New Course Request

School/Division: School of the Arts-Visual Arts

Course Number: A408

Course Title: Topics in the History of Architecture and Urbanism

Credit Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from ________ to ________

Presentation format: Topics may vary widely from Greek Temples, Medieval Cathedrals, the American Home, the Skyscraper or the work of a particular architect.

Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 2.5 or Variable from ________ to ________

Non-Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 0 or Variable from ________ to ________

Estimated enrollment: 15-20, of which 0 percent are expected to be graduate students.

Frequency of scheduling: every other year

Will this course be required for majors? No

Architecture as subject of seminar and research at 400-level

Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? Yes

Submitted by: Karrin Achtert  Date 11/8/05  Department Chairman/Division Director

Approved by:  Date 2.10.06  Dean

Dean of Graduate School (when required)  Date  

University Enrollment Services

After School/Division approval, forward the last copy (without attachments) to University Enrollment Services for initial processing, and the remaining four copies and attachments to the Campus Chancellor or Vice-President.
New Course Proposal

FINA- A400-level –Topics in the History of Architecture and Urbanism

This Variable Title course is intended for the exploration of more specialized topics in the history of architecture and urbanism in combined lectures, seminar and class presentation format. The attached syllabus is only one example of a possible topic. Other topics could include:
- The Prairie Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright.
- The American Home
- Vernacular Architecture
- The Architecture of the Suburbs
- Twentieth Century Architecture
- The Skyscraper
- The Greek Temple
- Medieval Cathedrals.

At the 400-level, students will be expected to conduct research on a selected topic, to write a paper and to make an extensive report to the class.
FINA – A400 level: Topics in Architecture History: The Townhouse of the Atlantic Rim and its furnishings.
Prof. Micheline Nilsen

From Georgian England to Art Nouveau Brussels (1730-1900), this course examines the development of the town house as an architectural form as well as the material culture of its decorative elements, its furniture, and furnishings. From the increasing practice of speculation for building row houses in London, or the American cities of Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Boston and Second Empire Paris to the custom designs of Victor Horta for wealthy Brussels patrons, the emphasis is on the type of living environments created to meet specific and varying social needs in changing political, economic and cultural contexts. From the Adam Brothers to Horta, the work of designers who integrated interiors which defined stylistic movements into the structures they constructed encompasses both design and architecture. The examination of features such as the hierarchy of finishes between the private and public spaces of townhouses encourages questions not only on how the townhouse spaces were designed but also on how they were used. The course also considers how the original use of spaces evolved with social fluctuations in housing conditions such as ethnic migrations or gentrification.

Grade breakdown
-5%-glossary (illustrated) / journal of observations, see below
-15%-leading reading discussion
-30%-paper/ research project
-20%-presentation
-15%-exam
-10%-attendance & class participation
-5%-field trip attendance
= 100%

Format of Assignments
All written assignments (except journal / glossary) are to be typed on 8 1/2 x 11 paper. They need to include a cover sheet. All sources, including web sites are to be cited and included in the bibliography.

Schedule of Classes

Week 1
-Define Townhouse
-Vernacular origins, early construction techniques
(begin glossary)
Assignment: Describe your own archetypal house, i.e. what comes to mind when you hear "house." Make drawing. [One-two page(s), not graded, no credit if now handed in.] Due next class.
Schedule field trips: (see below)
Week 2
- English precedents:
  - speculation and terrace housing, building techniques (low end)
  - Adams Brothers (high end)
  - later developments
Kelsall "The London House Plan in the Later Seventeenth Century."
Assignment: term project handed out. Research one specific townhouse
structure.

Week 3
- Local variations
- Continental variations:
  - low countries
  - French
    - 18thc hotels
Discussion: Stillman, Cruickshank & Kelsall

Week 4
Paris - -pre- and post Haussmann
Reading: Choay: Nineteenth Century Urbanism (excerpt)

Week 5
Connections Old and New World (mostly Britain -US)
Crossing the Atlantic
Readings:
Legacy
Henry Glassie, Eighteenth-Century Cultural Process in Delaware Valley
Folk Building
Assignment: term project selected and research plan handed in
Neighborhood walk

Week 6
Philadelphia & Baltimore
Discussion: Vlach and Glassie
Readings:
Murtagh, The Philadelphia Row House, JSAH XVI, 4 (8-13)
Hayward, "Urban Vernacular Architecture in Nineteenth-Century
Library Instruction session

Week 7
Boston and New York
Discussion: Murtagh and Hayward
Readings:
Blackmar, Manhattan for Rent. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1988)
Stansell, Christine. City of Women. Sex and Class in New York, 1789-
Assignment: Draft due

Week 8  Continue New York

Week 9  Chicago
Furnishings, Colonial to elite status goods

Week 10  Field Trips: visits to local houses.

Week 11  Arts and Crafts (mostly furnishings)
Art Nouveau - Victor Horta (total vision)
Discussion: Stansel, Blackmar

Week 12  Modern Design.
Reading: Pevsner, Pioneers of Modern Design.

Week 13  Adjustments (additions, subdivision, decay, gentrification, etc)
New Horizons (townhouses replacing projects)
Readings:
Elizabeth Collins Cromley, "Modernizing: Or, 'You Never See a Screen Door on Affluent Homes."
Assignment: Paper due
Exam essay question handed out

Field trip to Chicago. (See separate handout)

Week 14  Summary lecture
Discussion Cromley, Gorlin
Begin Presentations: 15-20 minutes each
Assignment: hand in glossary notebook

Week 15  Presentations: 15-20 minutes each (8)

EXAM: Essay to be written in class in blue book from question handed out
during week 13. No notes, outlines or open book.

Glossary/Journal
- Compile a glossary of the architectural terminology you come across in your readings,
research and class lecture, make sketches to jog your visual memory. This glossary can then be used in your class project and presentation.

- Keep a journal of your personal observations, reflections, sketches related to the class topic which you encounter during the duration of the class. This may include your research notes but **NOT** your class notes, nor your reading notes (although personal reflections on readings are OK). This may be hand-written and handed in as a notebook or as sheets of paper gathered in a folder or binder. Can reveal the messiness of work-in-progress but should be legible.

**Field Trips:**

*Compulsory*
- Neighborhood walk
- Visit to South Bend homes under Historic Preservation protection. Examination of rehabilitation projects.
- Field trip to Chicago.

To obtain credit for a missed compulsory field trip, a written report of your own visit to an agreed upon site will be accepted as a substitute for attendance. An itinerary will be provided for self-guided visits.

*Optional*
- Informal introduction to research resources on University of Notre Dame campus
- Visit to Northern Indiana Center for History.