

COURSE OUTLINE

ARTT-106

History of Western Architecture I

3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

An examination of the development of Western architectural styles from the ancient world through the late Middle Ages. Parallel developments in the Eastern world will also be considered. Architectural design and city planning are studied as responses to religious, political, economic, and cultural needs, as well as for an understanding of their structural principles. (3 hours weekly)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon successfully completing this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the terminology, conventions, methodology, and assumptions of art historical investigation.
2. Explain the general elements of design and design concepts particular to architecture, landscape architecture, and city planning.
3. Identify verbally and in writing the names and chronology of the major civilizations or movements that have influenced the evolution of Western architecture from the ancient world through the late Middle Ages.
4. Identify the major monuments and the major artists of the different styles of architecture.
5. Explain how the general historical context influenced the art of each period.
6. Identify the specific characteristics of different architectural styles and make reasoned judgements about the stylistic influences evident in unfamiliar architectural structures.
7. Make reasoned arguments regarding the links between cultural values and architecture style.
8. Write and speak coherently about the art of architecture.
9. Make critical judgements about quality in architecture.

Major Topics

- I. The Ancient World
 - A. Megalithic monuments of the Neolithic period
 - B. Ancient Egypt: mastabas, pyramids, and temples
 - C. Ancient Near East: ziggurats, temples, palaces, and fortified cities
 - D. Minoan and Mycenaean architecture

- II. Ancient Greece
 - A. Greek Architectural Orders
 - B. Hellenic architecture through the 5th century b.c.
 - C. Greek city planning and secular buildings
 - D. Hellenistic architecture

- III. Etruria and Rome
 - A. Etruscan temples and tombs
 - B. Roman structural systems and innovations: arches, barrel and groin vaults, domes, and concrete
 - C. Temples
 - D. Public architecture and city planning: forums, basilicas, arenas, theatres, aqueducts, and circuses
 - E. Domestic architecture

- IV. Early Christian and Byzantine Architecture
 - A. Catacombs and tombs
 - B. The Christian basilica
 - C. Central plan churches and mausoleums
 - D. Byzantine churches and architectural decoration

- V. Early Medieval and Romanesque Architecture
 - A. Carolingian architecture
 - B. Monastic communities
 - C. Early Burgundian Romanesque architecture
 - D. The High Romanesque period in France
 - E. Italian, German, and Norman Romanesque Styles
 - F. Islamic architecture and its influence in the West

- VI. Gothic Architecture
 - A. Structural systems: pointed arches, ribbed vaults, flying buttresses, and glass
 - B. Development of the early Gothic in the Île de France
 - C. The High Gothic in France
 - D. Early, Curvilinear, and Perpendicular Gothic styles in England
 - E. The Gothic in Italy and Germany
 - F. Medieval town planning and secular architecture

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member and will include specified reading assignments and written exams.

Other Course Information

This course is a Fine Arts, Humanities, and Arts and Sciences elective.