March: 1-page description plus preliminary bibliography
Paper due Monday, 8 May

- Undergraduate papers: length should be approximately 7 to 10 pages (2500 words) plus illustrations, notes, and bibliography
- Graduate papers: length should be approximately 12 to 15 pages (4000 words) plus illustrations, notes, and bibliography

The research paper is an opportunity for you to conduct an inquiry in some depth on a topic related to the scope of the course. You may examine a building or a set of related buildings, aspects of the work of an architect or builder, or a thematic topic. Your topic should lend itself to a focus that allows you to go beyond surface treatments. A topic such as “the career of Frank Lloyd Wright” is too broad, but one such as “Wright and the skyscraper,” would be more manageable.

The final paper may be submitted on Canvas or as a hard copy. For reference citations, please follow the formats used by the Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians or the Chicago Manual of Style. Illustrations and diagrams should have captions. Include a bibliography of the sources you consulted.

Do not overlook journals and other periodicals in your research. The principal index for journal articles on architecture is the Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals. Many full-text articles can be found using the search engine JSTOR. Access the Avery Index and JSTOR through the database list on the UT Libraries website: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/indexes/index.php. If you are new to such reference searches, please don’t hesitate to ask me or a librarian in the Architecture and Planning Library.
Ground Rules

Attendance Policy
Regular attendance and preparation are expected. Students with more than three unexcused absences may face a penalty on the final grade. All assignments and examinations must be submitted on the due dates. Late papers may be penalized. Incompletes (X grades) will be awarded only in instances of medical or family emergencies.

Accommodation for religious holidays
University policy requires notification of the instructor at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, or other assignment in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given the opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Grading standards
“A” represents exemplary work in which the student has successfully realized his or her stated objectives in terms of content and style; “B” has broader compass in which the intentions of the assignment are met adequately but with some weakness of content or style or reticence in approach; “C” acknowledges effort but reflects serious problems in content or style; “D” and “F” reflect a fundamental lack of effort. I use plus and minus grades for both graduate students and undergraduates.

The Honor Code
The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

A note on plagiarism
Please take heed of your professional responsibilities regarding plagiarism. The work you present must be your own unless you explicitly indicate otherwise. Be attentive to your use of sources. If you copy or closely paraphrase language from a source (print or internet), you must provide a citation. If you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism or are unfamiliar with the mechanics of citations (it also is important to know when citations are not necessary) don’t hesitate to ask for assistance.

University Services for Students
Students with a documented disability (physical or cognitive) requiring academic accommodations should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities department of the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. I will do my best to work with you.

The Counseling & Mental Health Center (CMHC) located in the Student Services Building offers resources for general health and wellbeing, time management, stress management, text anxiety and other personal concerns. 471-3515, http://cmhc.utexas.edu

The University Writing Center provides individual, professional advice on all aspects of writing for UT undergraduates and graduate students on a drop-in basis or by appointment. The Center’s staff can help you with any writing assignment at any stage of development. uwc.utexas.edu
Class Schedule

Reading assignments:
Roth = Leland M. Roth, *American Architecture: A History*
(C) = pdf available on Canvas

**Week 1**
**Tuesday, 17 January: Introduction**

Thursday, 19 January: Native American Architecture
Roth, Chap. 1

**Week 2**
**Tuesday, 24 January: Spanish, French, and English Settlements**
Roth, Chap. 2

**Thursday, 26 January: Architecture in the English Colonies**
Roth, Chap. 3

**Week 3**
**Tuesday, 31 January: Architecture for a New Nation**
**Due: Discussion post on architectural practice**
Roth, Chap. 4

(C) Benjamin Henry Latrobe on the responsibilities of the architect; letter from Latrobe to Robert Mills, 12 July 1806, in Roth, *America Builds*, pp. 43-47.

**Thursday, 2 February: Visit to the Harry Ransom Center – Architecture Sourcebooks**

**Week 4**
**Tuesday, 7 February: Historicism in the 19th Century**
Roth, Chaps. 5 and 6

**Thursday, 9 February: Visit to the Neill-Cochran House**
**Week 5**

**Tuesday, 14 February: Visions of Home, Work, Reform, Utopia**

**Due: Books and Buildings Essay**


**Thursday, 16 February: Vernacular Building in 19th and Early-20th Century Texas**


**Week 6**

**Tuesday, 21 February: Richard Morris Hunt and H. H. Richardson**


**Thursday, 23 February: Adler & Sullivan**

**Due: Discussion post on Sullivan’s position on ornament**


**Week 7**

**Tuesday, 28 February: Skyscrapers**

Roth, Chap. 7, pp. 265-286


**Thursday, 2 March: American Renaissance**

Roth, Chap. 7, pp. 287-298, 317-332

Week 8
Tuesday, 7 March: Frank Lloyd Wright and the Prairie School
Due: Midterm Exam
Roth, Chap. 7, pp. 299-333

Thursday, 9 March: Progressive Architecture on the West Coast
Roth, Chap. 7, pp. 313-316

Spring Break!

Week 9
Tuesday, 21 March: Historicism in the 20th Century
Roth, Chap. 8, pp. 339-360

Thursday, 23 March: Strands of Modernism between the World Wars
Due: Research Paper Proposal
Roth, Chap. 8, pp. 360-395

Week 10
Tuesday, 28 March: Canon Fire: Who Gets to Tell the Story?
Roth, Chap. 9

Thursday, 30 March: Public Architecture and Infrastructure during the Great Depression
Roth, Chap. 8, pp. 395-405

Week 11
Tuesday, 4 April: Public Housing

Thursday, 6 April: Mid-Century Modernist Houses
Due: Discussion post on mid-century modernism
Roth, Chap. 9


Week 12
Tuesday, 11 April: Life in the Suburbs

Thursday, 13 April: Corporate Modernism

Week 13
Tuesday, 18 April: Mid-century Expressionism

Thursday, 20 April: Louis Kahn

Week 14
Tuesday, 25 April: Postmodern Classicism
Due: Discussion post on postmodernism
Roth, Chap. 10

Thursday, 27 April: Postmodern Expressionism

Week 15
Tuesday, 2 May: 21st-century Themes
Thursday, 4 May: No class – final reviews

Wrapping Up
Monday, 8 May: Research Paper Due

Friday, 15 May: Take-Home Final Examination Due at 5:00 p.m.