



Course guide

310711 - 310711 - Architecture, Construction and the City in Western History

Last modified: 16/01/2025

Unit in charge:	Barcelona School of Building Construction	
Teaching unit:	756 - THATC - Department of History and Theory of Architecture and Communication Techniques.	
Degree:	BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY AND BUILDING CONSTRUCTION (Syllabus 2019). (Compulsory subject).	
Academic year: 2024	ECTS Credits: 4.5	Languages: Catalan, Spanish

LECTURER

Coordinating lecturer:	Graus Rovira, Ramon
Others:	Graus Rovira, Ramon Navarro Gonzalez, Ruben Navas Ferrer, Maria Teresa Reboredo Raposo, Antonio

DEGREE COMPETENCES TO WHICH THE SUBJECT CONTRIBUTES

Specific:

1. FE-6 Knowledge of the historical evolution of the constructive techniques and elements and the structural systems which have led to stylistic forms.
2. FE-10 Aptitude to intervene in the refurbishment of buildings and the restoration and preservation of the built heritage.
3. FE-4 Knowledge of the materials and traditional or prefabricated construction systems used in construction, their varieties and physical and mechanical features which define them.

Transversal:

4. EFFICIENT ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION - Level 2. Using strategies for preparing and giving oral presentations. Writing texts and documents whose content is coherent, well structured and free of spelling and grammatical errors.
5. EFFECTIVE USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES - Level 1. Identifying information needs. Using collections, premises and services that are available for designing and executing simple searches that are suited to the topic.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

In theory groups: Lectures will be carried out, always with the active involvement of the students, so that to make easier the learning of the general and basic knowledge handbooks, also for encouraging the students in the study of the history of the architecture, the construction and the city.

In practice groups: The practical work that's expected to do will be presented, reflecting on the requirements of the contents, either in its expositive, technical or graphic aspects. There also will be expounded, with examples, the range of solutions for the fulfilment of the next written exercises, and in these hours will be done the delivery of the exercise corresponding to the evaluation activity A1.

In the autonomous self-learning hours: The students must work the handbooks and prepare the written exercises A1, A2 and A3.

To guarantee the continuous assessment proposed, the attendance to class is mandatory. The teacher of each group will establish the control mechanisms for this attendance.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

At the end of the course, the students should be able to:

- Determine the basic characteristics of the architecture, the construction and the city in their great historic periods.
- Relate the architecture, the construction and the city with the history and the culture of each time and geography.
- Use specialized and adequate vocabulary.

STUDY LOAD

Type	Hours	Percentage
Hours large group	31,5	28.00
Self study	67,5	60.00
Hours small group	13,5	12.00

Total learning time: 112.5 h

CONTENTS

C1 Antiquity, Middle Ages, XVth-XVIIIth Centuries

Description:

In this content the students work the architecture, building and city in the Western world history, from 1000 BCE till 1789.

- Why do we begin with Greece? Mimesis and tekhné.
- The order. Architecture and construction of the Greek temple.
- City and territory in Antiquity: agora, acropolis and grid plan.
- Imperial Rome: Changes in the use of orders and invention of static space.
- The dynamic space of Early Christian Architecture and the dematerialisation of Byzantine architecture.
- New beginnings: Pre-Romanesque architecture and the art of Islam.
- The international spread of Romanesque forms.
- Light-filled spaces: Gothic in Île-de-France.
- Origin and features of Catalan Gothic.
- Renaissance: Perspective and Antiquity in Florence.
- Renaissance at the service of the Papal Rome.
- The slow arrival of the Renaissance influence in Gothic land.
- Rome, laboratory of Baroque. Architecture and town planning.
- Divided Europe: Catholic Baroque and architecture of Protestantism.

Specific objectives:

- To locate the most significant buildings in the cultural periodization of the Ancient, Medieval and Modern world.
- To enumerate the basic architecture and construction lexicon of the period.
- To connect the fundamental ideas of the culture at that time with the architectural production.
- To analyze how the construction interacts with the architecture of the period.

Related activities:

There will be done the activities A1, A2, and A3, which correspond to the course project (A1), the written exercise (A2), and the tests (A3).

Related competencies :

FE-10. FE-10 Aptitude to intervene in the refurbishment of buildings and the restoration and preservation of the built heritage.

FE-06. FE-6 Knowledge of the historical evolution of the constructive techniques and elements and the structural systems which have led to stylistic forms.

FE-04. FE-4 Knowledge of the materials and traditional or prefabricated construction systems used in construction, their varieties and physical and mechanical features which define them.

04 COE N2. EFFICIENT ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION - Level 2. Using strategies for preparing and giving oral presentations. Writing texts and documents whose content is coherent, well structured and free of spelling and grammatical errors.

Full-or-part-time: 56h 15m

Theory classes: 15h 45m

Practical classes: 6h 45m

Self study : 33h 45m

C2 19th & 20th Centuries

Description:

In this content, the students work the architecture, construction and city in the Western world, from mid-eighteenth century until now.

- Industrialisation and city change.
- The Enlightenment: Science, engineering and architecture.
- The impact of new materials on architecture: brick, iron and glass.
- Architecture of the Nineteenth Century: Neoclassicism and Gothic Revival.
- The modern cult of monuments.
- Fin-de-siècle: destabilisation of stylistic codes.
- Chicago, between skyscrapers and Prairie houses.
- Second Industrialisation: City and architecture.
- Modernism in the Weimar Republic.
- Modernism in Europe and the United States of America.
- CIAM proposals: Architecture and the city.
- The reconstruction of Europe and International Style.
- The crises of Modernism.
- Globalisation challenges on architecture: technology and the society of spectacle.

Specific objectives:

- To locate the most significant buildings in the cultural periodization of the contemporary world.
- To enumerate the basic architecture and construction lexicon of the period.
- To connect the key ideas of the culture at that time with the architectural production.
- To analyze how the construction interacts with the architecture of the period.

Related activities:

There will be done the activities A1, A2, and A3, which correspond to the course project (A1), the written exercise (A2), and the quiz (A3).

Related competencies :

FE-10. FE-10 Aptitude to intervene in the refurbishment of buildings and the restoration and preservation of the built heritage.
FE-06. FE-6 Knowledge of the historical evolution of the constructive techniques and elements and the structural systems which have led to stylistic forms.

FE-04. FE-4 Knowledge of the materials and traditional or prefabricated construction systems used in construction, their varieties and physical and mechanical features which define them.

04 COE N2. EFFICIENT ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION - Level 2. Using strategies for preparing and giving oral presentations. Writing texts and documents whose content is coherent, well structured and free of spelling and grammatical errors.

Full-or-part-time: 56h 15m

Theory classes: 15h 45m

Practical classes: 6h 45m

Self study : 33h 45m

ACTIVITIES

A1 COURSE PROJECT: BARCELONA ARCHITECTURE GUIDE IN 6 BUILDINGS

Description:

Practical work which the student must do individually or working in pairs and, in some cases, at home. The methodology and the presentation requirements will be exposed on the practice groups. Corrections of the work will be done weekly.

Specific objectives:

At the end of the practice, the students should be able to:

Explain graphically and/or in writing the architectural, structural and urban features of the construction or the corresponding part.

Material:

The students must use the recommended documentation in each case distributed by Atenea.

Delivery:

There will be given according to the specific schedule of each group. The use of generative AI tools must be cited at all times.

This exercise, which will be given back corrected, will integrate in the student's file folder and worths the 35% of the continuous assessment of the course.

Related competencies :

FE-10. FE-10 Aptitude to intervene in the refurbishment of buildings and the restoration and preservation of the built heritage.

FE-06. FE-6 Knowledge of the historical evolution of the constructive techniques and elements and the structural systems which have led to stylistic forms.

FE-04. FE-4 Knowledge of the materials and traditional or prefabricated construction systems used in construction, their varieties and physical and mechanical features which define them.

Full-or-part-time: 69h 30m

Self study: 56h

Practical classes: 13h 30m

A2 WRITTEN EXERCISE (IN EACH OF THE 2 MODULES OF CONTENT)

Description:

Individual realization at class of an exercise about the handbook content and a previously defined content more specialised explained at class and present in the bibliography, with personal notes permitted.

Specific objectives:

Explain critically a manual topic or the detailed topics previously agreed.

Material:

The basic bibliography and eventually the supplementary bibliography for each case.

Delivery:

This exercise will be scored with a rubric and worths the 55% of the continuous assessment of the course.

Related competencies :

FE-10. FE-10 Aptitude to intervene in the refurbishment of buildings and the restoration and preservation of the built heritage.

FE-06. FE-6 Knowledge of the historical evolution of the constructive techniques and elements and the structural systems which have led to stylistic forms.

FE-04. FE-4 Knowledge of the materials and traditional or prefabricated construction systems used in construction, their varieties and physical and mechanical features which define them.

04 COE N2. EFFICIENT ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION - Level 2. Using strategies for preparing and giving oral presentations. Writing texts and documents whose content is coherent, well structured and free of spelling and grammatical errors.

Full-or-part-time: 40h

Self study: 15h

Theory classes: 25h

A3 QUIZ ON THE LECTURES

Description:

Quiz on the lecture. The quiz will be done on-line (5 minutes long).

Specific objectives:

Improve the technical vocabulary. Match the architectural production to their geographical and historical milieu.

Material:

The basic bibliography and eventually the complementary bibliography.

Delivery:

These test worths the 10% of the continuous assessment of the course.

Related competencies :

FE-06. FE-6 Knowledge of the historical evolution of the constructive techniques and elements and the structural systems which have led to stylistic forms.

Full-or-part-time: 3h 20m

Theory classes: 3h 20m

GRADING SYSTEM

Continuous assessment:

To pass the course, the subject has two requirements:

1. Passing grade is 5 out of 10 of the total sum.
2. The student must deliver the project of the course (Guide of Barcelona) following the deadline that will be published at the beginning of the semester.

Scoring for each task: A1 (35%), A2 (55%) and A3 (10%).

Less than 30% of marked tasks: absent.

Retake examination:

Only for students that fail the course. Minimum grade is 3,5 out of 10.

The previous marks (A1, A2 and A3) are not taken in account. The exam will take 2 hours. The retake examination comprehend the two theory modules.

EXAMINATION RULES.

Each module has evaluable tasks. If it is not done it will mark as 0.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic:

- Curtis, William J. R; Sáinz Avia, Jorge. La Arquitectura moderna desde 1900. 3a ed. London ; New York: Phaidon Press, cop. 2006. ISBN 9780714898506.
- Kostof, Spiro. Historia de la arquitectura. Vols. I, II, III. Madrid: Alianza Editorial, 1988.
- Mambriani, C. ; Rosell, J. ; Tacca, A. Arquitectura, construcció i ciutat en la història d'Occident: 1 El món antic [on line]. Tremp: Garsineu edicions, 1998 [Consultation: 19/07/2010]. Available on: <http://hdl.handle.net/2117/1589>.
- Mambriani, C. ; Rosell, J. ; Tacca, A. Arquitectura, construcció i ciutat en la història d'Occident: 2 El món medieval [on line]. Tremp: Garsineu edicions, 1998 Available on: <http://hdl.handle.net/2117/1678>.
- Rosell, Jaume. Arquitectura, construcció i ciutat en l'occident industrial. Barcelona: EPSEB, 2002.
- Roca i Albert, Joan. Atles MUHBA d'història de Barcelona . Primera edició. Barcelona : Ajuntament de Barcelona, febrer de 2023. ISBN 9788491564805.

Complementary:

- Addis, William. Building : 3000 years of design engineering and construction. London: Phaidon, 2007. ISBN 9780714841465.

- Busquets, Joan. Barcelona : evolución urbanística de una capital compacta. Barcelona: Mapfre, 1992. ISBN 8471005360.
- Castex, Jean. Renacimiento, barroco y clasicismo : historia de la arquitectura, 1420-1720. Madrid: Akal, 1994.
- Colquhoun, Alan. La Arquitectura moderna : una historia desapasionada. Barcelona: Gustavo Gili, 2005.
- Gombrich, E. H. Breve historia del mundo : el recuerdo nos sirve para proyectar luz sobre el pasado. Barcelona: Península, 2007. ISBN 9788483078013.
- Gombrich, E. H. La Historia del arte. London ; New York: Phaidon, 1997. ISBN 9780714898704.
- Garcia i Espuche, Albert; Guàrdia i Bassols, Manuel. Espai i societat a la Barcelona pre-industrial. Barcelona: Edicions de la Magrana : Institut Municipal d'Història. Ajuntament de Barcelona, 1986. ISBN 8474102197.
- Catàleg del patrimoni arquitectònic històric-artístic de la ciutat de Barcelona [on line]. Barcelona: Ajuntament de Barcelona, 1987 [Consultation: 20/07/2020]. Available on: <http://hdl.handle.net/11703/101775>.

RESOURCES

Audiovisual material:

- Architectures de Barcelona: Mirall urbà, set mirades. <https://youtu.be/3Q3CfOHQfe0>

Hyperlink:

- Portal d'informació urbanística BCN. <https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/informaciourbanistica/cerca/en/>- Cartografia de Catalunya: Vissir (ICGC). <http://www.icc.cat/vissir3/>- Carta Històrica de Barcelona (MUHBA). <http://cartahistorica.muhba.cat>