

Interior Design 340

Spring 2013

Instructor: Paul Michael Davis
Time: Mondays & Wednesdays 3:30pm – 5:20pm
Room: S223
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Phone: 206.890.9229 *Use for emergencies only please.*
Office Hours: By appointment. *The best way to contact me is via email.*

DESCRIPTION & COURSE CONTENT

In this course, we will explore philosophical approaches to design and aesthetics. You will be asked to apply critical thinking and creative problem solving to the enclosure and systematic organization of space.

We will read and discuss excerpts from several important works of philosophy, architectural theory, and sociology. In this class, there are no “right” answers. We will cover a variety of ideas and theories, many of which are contradictory and mutually exclusive.

You will not be expected to memorize a litany of terms or names. But, by the end of the quarter, you should be able to demonstrate a deep understanding of at least one of the theoretical approaches we study, and provide a real-world example of a space that expresses that approach.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

- ATTENDANCE & WEEKLY RESPONSE ASSIGNMENTS (50% OF GRADE) - Each week, you must participate in class discussions and provide a formal response to a query from the instructor using examples from that week’s readings. Exact details of the weekly response assignment will be provided in class and/or on MyBC.
- FINAL CASE-STUDY ASSIGNMENT (50% OF GRADE) - Complete a written case study analyzing a building referring to readings from this class and present your research to the class. 10 pages minimum & In-Class Presentation.

REQUIRED READING

Most of the required readings for this class will be (or have already been) uploaded on MyBC. Reading deadlines will be noted in class and/or posted on the MyBC Calendar. In addition, the following three books are required for this class. You may purchase these inexpensively online at sites such as Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com or elsewhere.

- *Toward a New Architecture* by Le Corbusier (any translation/edition)
- *Learning from Las Vegas* by Robert Venturi & Denise Scott Brown (any edition)
- *Dictionary* – a good, old-fashioned printed dictionary. Oxford, Websters, etc. We will be encountering a lot of unfamiliar words in the other readings.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1: Geometry

Plato - Republic

Vitruvius – The Ten Books On Architecture

Week 2: Light & Texture

Pliny The Younger – The Letters Of Pliny The Younger

Lisa Heschong – Thermal Delight In Architecture

Week 3: Scale & Proportion

Oliver Sacks – The Disembodied Lady

George Hersey – The Lost Meaning Of Classical Architecture

Week 4: Balance & Harmony

Le Corbusier – Toward a New Architecture

Bertrand Russell – Kant & Rousseau

Week 5: Color

Robert Venturi – Learning From Las Vegas

Jacques Derrida - Deconstruction

Week 6: Unity & Variety

Martin Heidegger – Building Dwelling Thinking

Gaston Bachelard – The Poetics Of Space

Week 7: Economy

Frederic Jameson – Postmodernism & The Bonaventure Hotel

Michel Foucault - Panopticism

Week 8: Movement

Paul Virilio – Speed And Politics

Margaret Crawford – The World in a Shopping Mall

Week 9: Emphasis & Dominance

Elizabeth Grosz – Bodies-Cities

Mary McLeod – Everyday and “Other” Spaces

GRADING

Quality of work and grading is not gauged according to other students. Rather it is determined from the individual skill sets of each student. I will, however, gauge the amount of effort and participation a student shows against other students, so in a sense you are competing against others for a portion of your grade.

Your final grade in this class will be calculated based on the percentages and numerical values listed below. I will grade each assignment and return it to you in a timely manner as a record of your status in the class. I will hold the grading of effort and class participation until the end of the quarter to allow for an overall perspective. The grading breakdown is as follows:

- Participation and Attendance 25%
- Weekly Response Assignments 25%
- Case Study Paper 25%
- Case Study Presentation 25%

Work must be turned in on time, as scheduled. If you have a legitimate conflict with any deadline contact me as soon as possible so that we can find a resolution to the problem, usually we will ask that your project be submitted ahead of time. *LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED*. Evaluation of assignments will be based upon several criteria:

- Completion of requirements
- Understanding and application of concepts
- Neatness and presentation quality
- Other specifics particular to individual projects

If you have any questions or concerns about your grades, please see me as soon as possible. Please be aware that simply attending class and completing the required assignments will not entitle you to an "A" in this class. Doing what is required of you is not outstanding; it is satisfactory and will thus entitle you to a "C" in this class.

An "Incomplete" grade may be awarded only in cases where extenuating circumstances have prevented the student from completing no more than one of the projects or tests for the quarter. To be eligible for an "I" grade, the student must have prior approval of the instructor. Questions about grades, including an approximation of the letter grade earned to date, will be welcomed at any time during the quarter.

For the Bellevue College grading standards, please review the grading policy of the school at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/catalog/enroll/grades.asp> Please also read the Bellevue College Student Procedures and Expectations: <http://www.bcc.ctc.edu/artshum/studentinfo.html>

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College.

ACCOMODATION STATEMENT

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are required to meet with the Director of Disability Support Services, room B132-G (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. In addition, students who require accommodation in classes must review those requirements with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

If you require accommodation on a documented disability, emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case of emergency evacuation, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

AGREEMENT

This syllabus is a contract between the student and instructor, establishing the learning outcomes and context, as well as the expected conduct, rights, and responsibilities of students in this class. It is important that you understand and are prepared for the learning experience ahead by understanding the syllabus contents. Please sign below, as confirmation that you've read the syllabus and that you will discuss with the instructor any issues that you consider confusing, problematic, or open to dialogue with the entire class. If your discussion is of a personal nature, please make an appointment with us, rather than discuss it during class.

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:
