

Mercer County Community College

Arts and Communication Division

ARC 125

ARCHITECTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introductory course which explores the relationships between the man-made world and the natural world. Human perceptions of the physical environment are studied as they affect architectural design and human behavior. The urban environment is analyzed to understand the impact of architecture on the quality of life.

Text (s): **Reference Division Booklist**

Prerequisites:

Co-requisites: **ENG101 or higher**

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Studio/Lab Hours: 0

Food and drink are strictly prohibited in classrooms as per Health and Safety Laws. Students may not be in chemicals or cleaning fluids without the appropriate MSD sheets.

Course Coordinator: Marilyn Dietrich

Latest Review: Fall 2004

I. OBJECTIVES

- A. To develop an understanding of the relationship between the fabricated world and the world of nature.
- B. To gain a perspective of the psychological and sociological relationship between people and the complex modern, physical environment they have created.
- C. To establish a basis for the critical evaluation of the built environment from intimate private spaces to urban and suburban public settings.
- D. To establish an understanding of basic theories of architecture and to begin to formulate an approach towards an appreciation of architecture.

II. FORMAT

The course is organized around the following topics:

- psychological and practical origins for the practice of building historical roots of the man-made world;
- the human sense of place;
- the quest for unity and the need for harmony between the man-made world and nature;
- the effects of the passing of time and the notion of the inevitability of change;
- the human quest for timelessness, and
- the city as a cumulative man-made expression of our response to nature.

Lectures will present concepts and examples of each topic. Emphasis will be placed on their inter-relatedness and their consequent manifestation in the built environment.

III. REQUIREMENTS

Readings:

Readings will be assigned weekly. These will come primarily from the course text. Other readings may come from a variety of references including photocopy handouts and books available on reserve in the College Library. It is imperative to do the readings and develop a **working knowledge** of the ideas they contain, as this is critical to your success in the course.

Reference may also be made to other current lectures, books and/or videos for further research and deeper understanding of the concepts presented in the course lectures. A student may submit an evaluation of these for extra credit, subject to prior approval by the instructor.

Quizzes based on the assigned readings will be given regularly during the course.

IV. ASSIGNMENTS

Four projects will be assigned at regular intervals throughout the course. Students will be required to complete them by the due dates assigned for each. In order to protect the projects and receive proper credits, they must be submitted inside a clear-cover folder and include a cover sheet with the student's name, project name, due date, and course number.

V. FINAL PROJECT

The final project requires the thorough documentation of research on a subject approved by the instructor. Students are required to write a paper documenting their thorough research on the topic and to include thorough visual/graphic documentation. In addition, each student is required to make a 15-minute verbal and visual presentation to the class. In order to protect the project and receive proper credit, it must be submitted inside a clear-cover folder and include a cover sheet with the title of the paper, graphic/visual documentation, student's name, due date, and the course number.

VI. COURSE NOTEBOOK

Maintenance of a course notebook throughout the semester is essential to the student's success in this course. **It serves as an organized compilation of all the materials in the course and is extremely helpful in substantiating the merit of the course for transfer of credit to an architecture program at a university.** The journal should include the following:

- all notes taken in class;
- all course handouts;
- all reading assignments;
- all project assignments;
- the final project.

The course notebook should be kept in a large, sturdy, three-ring or clasp-type binder. All work should be done on 8 ½ x 11 paper (or folded down to it). Ragged edge or torn-out pages are not acceptable. All work should be neat, clean, and show some concern for visual organization. Use of your natural drawing skills is preferred whenever and wherever possible. Use of a camera is an option, but **sketching is preferred**.

VII. EVALUATION

The final grade for the course will be calculated based on the following:

- quizzes on assigned readings;
- assignments;
- the final project;
- attendance, class participation, and professionalism.

The final grade is based on the following percentages:

• Quizzes on assigned readings	20%
• Assigned projects (4 @ 10%)	40%
• The final project	20%
• Attendance/participation/professionalism	<u>20%</u>
Final grade for the course	100%