

Spring 2023 Electives List

Course descriptions are included as they are made available. Questions about specific courses should be directed to the faculty who teach the courses. Questions about how courses apply to a specific degree plan should be directed to the College's academic advisors.

History, Theory, and Criticism (HTC) Electives

These courses will fulfill the Architecture History Elective requirement, and where designated, may fulfill other degree requirements. Some courses are offered through the College of the Arts. For these, priority enrollment is given to College of the Arts students who have met the necessary prerequisites.

ARCH 3342/6342

The Shape of the City

Drexel Turner

MW 10–11.30am

Elective Type: Architecture History Elective, Architecture Elective, OR Interdisciplinary Elective

This course will provide detailed information about how American cities and towns look and work. In most cases, the articles and books we will read are written by non-native observers who have lived in the places they describe for extended periods. More often than not, they are “inexpert” witnesses with an uncanny ability to see things as they really are simply by bringing a fresh pair of eyes and an acute critical sensibility to bear on places whose virtues and vicissitudes are often hidden in plain sight. Readings and in-class discussion will typically include the equivalent of two long-form articles or several chapters from a book for each class.

ARCH 3347/6347

Evolution of Architectural Interiors

James B. Thomas

M 6–9pm

Elective Type: Architecture History Elective, Architecture Elective, or Interdisciplinary Elective

This course follows the development of interior architecture through history and how this history is applied to current practice. Students study the broad history of Western interior architecture emphasizing 18th through 20th-century interiors and their influences on current practice. This involves: lectures by Houston interior architects; visits to both residential and institutional projects, with their designers; selected films; projects challenging the students ability to relate to history; investigating the role of nature or biophilia in design; the study of color and pattern usage, and lectures and visits to the Bayou Bend Collection of Decorative Arts, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

ARCH 3311/6311/INAR 3311—Topics in Design History

Cold War Visual Culture

Seçil Binboga

Th 1–4pm

Elective Type: Architecture History Elective, Architecture Research Elective, Architecture Elective, or Interdisciplinary Elective

This seminar offers an inquiry into the transdisciplinary field of visual culture, at the intersection of art, architecture, and design. With a focus on the changing paradigms of seeing during the global Cold War, the course centers on two main questions: “what do we see?” and “how do we see?” To answer these

questions, students will engage with fundamental theories of visual culture, while working on research into and visual analysis of a wide variety of media, including photographs, drawings, films, paintings, and posters. In so doing, the course offers a hands-on study of a complex web of imagery, image-making techniques & technologies, image makers, and recipients.

ARCH 3311/6311—Topics in Design History
Developing Informed Architectural Languages

Tom Diehl

TuTh 11.30am–1pm

Elective Type: Architecture History Elective, Architecture Research Elective, Architecture Elective, or Interdisciplinary Elective

This course explores the development of methodologies used in the creation of architectural languages. Understanding their role in creating and delineating a process that informs decisions defining the development of architectural languages—whether deriving from the site, the program, or other architectural interests—is essential. The class begins with a historical overview of influences impacting the creation of architectural languages, including Greek and Roman architecture and the use of the Golden Section, Vitruvius, Leonardo da Vinci, and J.N.L. Durand. The focus then turns to the identification of domains providing a framework to assist in the creation of contemporary architectural languages. This framework is amplified through readings, presentations and discussing in-depth interviews conducted with eight noteworthy architects. The interviews highlight themes relevant to the creation of architectural languages, focusing on one building designed by each architect and the design intentions employed in its realization.

ARCH 3311/6311—Topics in Design History
Rethinking Architecture Education

Michael Kubo

Tu 10am–1pm

Elective Type: Architecture History Elective, Architecture Research Elective, Architecture Elective, or Interdisciplinary Elective

This course offers a space to critically assess the history and current state of architecture education in the U.S. and abroad, particularly in light of recent efforts to reshape design and its pedagogy toward more equitable and just futures. In exploring historical examples of architecture education, we will revisit key moments in which students, faculty, and institutions have grappled with the social and political dimensions of the built environment and their implications for rethinking the practices of teaching and learning. Readings and topics will explore significant schools of architecture from the 19th century to the present, including the Hines College of Architecture and Design, as well as theories of unlearning and de-schooling, teaching and the practice of freedom, postcolonial and decolonizing pedagogies, and change and experimentation in design education.

ARCH 3311/6311—Topics in Design History
Three Urbanisms: New York, Houston, Detroit

Deepa Ramaswamy

Th 10am–1pm

Elective Type: Architecture History Elective, Architecture Elective, or Interdisciplinary Elective

The course will look at New York, Houston, and Detroit as three specific urbanisms with properties that allow us to draw intersections and translations between their spatial and scalar systems. Each week is organized around an idea, determinant, or narrative that introduces key political and historical frameworks, figures, networks, and contexts that shaped these cities. New York, Houston, and Detroit will

offer us a set of questions that will unpack architecture's relationship with the city and its many sites of conflicting cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic ideologies and discourses.

ARCH 3311/6311—Topics in Design History

Publishing Practices

Enrique Ramirez

MW 11.30am–1pm

Elective Type: Architecture History Elective, Architecture Elective, or Interdisciplinary Elective

A historical overview of publishing practices in architecture and design, understood as the process of *making things public* through communicative media—from books to magazines, pamphlets, broadsheets, zines, blogs, Instagram feeds, and other publication formats both analog and digital.

ARCH 4351/6351

Readings & Criticism in Architecture

Graduate Course Title: Criticism in Architecture

Drexel Turner

TuTh 10–11:30am

Elective Type: Architecture History Elective, Architecture Elective, or Interdisciplinary Elective

This course provides in-depth information on a select group of buildings as well as an exposure to different approaches to thinking and writing about particular buildings or classes of buildings, whether considered “high” design or vernacular. Some of the writers you will encounter operate at the level of literature – John Ruskin, Henry James, and J. B. Jackson – while others furnish lucid, insightful and intermittently provocative commentary, as in the cases of Reyner Banham, Mark Girouard, Mariana Griswold Van Rensselaer, Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Ada Louise Huxtable, James Ackerman, William Jordy, Lewis Mumford, Colin Rowe, Vincent Scully, Joseph Rykwert, and John Summerson among others. Through readings and class discussions we will develop acute and sophisticated observation of (and writing about) interesting buildings, whatever their architectural pretensions and however subtle their claims to our attention may be.

ARCH 4354

Ideas and Buildings

Ronnie Self

Tu Th 10–11.30am

Elective Type: Architecture History Elective, Architecture Elective, or Interdisciplinary Elective

Influences on architectural thought and practice are numerous. This class will investigate major 20th century architectural theories and their relationship to design and built works while giving particular attention to the ideas and buildings of contemporary architects. The material will be approached from a point of view that gives value to the craft of architecture and the art of construction. Students will situate the work and ideas of a series of contemporary architects in a greater architectural context.

ARCH 4355/6355
Houston Architecture

Stephen Fox
Tu Th 8.30–10am

Elective Type: Architecture History Elective, Architecture Elective, or Interdisciplinary Elective

The course consists of a series of illustrated lectures and walking tours that describe and analyze the architectural history of Houston. The basis of the lectures is a chronological account of the development of the city from its founding in 1836 to the present. Characteristic building types and exceptional works of architecture are identified for each period within the city's development. Notable architects who worked in Houston are also identified and the evolution of the practice of architecture is profiled. Walking tours acquaint class members with outstanding buildings and educate them in developing an awareness of the historical dimension of urban sites.

College of the Arts (CotA)

Note: Priority enrollment for College of the Arts courses is given to CotA students who have met the necessary prerequisites.

ARTS 1303 (ARTH 1380) *Core—Language, Philosophy & Culture
Art History I (Prehistoric to the 14th Century)

Tu Th 10–11.30am

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301

Students may opt to take this course to fulfill the ARCH History Elective requirement OR CORE, not both.

Art and its relationships to society in and for which it was made from the ancient world to the Gothic period.

ARTS 1304 (ARTH 1381) *Core—Creative Arts
Art History II (15th Century to the Present)

TuTh 11.30am–1pm

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301

Students may opt to take this course to fulfill the ARCH History Elective requirement OR CORE, not both.

Art and its relationship to society in and for which it was made from the Renaissance to the present.

ARTH 2381
Medieval Art and Society

MW 4–5.30pm

Prerequisite: ARTS 1303 (ARTH 1380) and ARTS 1304 (ARTH 1381), or equivalent background in Medieval Studies or consent of instructor.

Art and architecture from Late Antiquity through the Gothic period in the context of the politics, art patronage and religions of the societies in which for which they were created.

ARTH 2381

Baroque Art

Hugh R. Nevitt Jr.

TuTh 10–11.30am

Prerequisite: ARTS 1303 (ARTH 1380) and ARTS 1304 (ARTH 1381), or consent of instructor.

Seventeenth century Western art and architecture.

ARTH 3303/6303

After Theory

Raphael Rubinstein

Tu 2.30–5.30pm

Prerequisite: ARTH 3301 or consent of instructor.

Exploration of discourses that can inform contemporary artistic practice from political critique to literature, music, and films.

ARTH 3333/6333

Issues in Contemporary Design

Luisa Orto

Tu Th 11.30–1pm

Prerequisite: ARTS 1303 (ARTH 1380) and ARTS 1304 (ARTH 1381), or consent of instructor.

Issues facing design in the 21st Century, including issues of sustainability and environmental design, exposure in museums and galleries, global design and national identity, impact of technology and conceptual design.

ARTH 3334/6334

History of Graphic Design

Luisa Orto

Tu Th 8.30–10am

Prerequisite: ARTS 1303 (ARTH 1380) and ARTS 1304 (ARTH 1381), or consent of instructor.

Development of graphic design within the historical context of the late nineteenth century through contemporary developments in this field.

ARTH 3336

Contemporary Art, 1960s-1980s: The Postmodern Turn

Anton Lee

MW 9am–10.30am

Prerequisite: ARTS 1304 (ARTH 1381) or ARTH 2389, or consent of instructor.

Survey of contemporary art history and theory from the 1960s into the 1980s.

ARTH 4394/6394 (Selected Topics in Art History)

Contemporary Photography Theory

Anton Lee

F 9am–12pm

Prerequisite: ARTS 1303 (ARTH 1380) and ARTS 1304 (ARTH 1381), or consent of instructor.

A critical examination of various issues at the core of contemporary scholarship on photography published after 2000. Weekly discussions deal with photography's relationships with such themes as: Anthropocene/the posthuman, ecology/environmental justice, emotion/affect, queer/trans/non-binary, race, violence/trauma, archive/typology, and collectivity/citizenship.

ARTH 4394/6394 (Selected Topics in Art History)

The Curatorial Impulse

Sandra Zalman

Th 1–4pm

Prerequisite: ARTS 1303 (ARTH 1380) and ARTS 1304 (ARTH 1381), or consent of instructor.

This course will examine major curators and exhibitions of the twentieth century, with particular focus on the Museum of Modern Art, but also examining such important Houston curators as Jermayne MacAgy, James Johnson Sweeney, and Walter Hopps.

Design Media (DM) Electives

ARCH 1360 Architectural Sketching I

Instructor: Celeste Williams

Schedule: Session 1 (15-weeks) TuTh 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Elective Type: Design Media Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Architecture Elective

Architectural sketching. Representing and interpreting architecture and entourage using conventional techniques and skills.

ARCH 3112-01; INAR 3112-01; ARCH 6198- 01: Topics in Design Media: Imaged Natures

Instructor: Daniel Jacobs

Schedule: Session 2 (5-weeks: January 17 – February 17, 2023) Mo 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Elective Type: Design Media Elective, Architecture Research Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Elective

Imaged Natures is an experimental research seminar interrogating the reciprocal relationship between architecture, nature, and the constructed image. What role does architecture play in the mediation and framing of “nature” and the environment? How do we structure our relationship to “nature” through visual, conceptual, and physical mediums? How does nature, in turn, structure us? Critics have long argued that the binary view of human/nature is not only reductive but also destructive by positioning humanity outside of, and detached from, the natural world. As a result, most of our means to measure, view, image, or represent “nature” serve to reproduce this problematic distance, further colonial agendas, or reinforce the separation between our bodies and the environment. How can we undermine and confront this condition, specifically through methods of imaging and representation? Students will learn specific software tools to amplify representational capabilities in landscape, environments, and data overlays to broaden our understanding of natural systems. The course will engage with critical case studies and discussions on architecture, media, film, and technology with a curated series of design workshops culminating in final mixed media projects (2d, 3d, film, lidar, GIS, data overlay, etc.) which will be displayed in a collective exhibition

ARCH 3112-02; INAR 3112-03: Topics in Design Media: Biomaterials

Instructor: Meg Jackson & Michael Gonzales

Schedule:

- ARCH 3112-02: Session 2 (5-weeks: January 17 – February 17, 2023) Mo 06:00 PM - 09:00 PM
- ARCH 3112-03: Session 4 (5-weeks: February 20 – March 31, 2023) Mo 06:00 PM - 09:00 PM

Elective Type: Design Media Elective, Architecture Research Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Architecture Elective

With current global attention to climate change and an estimated 66 per cent of the world's population projected to be living in urban areas by 2051, investigations into alternatives to traditional construction practices and materials are urgently needed. Current research in bio-digital hybrids and bio-receptive materials is promising because of the potential to develop resilient, performative design solutions that not only improve environmental quality but also reduce manufacturing and life-cycle costs. Such efforts can be seen in research into bioremediation and self-repairing organisms such as microalgae and mycelium. Composites using these material strategies have the opportunity to absorb CO₂, oxygenate air, and are fully biodegradable. Current development of bio-sensing materials and systems also has the potential to integrate embedded sensing, actuation, and control mechanisms directly into material strategies producing materials and systems with the ability to monitor their environment and trigger dynamic responses based on changing environmental conditions.

Looking towards more sustainable, healthier, and cyclical practices, this course will focus on 1) developing bio-architectural composites that are adaptive, self-sufficient, and reduce the impact on the environment; 2) developing bio-computational strategies that can be applied to performative skins, materials, and structures; 3) developing scalable bio-fabrication techniques that can be utilized in the manufacturing of high-performance multi-material systems. Students will create an index of contemporary case studies as well as do hands-on growth, material, and fabrication experiments to investigate the potentials of biomaterials in the design disciplines. The course will be a workshop/lab format.

ARCH 3112-04/05; INAR 3112-04/05 Topics in Design Media: Building Information Modeling with Revit

Instructor: Peter Noldt

Schedules:

- ARCH 3112-04: Session 2 (5-weeks: January 17 – February 17, 2023): Fro 09:00 AM-12:00 PM
- ARCH 3112-05: Session 4 (5-weeks: February 20 – March 31, 2023): Fro 09:00 AM-12:00 PM

Elective Type: Design Media Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Architecture Elective

Unlike traditional CAD software, where designers produce two-dimensional drawings, Building Information Modeling or BIM, involves the creation of full three-dimensional models. Plans and sections then become views of the model and are updated instantly whenever changes are made to the design. Objects in the model, such as walls and doors, also include imbedded information like materials and dimensional data. While outside the scope of an architectural education, this data can then be automatically parsed into various schedules. This five-week, one credit hour class, will utilize Autodesk Revit to survey all the major "Systems" and "Components" required for an architectural project. Once the basics have been covered, we will then learn how to create renderings and setup sheets for a schematic design presentation. Additional topics will include creating "families" or symbols and mass modeling. Autodesk Revit is available in the computer lab and an academic version can be freely downloaded for the Windows platform only.

ARCH 3112-06/07/08/09; INAR 3112-06: Topics in Design Media: 3D Modeling in Rhino

Instructor: Peter Noldt

Schedules:

- ARCH 3112-05: Session 2 (5-weeks: January 17 – February 17, 2023): TuTh11:30 AM-01:00 PM
- ARCH 3112-06: Session 2 (5-weeks: January 17 – February 17, 2023): TuTh01:00 PM-02:30 PM
- ARCH 3112-07: Session 4 (5-weeks: February 20 – March 31, 2023): TuTh11:30 AM-01:00 PM
- ARCH 3112-08: Session 4 (5-weeks: February 20 – March 31, 2023): TuTh01:00 PM-02:30 PM

Elective Type: Design Media Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Architecture Elective

One of the most popular tools for architectural and industrial design is Rhinoceros or “Rhino” for short. Unlike more traditional CAD software, Rhino uses NURBS modeling, which allows for quite complex and often organic shapes. In this five-week, one credit hour class, we will explore the major tools for creating curves, surfaces, solids and SubD objects. We will also introduce visual script writing using the parametric/generative companion “Grasshopper”. Finally, we will conclude with the various forms of output, like traditional plans and sections, 3D printing as well as imagery utilizing both Rhino’s native “Rhino Render” and the “V-Ray” plug-in. Rhino software is available in the computer lab and can be downloaded for both the Windows and Mac platforms with licenses available for checkout, free of charge, from the college’s license server.

ARCH 3112-11/12; INAR 3112-02: Topics in Design Media: Portfolio Design

Instructor: Meg Jackson

Schedule:

- ARCH 3112-11: Session 2 (5-weeks: January 17 – February 17, 2023) Th 02:30 PM - 04:00 PM
- ARCH 3112-12: Session 4 (5-weeks: February 20 – March 31, 2023) Th 02:30 PM - 04:00 PM

Elective Type: Design Media Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Architecture Elective

This elective course will focus on how designers communicate a body of work through digital and print portfolios using Adobe InDesign.

ARCH 3312-13 Topics in Design Media: Intro to Dynamic Modeling with Maya

Instructor: Josh Smith

Schedule: Session 2 (5-weeks: January 17 – February 17, 2023) Th 06:30 PM - 09:30 PM

Elective Type: Design Media Elective, Architecture Research Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Architecture Elective

Description Pending

ARCH 3312-14 Topics in Design Media: Intro to Realtime Rendering

Instructor: Josh Smith

Schedule: Session 4 (5-weeks: February 20 – March 31, 2023) Th 06:30 PM - 09:30 PM

Elective Type: Design Media Elective, Architecture Research Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Architecture Elective

Description Pending

ARCH 3112-15 Topics in Design Media: Artificial Intelligence in Design

Instructor: Andrew Kudless

Schedules: Session 2 (5-weeks: January 17 – February 17, 2023) Tu 01:00 PM - 04:00 PM

Elective Type: Design Media Elective, Architecture Research Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Architecture Elective

Recent advances in artificial intelligence have enabled new methods for designers to explore and expand their imagination. This course will introduce the primary theories and practices of AI in design and discuss the challenges, biases, and opportunities of using AI tools to co-author design sketches. Students will become familiar with several AI platforms using text-to-image algorithms and will collectively work on weekly design themes.

ARCH 3312-01; ARCH 6312-01: Topics in Design Media: Scripting Morphologies

Instructor: Mario Medina Vilela

Schedules: Session 1 (15-weeks) Tu 06:30 PM-09:30 PM

Elective Type: Design Media Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Architecture Elective

Over the last 20 years, digital technologies have been implemented to optimize the design process and facilitate the translation of physical to digital ideation. However, these tools are bias and limited when we use them to fit our individual process or design problems. As designers, crafters, and creators living in the digital age, our role is to learn how we can control and use our digital tools to help us achieve the level of complexity and craftsmanship we need for each project. Programming as a computational design process allows the modern designer to have more control in how we set up our tools, rules, and process to arrive at the design solution. The scripting morphologies course will expose students the conceptual and technical work for how to begin developing your own tools through programming environments.

This seminar will be a basic to intermediate lecture/lab introduction to the concepts and technical work of computational design as scripting. The course will be open to students who want to explore, design, and develop design methodologies using programming environments to create optimal and generative solutions that are not possible through conventional design methodologies. The seminar is organized progressively as a series of classes/ workshops to provide students with an ample of conceptual/ technical knowledge for how to create custom made programming tools within the C# component in grasshopper. The goal of the course will provide an overview on theory of computational design and its application in multiple fields to expose students its critical role in advanced and technological digital design implementations.

ARCH 3312-02; ARCH 6312-02: Topics in Design Media: Architectural Visualization

Instructor: Peter Noldt

Schedules: Session 1 (15-weeks) TuTh10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Elective Type: Design Media Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Architecture Elective

Today's designers are presented with a wide variety of digital tools for modeling and visualizing their designs. Some software programs are general in nature while others are discipline specific.

The purpose of this course is to introduce a number of modeling tools so that the designer can choose the program that best fits the presented design problem. Types of modeling mechanisms include parametric, mesh, NURBS and Building Information Modeling. Basic rendering techniques will also be discussed.

Architectural Research (AR) Electives

(Full list pending; please check your emails for updates)

Unspecified Electives

(These courses may be used to fulfill Architecture Elective or Elective requirements)

ARCH 3397/6697—Selected Topics

The Great American City

Vera Adams

Tu Th 8.30–10am

Elective Type: Architecture Elective

This course will involve reading, research, observation, and analysis of the Great American City, and of the writing of Alexander Garvin. Garvin’s “ingredients for success” include market, location, design, financing time, and entrepreneurship. Special attention will be paid to the role of public parks and open space in successful, livable, sustainable cities, focusing on improving personal well being and public health, sustaining a livable environment, and providing a framework for development and quantifying value. The course concludes with a view to the future as we address the goals and principles of the 21st-century city: beauty, sustainability, preservation, cultural diversity, and justice, via presentations by the students.

ARCH 3397/6697—Selected Topics

The City: Social Aspects

Vera Adams

Tu Th 11.30am–1pm

Elective Type: Architecture Elective

The course is an extension of the World Cities course taught in the fall semester. We will investigate the physical, social, and economic aspects of the public realm and sustainable futures of the cities. The course is part history and part current events and conducted as lecture/discussion seminar. The course addresses in particular the research of four urban professionals: Alexander Garvin, Claire Cooper-Marcus, Sir Peter Hall, and William Whyte.

ARCH 3397/6697—Selected Topics

Imperialism and Uneven Geography

William Truitt

Time TBD

Elective Type: Architecture Elective