



## Modern Architecture from 1851 to the Present Course Descriptor

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Course Title	Modern Architecture from 1851 to the Present	Faculty	Art History
Course Code	NCHAH624	Course Leader	Dr Gregorio Astengo
Credit Points	30	Teaching Period	Michaelmas & Hilary
FHEQ Level	Level 6	Date Approved	June 2020
Compulsory/ Optional	Compulsory		
Pre-requisites	None		
Co-requisites	None		

### COURSE SUMMARY

This course will explore the development of modern architecture from the mid-19th century to the present day. Lectures will trace the chronologies, key architects, movements and buildings which have shaped our current understanding of the Modern in architecture. Through an array of media, such as architectural drawings, primary writings, historiographies, photographs and buildings, the course will seek to establish the historical basis and critical tools to understand architecture as the complex result of social, cultural, artistic and economic conditions.

This survey of modern and contemporary architecture chiefly looks at key buildings, urban projects and landscapes from 1851 to the present, with a focus on Europe and North America. Lectures in the first half of the course will chart the mounting tensions between industry and craft in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the rejection of historicist eclecticism, and the search for a new language culminating in the emergence of the International Style. The second half will consider the diversification and regionalisation of modernism in different global contexts after the Second World War, and the various attempts to critique, extend or reform modernism after the 1960s, to the current conditions of architecture as an object of digitisation and consumption.

Charting the growing tensions between internationalism and regionalism, between the 'global' and the 'local', this course will investigate the geographical and geopolitical dynamics of modern architectural culture from the advent of modern industrialisation. Questions of manufacture, as well as consequent issues of style, identity, meaning and function will help in understanding the agency of architectural discourses as both globally situated and locally perceived. In turn, this will shape a methodological framework to discuss architecture, made of primary materials, key historiographies and critical approaches to study the built environment.

Alongside lectures and seminars, the course makes use of site visits to understand architecture. Examining themes such as Neo-Gothic, Rationalism and Brutalism, these visits will offer the opportunity to experience architectural space and to consider buildings as primary sources in themselves. Drawing on the discussions developed in class and during visits, students will be invited to develop their own critical thinking about buildings and architecture through a set of analytical exercises and research tasks.

### **COURSE AIMS**

The course aims to:

- Offer a concise, yet wide-ranging, overview of architects, buildings, and ideas on architecture in the West during the last 150 years.
- Consider historiographical sources and strategies to develop a critical methodology for architectural history, made of subject matter and interpretative approaches.
- Build a coherent, albeit inevitably synthetic, 'toolkit' to observe, locate, understand and appreciate architecture, going beyond the themes investigated in class and in part applicable to other geographies and histories.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

#### **KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING**

- K1c demonstrate an overall knowledge of the chief architects, architectural ideas and buildings shaping our current understanding of 'modern architecture'
- K2c communicate sustained arguments on the wider artistic, social and political contexts in which architecture is embedded

#### **SUBJECT SPECIFIC SKILLS**

- S1c demonstrate a basic vocabulary specific to architecture (e.g. building components, styles and trends, technology) and construct arguments about current architectural discourses (e.g. formal tendencies, conditions of architectural practices, technological applications) supported by visual, textual or other evidence as appropriate
- S2c set buildings within their appropriate historical, intellectual and cultural contexts
- S3c evaluate different methodologies for studying architectural history and adopt them in research and writing

#### **TRANSFERABLE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

- T2c successfully develop arguments on the meaning of 'modernity' as applied to architecture, as well as other cultural, professional and social categories
- T3c work independently with some support, meeting published deadlines

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

Teaching and learning strategies for this course will include:

- 27 hours of full-cohort lectures
- 8 hours of group tutorials
- 4 hours of one-to-one tutorials per student

Course information and supplementary materials are available on the College's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

At the end of Michaelmas and Hilary, students will attend Collections (formal meetings) in which they receive comprehensive and collated feedback about their performance over the term.

Students are required to attend and participate in all the formal and timetabled sessions for this course. Students are also expected to manage their directed learning and independent study in support of the course.

## EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

- Students develop an ability to analyse the material and formal qualities of buildings using specialist language.
- The preparation and delivery of oral presentations as part of the formative assessment process will train students in public speaking and communication
- Students will develop their critical thinking and architectural research skills.

## ASSESSMENT

### FORMATIVE

Students will be formatively assessed during the course by means of set assignments. These do not count towards the end of year results, but will provide students with developmental feedback on how to improve writing and essay structure, critical analysis and interpretation of works of art, and how to employ primary sources and comparative material.

### SUMMATIVE

Assessment will be in two forms:

AE:	Assessment Activity	Weighting (%)	Online submission	Duration	Length
1	Written Assignment	40%	Yes	N/A	1500
2	Written Assignment	60%	Yes	N/A	2000

The written assignments will be assessed in accordance with the assessment aims set out in the Programme Specification.

## FEEDBACK

Students will receive formal feedback in a variety of ways: written (including via email correspondence); oral (within one-to-one tutorials or on an *ad hoc* basis) and indirectly

through discussion during group tutorials. Students will also attend the formal meeting, Collections, at the end of Michaelmas and Hilary terms in which they will receive constructive and developmental feedback on their term's performance.

Feedback is provided on written assignments (including essays, briefings and reports) and through generic internal examiners' reports, both of which are posted on the College's VLE.

### INDICATIVE READING

Note: Comprehensive and current reading lists for courses are produced annually in the Course Syllabus or other documentation provided to students; the indicative reading list provided below is used as part of the approval/modification process only.

#### BOOKS

Ballantyne, A. (2002). *Architecture. A very short introduction*, Oxford University Press

Benevolo, L. (1977). *History of Modern Architecture*, MIT Press

Curtis, W. (1982). *Modern Architecture Since 1900*, London: Phaidon

Davies, C. (2017). *A New History of Modern Architecture*, London: Laurence King

Forty, A. (2004). *Words and Buildings: a Vocabulary of Modern Architecture*, London: Thames and Hudson

Frampton, K. (1980). *Modern Architecture: a Critical History*, London: Thames and Hudson

Fraser, M. (ed.) (2019). *Sir Banister Fletcher's Global History of Architecture*, London: Bloomsbury

Hitchcock, H.-R. (1958). *Architecture: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*, London: Penguin

Tafuri, M., Dal Co, F. (1987). *Modern Architecture*, 2 vols. New York: Electa/Rizzoli

Zevi, B. (1978). *The Modern Language of Architecture*, University of Washington Press

### INDICATIVE TOPICS

Students will study the following topics:

- The Industrial Landscape and the Origins of Modern Architecture
- The Arts & Crafts and Crafts Movement in Britain and beyond
- National Romanticism and the Classical Tradition
- Functionalism and the Emergence of the so-called International Style
- Regional Identity and new ideas of nature in the Machine Age
- Toward a new Monumentality, Primitivism and Symbolism after the war
- Other Modernisms and the Encounter with Non-European Cultures
- Contextualism, pluralism and intellectualism in the sixties and seventies
- The Fetishization of Technology
- Into the Twenty-First Century: Architectural Millenarianism

- The Contemporary Horizons of Modern Architecture
  - International Biennials and Triennials of Architecture
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1.0	June 2020	June 2020	Susan Green	1. Academic Handbook > Course Descriptors 2. VLE	April 2025
<b>Modifications (As per AQF4)</b>					
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