

## **FA203**

### **History of Western Architecture**

**1. Course Number and Name:** FA203, History of Western Architecture

**Prerequisites:** None

**Credits** 3

**2. Course Description:** From the Straits of Gibraltar to the shores of the Black Sea, from Stonehenge in England to the Palace of Knossos in Crete, welcome to Architectural History One.

We are going to be discussing, investigating, and analyzing the History of Western Architecture from Primitive times through the Gothic Period. But I must warn you - nothing in academia is held sacred by me; my thoughts and words are often iconoclastic. I question a lot, and hope you will, too. I believe that in academic circles that is called "critical thinking." Sometimes it is just plain curiosity. And we will often wander off our path in order to clarify a point, but we should come back together, so stay with me.

**3. Course Goals:** The learning process is sometimes one of questioning and searching for answers. So our line up of questions begins with: What is Architecture?, Why do we study Architecture?, and, lastly, Why do people build things?. We shall discuss these topics philosophically, and develop a definition of Architecture, and its elements: function, structure, and aesthetics.

**4. Course Learning Outcomes:** Students in this course will achieve the following learning indicators:

- 1) Students will trace the origins of the creative spirit, which gave rise to Primitive Architecture in the development of Western culture.
- 2) Students will evaluate early forms of construction, specifically in the lands bordering the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas, as these forms continued in the development of Western civilization.
- 3) Students will exhibit knowledge of the Architecture of the ancient Greeks, learning the basic Orders, which were to influence succeeding millennia.
- 4) Students will demonstrate understanding of Roman Architecture, specifically the development of new forms of construction, as well as civic development in lands occupied by the Romans.
- 5) Students will explain the significance of Byzantine and Early Christian Architecture, learning basic and distinctive forms of design.
- 6) Students will demonstrate knowledge of Romanesque development, particularly in the design of religious structures, which formed a basis of Western Architecture.

7) Students will perceive the development of Medieval Secular Architecture, particularly as it applied to the need for defensive structures in the development of Western civilization.

8) Students will analyze the development of Gothic Architecture in France, and its transformation of religious houses of worship. Additionally, an entire new Architectural vocabulary will be introduced.

9) Students will examine the development of Gothic Architecture in Italy and Spain, and how that growth followed and/or differed from that in France.

10) Students will demonstrate knowledge of the development of Gothic Architecture in England and Germany, and the differences in design from that which had gone before.

### **5. Course Concepts:**

1. The role of an Architect.
2. The time cessation of advanced life on Crete to Roman times.
3. The role dictators played in massive architectural undertakings.
4. The Roman "Republic."
5. Charlemagne's Chapel in Aachen.
6. Early Florentine architecture.
7. Development of Gothic Architecture
8. French and Italian architectural development in the Gothic period, and the reasons for those differences.
9. Differences between French and English Gothic architecture.
10. German Architects.

### **6. Recommended Textbook:**

*Architecture from Prehistory to Postmodernity*, Marvin Tractenberg and Isabelle Hyman, Prentice Hall/Abrams, 2002, 2nd ed., ISBN:0130918415.

Your course comes with a CD containing photographs and designs of important aspects of architecture. It is recommended but not required that you augment the text and illustrations located in your CD with the following recommended text. You are not required to purchase this text.

Chapters within this textbook correspond to the following course session: (See Syllabus)

### **7. Other Recommended Reading**

Should students desire to own an Architecture encyclopedia, then the following is recommended:

*A History of Architecture on the Comparative Method*, Sir Bannister Fletcher Charles Scribner's Sons. ISBN: 0-7506-2267-9

As quoted in Wikipedia: "...the whole point of Banister Fletcher is that it does cram everything into a single volume. It will remain one of the most thumbed tomes in Building Design's office library...above all, gloriously and frustratingly, invaluable." *Building Design*, October 1996.

You may refer to the Index, which is quite extensive; however, Santorini and Akrotiri do not appear in older editions, nor does Alberabello and its “trulli.” Finding these and other rather new “discoveries” in the latest (20<sup>th</sup>) edition (if they exist), can be a topic for class discussion.

## **8. Resources**

**See Resources in Izio.**