



a HISTORY of ARCHITECTURE: PREHISTORY to 1750

Premise: This course is the first part of a three-semester sequence overviewing the global history and theory of architecture and urbanism. This semester explores the major buildings, building cultures, and architectural ideas from around 10,000 BCE to around 1750 CE.

Method, Content, + Organization: The material in this course will be presented through lectures two days a week and small group discussion-workshops on Friday mornings. The workshops will be led by peer Communication Consultants. Assigned readings will correspond to the weekly lecture and discussion topics.

This course is divided into four segments addressing:

- (1) traditional building cultures around the Mediterranean considered the antecedents of western architectural traditions,
- (2) other traditional building cultures around the world,
- (3) western medieval architecture and urbanism, and
- (4) western renaissance and baroque architecture and urbanism.

Objectives: The primary goals of this course are for students

- (1) to practice looking closely at and analyzing architecture and cities;
- (2) to understand the formal and spatial characteristics that distinguish the structures of distinct building cultures and periods;
- (3) to understand the social, political, economic, religious, and other forces that have influenced the history of architecture;
- (4) to understand the ways in which the western tradition has influenced, and been influenced by, other building cultures; and
- (5) to acquire the ability to express ideas about architecture and cities in writing.

Assignments + Assessment: Each segment of the course will be followed by a test that includes image identifications, vocabulary, multiple-choice questions, and/or a short essay. In addition, students will complete a series of written assignments meant to hone critical thinking and analytical abilities through focused examination of historic architecture. These assignments will explore primary and secondary sources and focus on description/analysis, comparison/contrast, and argument development.