



## Fall 2023 Approved Electives List

Courses included in this list are designated to fulfill the Architecture History, Research, Architecture Elective, or Interdisciplinary Elective requirements for Architecture majors. Graduate Architecture students may also use this list to identify graduate electives and approved concentration electives. As a reminder, all courses that are listed 6000 and above are open to graduate students only. Students enrolled in the Industrial Design or Interior Architecture programs may also use this list to select courses that will count as electives in their respective degree plans.

Course descriptions are included as they are made available. Questions about specific courses should be directed to the faculty who teach them. 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. Please note that some courses are offered through the College of the Arts. Please note that for these College of the Art courses, priority enrollment is given to College of the Arts students who have met the necessary prerequisites.

#### ARCH 3311 Topics in Design History: Emerging Scholar Fellow Seminar

**Instructor:** TBD

**Schedule:** TuTh01:00 PM-02:30 PM

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

Advanced seminar, focusing on historically marginalized communities and/or subjects that have been underrepresented or understudied in the scholarly discourse and design of the human-impacted environment.

#### ARCH 6311 Topics in Design History: Land, Territory, Environment

**Instructor:**

**Schedule:**

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

**Graduate Concentration Elective Type: History/Theory + Criticism**

Introduction to selected topics in the history, theory, and criticism of the human-impacted environment. Lectures provide a thematic introduction to major issues, events, and actors within the history of the design disciplines, in particular architecture, interior architecture, environmental design, and industrial design. Weekly sessions are organized around topical social and cultural concerns that affect the human-made and human-impacted environment and connect across the design disciplines. The course relies on critical reading, discussion, and research as means to develop the tools of historical observation, description, and reflection that underlay critical thinking and practice in the design fields.

### ARCH 3311 Topics in Design History: The House: Theory and Analysis

**Instructor:** Donna Kacmar

**Schedule:** MoWe10:00 AM-11:30 AM

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

**Graduate Concentration Elective Type:** History/Theory + Criticism, Sustainable Design

This course explores the historical, recent, and future understandings of the house as a cultural and architectural artifact. Coursework will include readings and active participation in discussions, analysis of important works, and a position paper that discusses new possibilities for human dwelling.

### ARCH 3354 The Culture of Architecture

**Instructor:** Drexel Turner

**Schedule:** MoWe10:00 AM-11:30 AM

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

**Graduate Concentration Elective Type:** Urban Systems, History/Theory + Criticism

This course attempts to provide a better understanding of how architects learn, think, practice their art, and regard themselves. To this end, we will become acquainted with diverse and often contradictory points of view through selected readings, which will form the basis for class discussions. These include five short books which will be read in their entirety: *From Bauhaus to Our House*, *Learning from Las Vegas*, *Palladio*, *Toward an Architecture*, and *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture*. Each class will be focused on one or several articles or the equivalent in chapters from a book.

### ARCH 3380/6380 Architecture Plus Film

**Instructor:** Dietmar Froehlich

**Schedule:** We06:30 PM-09:30 PM

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

**Graduate Concentration Elective Type:** Urban Systems, History/Theory + Criticism

The class introduces students to films and literature which have fundamentally captured the essence of architecture and the metropolis. We will look at the mutual influence of film and architecture in regard to their development. The objectives of the course are to enable students to read film and architecture critically and to write about it, to position film further within the context of contemporary architecture, to enable students to use film/video as an investigative architectural tool and as a means of representation for architectural ideas, and to work in multi-disciplinary teams. This class consists of writing components and film/video exercises. For Graduate Students this course is conducted as a seminar.

### ARCH 4351/6351 Readings & Criticism in Arch

**Instructor:** Drexel Turner

**Schedule:** TuTh10:00 AM-11:30 AM

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

**Graduate Concentration Elective Type:** Urban Systems, History/Theory + Criticism

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 explore ways of looking at and writing about interesting buildings, whatever their architectural pretensions and however subtle their claims to our attention may be.

This course is reading-intensive; you can expect to read at least one long article or chapter and several shorter pieces for each class.

### ARCH 4355/6355 Houston Architecture

**Instructor:** Stephen Fox

**Schedule:** TuTh08:30 AM-10:00 AM

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

**Graduate Concentration Elective Type:** Urban Systems, History/Theory + Criticism

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.

### INAR 3300 History of Interior Architecture

**Instructor:** TBA

**Schedule:** MoWe10:00 AM-11:30 AM

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

History and theory of interior architecture, including cultural, political, economic, and environmental influences. Introduction to the important role of "the existing" in interior architecture through a global survey of designers, works, history, theory, and contemporary influences including philosophy, fine and applied art and broader material culture.

### ARTS 1303 Art History I (Prehistoric to the 14th Century)

**Instructor:** Rex Koontz

**Schedule:** Th 11:30AM - 1:00PM

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

**Prerequisites:** ENGL 1301

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

### ARTS 1304 Art History II (15th Century to the Present)

**Instructor:** Sandra Zalman

**Schedule:** TuTh 10:00AM - 11:30AM

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

**Prerequisites:** ENGL 1301

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

### ARTH 3301/6301 Critical Theory

**Instructor:** Abinadi Meza

**Schedule:** Tu 5:30PM - 8:30PM

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

**Prerequisites:** Junior standing and ARTS 1303 and ARTS 1304, or consent of instructor.

Readings and discussion of the major concepts and methods employed in the analysis of art practice.

### ARTH 3332/6332 20th Century Design

**Instructor:** Luisa Orto

**Schedule:** MoWe noon – 1:30 PM

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

**Prerequisites:** ARTH 1380 or ARTH 1381, with possible exception for graduate students and/or qualified undergraduates.

History, development, and key innovators of design of the 20th Century, and assessment of the era's burgeoning culture of design.

### ARTH 3334/6334 History of Graphic Design

**Instructor:** Luisa Orto

**Schedule:** MoWe 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

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

**Prerequisites:** ARTH 1380 or ARTH 1381, with possible exception for graduate students and/or qualified undergraduates.

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

### ARTH 4383/6331 Contemporary Painting

**Instructor:** Debra Marie Barrera

**Schedule:** MoWe 11:00AM - 12:30PM

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

**Prerequisites:** ARTS 1303 and ARTS 1304 or consent of instructor.

Painting since 1945 with an emphasis on the past two decades.

## Design Media Electives

### ARCH 1360 Architectural Sketching I

**Instructor:** Celeste Williams

**Schedule:** TuTh 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM, Session 1, 15 weeks

**Credits:** 3

**Undergraduate Elective Type:** Design Media Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Elective  
Architectural sketching. Representing and interpreting architecture and entourage using conventional techniques and skills.

### ARCH 3312/6312 Topics in Design Media: Architectural Visualization

**Instructor:** Peter Noldt

**Schedule:** TuTh 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM, Session 1, 15 weeks

**Credits:** 3

**Undergraduate Elective Type:** Design Media Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Elective

**Graduate Concentration Elective Type:** Digital Media + Fabrication

While digital modeling has given designers the ability to create projects that were unfathomable even just a few years ago, presentation is an often-overlooked partner in the design process. The purpose of this course is to expand the basic presentation tools found in most software packages. Major topics include lighting, materials and texture mapping, perspective matching and animated walkthroughs. Emphasis will be on the importation of 3D geometry from all major modeling programs.

### ARCH 3312/6312 Topics in Design Media: Mediated Natures

**Instructor:** Daniel Jacobs

**Schedule:** Mo 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Session 1, 15 weeks

**Credits:** 3

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

**Graduate Concentration Elective Type:** Urban Systems, History/Theory, Sustainable Design, Digital Media + Fabrication

A hybrid course that deals with theories of mediating the environment through representation in art and architecture as well as other modes such as policy and law. The final outcome of the course is a dossier of research material accompanying a two-minute video.

### ARCH 3312/6312 Topics in Design Media: Immersive Realities

**Instructor:** Josh Smith

**Schedule:** We 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM, Session 1, 15 weeks

**Credits:** 3

**Undergraduate Elective Type:** Design Media Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Elective

### **Graduate Concentration Elective Type: Digital Media + Fabrication**

This course aims to discover new ways to interpret, conceive and describe reality. Traditional methods of representation create an “emitter” and a “listener” relationship. Game technologies allow us to step beyond this and pave the way for a truly immersive/interactive experience and a means to re-discover lost realities.

### ARCH 3112/6198 Topics in Design Media: Introduction to Computational Design

**Instructors:** Andrew Kudless (Session 2), Mario Medina Vilela (Session 4)

#### **Schedule:**

- TuTh 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM, Session 2, 5 weeks
- TuTh 06:00 PM - 07:30 PM, Session 4, 5 weeks

#### **Credits:** 1

**Undergraduate Elective Type:** Design Media Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Elective

### **Graduate Concentration Elective Type: Digital Media + Fabrication**

This course is an intro to the fundamental concepts and technologies of computational design. Through a series of lectures and demonstrations, the course will cover general knowledge of emerging computational strategies through specific training in Grasshopper for Rhino.

### ARCH 3112/6198 Topics in Design Media: Building Information Modeling with Revit

**Instructors:** Peter Noldt

#### **Schedule:**

- Fr 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Session 2, 5 weeks
- Fr 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Session 4, 5 weeks

#### **Credits:** 1

**Undergraduate Elective Type:** Design Media Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Elective

### **Graduate Concentration Elective Type: Digital Media + Fabrication**

This course 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.

### ARCH 3112/6198 Topics in Design Media: 3D Modeling with Rhino

**Instructors:** Peter Noldt

#### **Schedule:**

- TuTh 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Session 2, 5 weeks
- TuTh 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM, Session 2, 5 weeks
- TuTh 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Session 4, 5 weeks
- TuTh 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM, Session 4, 5 weeks

#### **Credits:** 1

**Undergraduate Elective Type:** Design Media Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Elective

### **Graduate Concentration Elective Type: Digital Media + Fabrication**

In this course 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, rendering using “Rhino Render” and the “V-Ray” plug-in.

### ARCH 3112/6198 Topics in Design Media: Perspectives in Drawing

**Instructors:** Marcus Martinez

**Schedule:** We 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Session 2, 5 weeks

**Credits:** 1

**Undergraduate Elective Type:** Design Media Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Elective

**Graduate Concentration Elective Type:** **Digital Media + Fabrication**

The course exposes students to analog techniques in drawing that provide conceptual utility across design disciplines. Drawing will be explored as a way of thinking, a method of constructing arguments, and a tool for convey understanding. Short lectures will probe techniques through precedent and provide a context for action and experimentation.

### ARCH 3112/6198 Topics in Design Media: Wood Fabrication

**Instructors:** Cara Murry

**Schedule:** MoWe 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM, Session 2, 5 weeks

**Credits:** 1

**Undergraduate Elective Type:** Design Media Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Elective

**Graduate Concentration Elective Type:** **Digital Media + Fabrication**

This course focused on the basics of working with wood as a material in Industrial design, interior architecture, and architecture. The course will cover both traditional woodworking as well as digital fabrication techniques with wood.

### ARCH 3112/6198 Topics in Design Media: Portfolio Design

**Instructors:** Meg Jackson

**Schedule:** TuTh 2:30 PM - 04:00 PM, Session 4, 5 weeks

**Credits:** 1

**Undergraduate Elective Type:** Design Media Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Elective

**Graduate Concentration Elective Type:** **Digital Media + Fabrication**

The objective of this interdisciplinary media course is to understand the role of communicative media as an effective and critical tool. The course covers the basics of InDesign, composition, layout, and typography.

### ARCH 3112/6198 Topics in Design Media: Procedural Drawing

**Instructors:** Jason Logan

**Schedule:** Tu 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Session 4, 5 weeks

**Credits:** 1

**Undergraduate Elective Type:** Design Media Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Elective

**Graduate Concentration Elective Type:** **Digital Media + Fabrication**

This course explores the history and practice of procedural drawing using generative design and drawing machines.

### ARCH 3112/6198 Topics in Design Media: 4D Design

**Instructors:** Roya Plauche'

**Schedule:** Fr 12:00 PM – 4:00 pm, Session 4, 5 weeks

**Credits:** 1

**Undergraduate Elective Type:** Design Media Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Elective

**Graduate Concentration Elective Type:** **Digital Media + Fabrication**

4D Design is a course that explores the use of narrative and temporal aspects in design, as well as the tools required to create and edit video content. This course is designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge they need to create compelling and engaging design narratives that incorporate time-based elements using animated GIFs and Adobe Premiere.

### ARCH 3112/6198 Topics in Design Media: Introduction to Dynamic Modeling in Maya

**Instructors:** Josh Smith

**Schedule:** Mo 6:30 PM – 9:30 pm, Session 4, 5 weeks

**Credits:** 1

**Undergraduate Elective Type:** Design Media Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Elective

**Graduate Concentration Elective Type:** **Digital Media + Fabrication**

An introduction to the modeling of dynamic systems that are able to simulate physical forces in Maya.

## Technology | Research | General Electives

### ARCH 4324/6314-High-Rise Structures

**Instructor:** Joseph Colaco

**Schedule:** Friday 8.30-11:30 AM

**Undergraduate Elective Type:** Architecture Research Elective, Technology Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Elective

**Graduate Concentration Elective Type:** **Sustainable Design**

A study of Structural Design of Superstructure and Foundations of Tall Buildings. Examples of the Full Arch. and Eng. Design and Construction of tall steel, concrete, and composite buildings.

### ARCH 4367/6314-Case Studies in Sustainable Design

**Instructor:** Rives Taylor

**Schedule:** Tuesday 6:30-9.30 PM

**Undergraduate Elective Type:** Architecture Research Elective, Technology Elective, Architecture Research Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, or Elective

**Graduate Concentration Elective Type:** **Sustainable Design**

The class participant will engage in a “design thinking” process to gain practical insight in the delivery of sustainable outcomes for real world challenges. This 21<sup>st</sup> century design process entails both a client / community educational avenue as well as an action/realization method; this design approach is needed to respond to real world problems at a variety of scales, in the context of the evolving, larger natural environment.

The course method of discovery for this sustainability in the built environment is predicated on both the ability explore how our built environment performs and understanding the implications

of our human environment design and construction through the operational (full life) cycle. The class will also seek to elevate and enhance the knowledge base from the collaborators' previous courses, including foci on technology, cultural histories, economics, and studio design.

### ARCH 4376/6397: Community Design Workshop

**Instructor:** Susan Rogers

**Schedules:** M006:30 PM-09:30 PM

**Undergraduate Elective Type:** Architecture Research Elective, Interdisciplinary Elective, General Architecture Elective, or Elective

**Graduate Concentration Elective Type:** Urban Systems, Sustainable Design

Introduction to participatory and democratic community design and planning strategies, including skills such as mapping, demographic analysis, information gathering, visioning, implementation, and policy.