

ARCH 420 ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY, THEORY, CRITICISM SEMINAR

4 Units, Required Seminar Course, All Quarters

DESCRIPTION:

Special topics based on the exploration of specific approaches, periods of time, and cultural or geographic areas. Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 12 units; repeatable in same term.

4 seminars.

Prerequisites: ARCH 217, ARCH 218, ARCH 219 and 4th year standing or consent of instructor.

OBJECTIVES:

Create an opportunity for Architecture students for critical thinking and use of appropriate sources from past and contemporary Architecture. Excellence in design will be achieved by an in-depth study of Architectural heritages, advanced study of theories and appropriate social, environmental, cultural, and technological issues. The students will then learn to question and seek out appropriate answers through development of their verbal and written skills.

CONTENTS:

This course will include in-depth study of the following suggested areas within the historical context, but will not be limited to them in time.

Vernacular: Social, cultural, and environmental issues that shaped our habitats through indigenous Architecture.

Concentration of period studies: Modern/Post-Modern. Development of current Architectural design issues.

Non-Western: Sources of design from non-Western Architecture and comparative evolution between Western and non-Western viewpoints.

Preservation/Restoration: Ethical and technical issues concerning the use and re-use of historic structures and environments.

Urban: Critical analysis at the urban scale through evolution of public spaces as well as city textures.

Ethnic Environments: Comparative study on social and ethnic issues that effected the shaping of specific settlements.

Environmental Concerns: In-depth study of sustainability in buildings and settlements within a historical perspective.

REQUIREMENTS & INSTRUCTIONS:

Methods of Instruction and Evaluation:

Evaluation of short-term papers in form and content. Evolution of rational thinking and verbal and written expression of ideas, recognition of conceptual as well as the physical aspects of buildings, habitats, landscapes and artifacts in essays and examinations.

Text and References:

Variable according to specific concentration areas to be prescribed for each appropriate instructor. NA section of the Kennedy Library. Instructional Resource Center slides, books, and periodical collection in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design.