

Pre-approved courses for the Architectural Studies Minor

Note: Courses *not* included below may qualify for approval if they address aspects of the built environment and allow you to study the built environment in your assignments. Ask the Architectural Studies advisor Katherine Taylor (k-taylor@uchicago.edu) whether a specific course qualifies.

2018-2019 Academic Year

Autumn 2018

ARTH 24190. Imagining Chicago's Common Buildings. L. Joyner

This class is an architectural studio based in the common residential buildings of Chicago and the city's built environment. While design projects and architectural skills will be the focus of the class, it will also incorporate readings, a small amount of writing, some social and geographical history, and several explorations around Chicago. The studio will: (1) give students interested in pursuing architecture or the study of cities experience with a studio class and some skills related to architectural thinking, (2) acquaint students intimately with Chicago's common residential buildings and built fabric, and (3) situate all this within a context of social thought about residential architecture, common buildings, housing, and the city. Please note: the class has required meetings on both Tuesdays (5-6:20) and Fridays (2:30-5:50, with a break) beginning on Tuesday October 2nd.

Note(s): Consent is required to enroll in this class. Interested students should email the instructor (Luke Joyner, lukejoy@uchicago.edu) to briefly explain their interest and any previous experience with the course topics.

ARTH 27420. Modernist Architecture on Campus. K. Taylor

How have universities brought modern architecture into campuses designed in traditional architectural styles, whether classical or medieval? How have they balanced architecture's capacity to exemplify a consistent institutional image and to symbolize innovative leadership? Can the two be integrated, whether in single new buildings, renovations of old buildings, or groupings of old and new? What effect do new building materials, methods, and technologies, as well as new purposes for buildings, have on these questions? While acknowledging other institutions, the course will focus on our own campus history, examining varied approaches to updating our collegiate Gothic campus architecture and layout from the construction of Levi Hall (the Administration Building) in the 1940s to the present. We will analyze buildings and campus plans in relation to the abundant and largely unstudied drawings and related building documents at Special Collections, and work together to interpret the histories we produce in the context of the broader, changeful history of modernist architecture and its debates. Our work will lay the foundation for a future architectural exhibition.

ARTH 29410. Dimensions of Citizenship: The Venice Architecture Biennale 2018. N. Atkinson

In conjunction with the US pavilion at the 2018 Venice Architecture Biennale - co-commissioned by the University of Chicago and co-curated by Professor Niall Atkinson - this Gold Gorvy

Traveling Seminar will explore the multiple relationships between architecture and citizenship both in contemporary practice and in historical perspective. The course will be centered around the pavilion's theme of architecture and citizenship at seven spatial scales: Citizen, Civic, Region, Nation, Globe, Network, Cosmos. Through these scales, students will engage critically with the works of participating artists, architects, and designers, works that address the spatial dimensions of belonging in contemporary society. Students will also explore the historical dimensions citizenship through Venice's complex history as a globally connected maritime empire that incorporated multiple linguistic, ethnic, and religious communities. Finally, the seminar will take account of the politics of national display at the root of the biennale itself and the relationship between historical and contemporary spatial experiences of citizenship and rights of abode, belonging and exile, migration and refuge, and the design of liminal spaces such as ships, ports of entry, quarantine centers, and ghettos as places of agonistic cultural exchange.

Note(s): This is a traveling seminar; the course in its entirety will be taught Sept 4-25 in Venice. Registration is limited and by instructor consent only.

ENST 27155. Urban Design with Nature. S Shaikh and E Talen

This course will use the Chicago region as a laboratory for evaluating the social, environmental, and economic effects of alternative forms of human settlement. Students will be introduced to the basics of geographic information systems (GIS) and use GIS to map Chicago's "place types" - human habitats that vary along an urban-to-rural transect, as well as the ecosystem services provided by the types. They will then evaluate these place types using a range of social, economic and environmental criteria. In this way, students will evaluate the region's potential to simultaneously realize economic potential, protect environmental health, and provide social connectivity.

Note(s): Students who have taken ENST 27150: Urban Design with Nature: Assessing Social and Natural Realms in the Calumet Region in the Spring of 2018 may not enroll in this course.

GEOG 21900. Historical Geography of the United States. M. Conzen

This course examines the spatial dynamics of empire, the frontier, regional development, the social character of settlement patterns, and the evolution of the cultural landscapes of America from pre-European times to 1900. All-day northern Illinois field trip required.

GEOG 42400. Urban Landscapes as Social Text. M. Conzen

The course has two components, running early on in parallel. First, a sequence of interdisciplinary common reading in and discussion of some classic texts concerned with analyzing urban landscapes broadly defined, and, second, the pursuit by each student of an individual research project related in some way to the general theme. Seminar discussion during the first five weeks is devoted largely to the readings – to provide a common knowledge base – while at the same time students begin thinking about formulating and launching their own paper

topics. During the second half of the course, discussion switches to the progress made on the individual research projects, complete with semi-formal presentations and a final wrap-up session, usually involving a PowerPoint presentation. Then a final seminar paper is handed in during finals week. Any topic is welcome that ties in with the concept of urban landscape in any of its meanings, and all plausible theoretical and methodological approaches are encouraged. Topics may focus on cases in any part of the urbanized world and in any cultural context. The resulting diversity of topics is a major source of interest in and inspirational benefit of the seminar. The seminar is suitable for those wishing to explore an intellectual research problem in a critical but supportive environment, in which the application of theory to an empirical test is roundly discussed. Students can use the seminar either to launch a MA paper topic [*], lay the groundwork for a dissertation proposal, or simply as a one-off occasion to examine something of present scholarly interest to her or him. [*] undergrads permitted in the seminar have used the seminar to test out or advance their B.A. thesis research.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of instructor for undergraduates

HIST 29673. History Colloquium: The Politics of Housing. D. Jenkins

This course examines the struggle of Americans to find and access housing from the first Gilded Age of the late nineteenth century to the Gilded Age of the present. Conceptualizing housing as more than a place where people live, we address the ways in which shelter is bound up with race, gender, labor, law, consumption, and immigration. Topics include company towns, homelessness, redlining, public housing, suburbanization, and gentrification. This course exposes students to the methodologies of writing history (social, architectural, intellectual, cultural, and political economy). We will also engage with historical documents such as maps, magazines, census records, congressional documents, rental listings, music, and films. Students will be expected to conduct original research and produce a fifteen- to twenty-page research paper.

Prerequisite(s): Priority registration is given to History majors

NEAA 26710. Ancient Landscapes I. A Lauricella

This is a two-course sequence that introduces students to theory and method in landscape studies and the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to analyze archaeological, anthropological, historical, and environmental data. Course one covers the theoretical and methodological background necessary to understand spatial approaches to landscape and the fundamentals of using ESRI's ArcGIS software, and further guides students in developing a research proposal. Course two covers more advanced GIS-based analysis (using vector, raster, and satellite remote sensing data) and guides students in carrying out their own spatial research project. In both courses, techniques are introduced through the discussion of case studies (focused on the archaeology of the Middle East) and through demonstration of software skills. During supervised laboratory times, the various techniques and analyses covered will be applied to sample archaeological data and also to data from a region/topic chosen by the student.

Note: While the bulk of the readings and case studies are focused on archaeology the approaches and methods could be useful for students studying the built environment and its place in the bigger landscape. In past years students have written papers on both ancient and modern urban environments, and on analyses of interior spaces.

Winter 2019

ARTH 22405. Perspective: Rhetoric & Poetics. K. Taylor & J. Snyder

By reading classic texts and analyzing works of art deploying linear perspective, from paintings to the built environment and photography, this course will examine ways that perspectival projection functions as a poetics –as a purportedly coherent system of organizing form – and as a rhetoric – as a means of persuading viewers of perspectively-informed works of art to perceive them in particular terms. To this end, it will necessarily also consider the history of the rise and uses of perspective, and place texts and works of art within that history.

Prerequisite(s): At least 1 previous art history course.

ARTH 28002. Islamic Art and Architecture of the Medieval Perso-Turkic Courts. P. Berlekamp

This course considers art and architecture patronized by the Seljuk, Mongol, and Timurid courts from Anatolia to Central Asia from the eleventh to the fifteenth centuries. While the princes of these courts were of Turkic and/or Mongol origin, they adopted many of the cultural and artistic expectations of Perso-Islamicate court life. Further, many objects and monuments patronized by these courts belong to artistic histories variously shared with non-Islamic powers from the Byzantine Empire to China. Questions of how modern scholars have approached and categorized the arts and architecture of these courts will receive particular attention. Each student will write a historiographic review essay with a research component.

GEOG 22100. Changing America in the Last 100 Years. M. Conzen

This course explores the regional organization of U.S. society and its economy during the pivotal twentieth century, emphasizing the shifting dynamics that explain the spatial distribution of people, resources, economic activity, human settlement patterns, and mobility. We put special focus on the regional restructuring of industry and services, transportation, city growth, and cultural consumption. Two-day weekend field trip to the Mississippi River required.

NEAA 26711. Ancient Landscapes II. A Lauricella

This is a two-course sequence that introduces students to theory and method in landscape studies and the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to analyze archaeological, anthropological, historical, and environmental data. Course one covers the theoretical and methodological background necessary to understand spatial approaches to landscape and the fundamentals of using ESRI's ArcGIS software, and further guides students in developing a research proposal. Course two covers more advanced GIS-based analysis (using vector, raster, and satellite remote sensing data) and guides students in carrying out their own spatial research project. In both courses, techniques are introduced through the discussion of case studies

(focused on the archaeology of the Middle East) and through demonstration of software skills. During supervised laboratory times, the various techniques and analyses covered will be applied to sample archaeological data and also to data from a region/topic chosen by the student.

Prerequisite(s): NEAA 20061

TAPS 28000. Scenic Design. K Boetcher

This course is an exploration of various forms and processes of designing sets for theatrical performance. We pay particular attention to a cohesive reading of a text, contextual and historical exploration, and visual and thematic research, as well as the documentation needed to complete a show (e.g., model, drafting, paint elevations). We also explore, nominally, the history of stage design and look at major trends in modern stage design.

Spring 2019

ARTH 20700. Understanding the Built Environment. N. Atkinson

This course aims to equip students with the basic skills and knowledge required to analyze architecture and the urban environment. It offers an introduction to the methods and procedures of the architectural historian. These include practical tasks such as understanding architectural terminology, reading and interpreting architectural drawings, engaging with buildings 'on site', and studying buildings in context through urban design issues, such as street networks and public spaces. At a broader level, the course will involve critical discussions about the relationship between architecture and society, the building as a historical object, cultural representations of architecture, and modes of perceiving/experiencing the built environment. The course will operate through a combination of in-class seminars and site visits to buildings in Chicago. **This course is specifically geared to introducing the fundamentals of architectural history to those undergraduate students seeking a minor in architectural studies.** However, MA and PhD students in other fields are welcome to register.

ARTH 24170. Research the Chicago Cityscape. K. Taylor

This course has three goals: (1) To support artist Theaster Gates's renovations of South Side Chicago buildings for civic uses with student research on the architectural and social history of prospective buildings and their environs. The Stony Island Arts Bank and the Arts Incubator at the University are examples of Gates's work: <https://rebuild-foundation.org/> (2) To develop research skills, which can be adapted to other built environments. (3) To develop an understanding of Chicago's built environment and its social history. We meet twice a week, once to discuss common readings and once for a longer session to enable field trips (a tour of Gates's area; visits to research archives) and collaborative research work among students. Students will work together to produce historical reports. Permission of instructor required. Please send an email explaining your interest in the course and any relevant background experience (e.g., previous course work in architectural or urban history, urban problems, or experience with any aspect of the built environment or Chicago history). Although the course does not require significant background, ideally it will include students with diverse pockets of expertise.

Note(s): Permission of instructor required.

ARTH 26790. A Curating Case-Study: The Hut. D. Roelstraete

This course - part curatorial practice, part art theory - will be taught in tandem with an exhibition titled "The Hut", opening at the Neubauer Collegium gallery in the spring of 2019. We will be using this exhibition project, originally conceived for the 2018 Venice architecture biennial, as a framework, test site and occasional hut-sized classroom for hands-on curatorial exercises as much as artistic and philosophical debate. Both seminar and exhibition center on three philosophers' huts; these act as platforms to discuss a wide range of issues pertaining to modern and contemporary art debates: Ludwig Wittgenstein's hut in Norway, Martin Heidegger's hut in the Black Forest, and a Ian Hamilton Finlay sculpture titled "Adorno's Hut" (after Theodor Adorno). The course will map the relationships between these three philosophers and the shadows they cast across 20th century aesthetics and art theory, as well as consider topics related to escape and escapism, exile and retreat, habitation and homelessness, as seen through the prism of architecturally inflected contemporary art practices. The seminar's bibliography will be shaped in large part by readings of said philosophers. We will also be studying artworks, meeting artists and visiting exhibitions and sites of architectural interest. A final project, consisting of writing & construction work, will seek to expand the scope of philosophical architecture and building philosophy.

HIST 29675. History Colloquium: Urban History. A. Lippert

According to Hank V. Savitch and Paul Kantor, "cities are the crucibles through which radical experiments become convention. They are concentrated environments in which people adapt and their resilience is tested. They are the world's incubators of innovation-made possible by critical mass, diversity, and rich interaction." This undergraduate research colloquium will explore American cities and their influence on United States history, with an emphasis on the nineteenth century. We will discuss a range of secondary historical monographs and will examine primary sources, including print culture, material objects, images, architecture, and the built environment. Requirements include careful reading, active and thoughtful participation, and a fifteen-page work of original research that will be presented in class.

Prerequisite(s): Priority registration is given to History majors; consent of instructor

CLCV 26618. Cities and Urban Space in the Ancient World. M. Andrews

Cities have been features in human landscapes for nearly six thousand years. This course will explore how cities became such a dominant feature of settlement patterns in the ancient Mediterranean and Near East, ca. 4,000 BCE-350 CE. Was there an "Urban Revolution," and how did it start? What various physical forms did cities assume, and why did cities physically differ (or not) from each other? What functions did cities have in different cultures of the past, and what cultural value did "urban" life have? How do past perspectives on cities compare with contemporary ones? Working thematically and using theoretical and comparative approaches, this course will address various aspects of ancient urban space and its occupation, with each topic backed up by in-depth analysis of concrete case studies.

TAPS 24500. Chicago Theater: Budgets and Buildings. H. Coleman.

This course examines the current state of Chicago theater, focusing on the relationships between facilities, budgets, and missions. Field trips required to venues including Side Project, Timeline, Raven, Steppenwolf, Theater Building, and Greenhouse.

ARTV 26205. Big Art - Little Art. 100 Units. T. Gates

Over the last 5 decades, art movements and people and policies that shape them have undergone considerable change. From performance practices, to the advent of place making initiatives, to large public works designed by architects and artists teams, the role artists play within the cultural/sculptural sphere continues to expand. This seminar/workshop will look closely at archival documents, artist writings and theory that have helped to shape our understanding of public art, public artists and public policy. Field trips required.

Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200 or 10300