

Course guide

290630 - COMPOSIII1 - Theory and History I

Last modified: 15/07/2025

Unit in charge: Vallès School of Architecture
Teaching unit: 756 - THATC - Department of History and Theory of Architecture and Communication Techniques.

Degree: DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE STUDIES (Syllabus 2014). (Compulsory subject).

Academic year: 2025 **ECTS Credits:** 3.0 **Languages:** Catalan

LECTURER

Coordinating lecturer: Rossello Nicolau, María Isabel

Others: Rossello Nicolau, María Isabel

Cepeda Martín, Helena

DEGREE COMPETENCES TO WHICH THE SUBJECT CONTRIBUTES

Specific:

EP9G. The ability to practise architectural criticism.

Generical:

CG2G. Knowledge of fine art as a factor that may influence the quality of architectural design.

CG1G. Knowledge of the history of architecture and architectural theories, as well as the arts, technological and human sciences associated with architecture.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Subject taught from October 28 to December 18, 2025

Keynote Lectures / Breakout Sessions: Text Commentaries and Work Analysis

First Part of the Session: Theoretical Content

Second Part: Presentations of Works and/or Texts

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

Get to know and recognize architecture from the turn of the 19th to the 20th century to the interwar period.

Acquire a body of knowledge that provides critical capacity.

Be able to use appropriate specific vocabulary.

Write texts and documents with coherent content and with the appropriate structure and style according to the type of audience and the objectives of the communication.

STUDY LOAD

Type	Hours	Percentage
Hours large group	16,5	22.00
Self study	42,0	56.00
Hours medium group	16,5	22.00

Total learning time: 75 h

CONTENTS

Theory and History. From the turn of the century to the interwar period

Description:

1. Chicago: from high-rise construction to Wright's contribution
2. Vienna's architecture at the turn of the century: sublime envelopment
3. Structural rationalism: legacies and new readings.
4. Culture and industry: From Arts and Crafts to the Deutsche Werkbund
5. Expressionism and structural monumentality
6. New proposals for the city.
7. Futurism, constructivism and De Stijl
8. France: From Perret to Le Corbusier
9. Germany: From Gropius to Mies
10. Housing and modernity
11. Modernity in the US between the wars.
12. Architecture, ideology and the state
13. Noucentisme and Catalan modernity.

Specific objectives:

Study, analysis and discussion of the main works, artistic movements and theoretical reflections from the turn of the 19th to the 20th century until the Second World War.

Full-or-part-time: 33h

Theory classes: 16h 30m

Practical classes: 16h 30m

GRADING SYSTEM

Exercises carried out during the course:

- 20% Oral presentation in class of the content of a text (group of two people)
- 10% Written presentation of the content of the text and its relation to the topics of the course (individual work)
- 20% Oral presentation in class of a building (group of two people)
- 10% Written presentation of the building and its relation to the topics of the course (individual work)
- 40% Final assessment. Written two-question essay on any of the topics worked on during the course.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic:

- Colquhoun, Alan; Sáinz Avia, Jorge. La arquitectura moderna : una historia desapasionada. Barcelona [etc.]: Gustavo Gili, cop. 2005. ISBN 8425219884.
- Kostof, Spiro. Historia de la arquitectura. Madrid: Alianza, 1988. ISBN 8420670782.
- Hereu i Payet, Pere; Montaner, Josep Maria; Oliveras i Samitier, Josep. Textos de arquitectura de la modernidad. Madrid: Nerea, cop. 1994. ISBN 8486763851.
- Frampton, Kenneth. Historia crítica de la arquitectura moderna. 7a ed. Barcelona: Gustavo Gili, 1994. ISBN 8425216281.
- Mallgrave, Harry Francis. Modern architectural theory : a historical survey, 1673-1968. Cambridge: Cambridge University, 2005. ISBN 9780521793063.
- Fanelli, Giovanni; Gargiani, Roberto. Storia dell'architettura contemporanea : spazio, struttura, involucro. Roma [etc.]: Laterza, 1998. ISBN 8842056111.

Complementary:

- Giedion, Sigfried. Space, time and architecture : the growth of a new tradition. 5th ed. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1982. ISBN 0674830407.
- Hitchcock, Henry Russell. Arquitectura: siglos XIX y XX. Madrid: Cátedra, DL 1981. ISBN 8437602750.
- Pevsner, Nikolaus. Los Orígenes de la arquitectura moderna y del diseño. 4ª ed. Barcelona: Gustavo Gili, 1978. ISBN 8425206200.
- Kaufmann, Emil. De Ledoux a Le Corbusier : origen y desarrollo de la arquitectura autónoma. Barcelona [etc.]: Gustavo Gili, DL

1982. ISBN 8425211336.