ARCHITECTURE 114: CULTURE AND COMMUNITY (2 units)
An Introduction to the Issues, Concepts, and Traditions in Architecture

University of Southern California
School of Architecture
Fall 2012 Arch 114

Class Sessions
Lecture: Monday, 10:00-11:20am, Harris Hall 101
Discussion: Wednesday, 10:00-10:50am and 11:00–11:50am, Watt Hall1

Faculty
Lauren Matchison, Assistant Professor of Practice lmatchis@usc.edu
Valery Augustin, Adjunct Assistant Professor valery@dnaoffice.net
Kara Bartelt, Adjunct Associate Professor kbartelt@usc.edu

To further facilitate learning, this course utilizes Blackboard online. Log in using your USC username and password at: https://blackboard.usc.edu/

Course Description

Architecture 114, Culture and Community, is an introductory course that investigates the role of architecture and the architect within the broader framework of social, historical, political, and cultural ideologies. Architecture is understood as a profession as well as a cultural product intrinsically linked to a variety of external influences that shape both the built and natural environment. As an examination of the continually evolving relationship between architecture and external phenomena, the course creates an awareness of design as a multivalent, collaborative process; establishes a foundation for critical discussion of architecture as a device of expression and meaning throughout time and across continents and cultures; and engages students in the current discourse surrounding architecture and the state of the profession.

The course addresses a wide range of issues and their implications for architecture. The ambitious agenda of this course is structured into three modules entitled: Knowledge and Conceptual Understanding, Capability and Capacity, and Awareness and Recognition. Each module tackles related topics and ideas:

I. **Knowledge and Conceptual Understanding** – the fundamental knowledge and comprehension of the relationship between architecture and: context, landscape, art, people and culture. This module covers natural and formal ordering systems, historical traditions in architecture, placemaking and meaning, fine art, landscape architecture, design process. (NAAB A.8, A.9, A.10 C.2)

II. **Capability and Capacity** – the capability of architecture and the architect to affect change and influence perceptions, actions, and reactions. This module covers environmental and social sustainability, ethics and professional judgment, leadership roles, traditional and non-traditional opportunities for architects. (NAAB B.3, C.6, C.8)

III. **Awareness and Recognition** – the recognition of the unique world-view of the architect and designer as a tool for identifying issues on multiple scales. This module covers cultural diversity, community and social responsibility, human behavior. (NAAB A.10, C.2, C.9)

The course consists of weekly lectures by faculty and invited experts, and the lectures are supplemented with relevant readings. The issues introduced in the lectures and readings are further distilled in the discussion sessions, which are intended to promote a richer understanding of the material and to serve as a forum for students to voice their opinions and reactions.
Grading

20%  (6) Reading Analysis Papers
20%  Precedent Presentation and Report I (Ordering Systems, Historical Traditions, Cultural Phenomena)
20%  Precedent Presentation and Report II (Sustainability)
30%  Final Exam
10%  Participation in Discussion Sessions

Course Requirements

Course Reader
All students are required to purchase the course reader in PRINT format (do NOT purchase a digital copy). Course readers can be purchased online at: www.universityreaders.com (click the Student “Buy Here” button on the top right side of the page). If you have any questions regarding ordering the reader, email: orders@universityreaders.com.

Assignments
(6) Reading Analysis Papers, and (2) Precedent Reports. All late work will lose a grade letter per day late. (Specific instructions for assignments will be distributed and discussed in class.)

Due dates
Precedent Report 1  Monday, October 1, 2012
Precedent Report 2  Monday, November 12, 2012
Final Exam  Monday, December 17, 2012

Late Work Policy

Late work may be submitted for a grade. However, each calendar day late the work is submitted equals one full letter grade deduction. The final exam may only be completed on the day it is given – no exceptions.

School of Architecture Attendance Policy

Attendance at all classes and discussion groups is mandatory. Excused absences must be documented with the course instructors or your assigned Class Assistant.

A student may miss the equivalent of one week of class sessions (in this case, one excused absence is permitted) without directly affecting the student’s grade and ability to complete the course. An excused absence is a confirmed personal illness, family emergency, or religious holiday. For each absence over the allowed number, your grade can be lowered by 1/3-letter grade.

If additional absences are required for a personal illness, family emergency, pre-approved academic reason/religious observance, you must discuss the situation with your faculty member immediately.

Any student not in class within the first 10 minutes is considered tardy, and any student absent (in any form including sleep, technological distraction, or by leaving mid class for a long break) for more than 1/3 of the class time can be considered fully absent. If arriving late, a student must be respectful of a class in
session and do everything possible to minimize the disruption caused by a late arrival. **It is always the student’s responsibility to seek means (if possible) to make up work missed due to absences, not the instructor’s, although such recourse is not always an option due to the nature of the material covered.**

**Statement on Academic Integrity**

**PLAGIARISM IS GROUNDS FOR FAILING THE ENTIRE COURSE**

USC is committed to the general principles of academic honesty that include and incorporate the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own.

By taking this course, students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: [http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/](http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/).

Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: [http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/](http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/).

**Anti-Plagiarism Originality Review**

All Precedent Reports submitted for this course will be subject to an originality review as performed by Turnitin technologies to find textual similarities with other Internet content or previously submitted student work. Turnitin is academic integrity software, sometimes referred to as anti-plagiarism software. The software enables instructors to check student work against a large database of published manuscripts, public domain materials, and other students’ work (both from USC and other academic institutions) to ensure that the work is original. Turnitin generates an originality report, which is then returned to the instructor, indicating areas that may be plagiarized.

Specific information regarding how to upload your Precedent Reports into the Turnitin feature of Blackboard will be discussed and distributed at a later date.

**Religious Holidays**

The University of Southern California recognizes the diversity of our community and the potential for conflicts involving academic activities and personal religious observation. The University provides a guide to such observances for reference and suggests that any concerns about lack of attendance or inability to participate fully in the course activity be fully aired at the start of the term. As a general principle, students should be excused from class for these events if properly documented and if provisions can be made to accommodate the absence and make up the lost work. Constraints on participation that conflict with adequate participation in the course and cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the faculty and the student need to be identified prior to the add/drop date for registration. After the add/drop date the University and the School of Architecture shall be the sole arbiter of what constitutes appropriate attendance and participation in a given course.

**Statement for Students with Disabilities**

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved

University of Southern California

ARCH 114 Culture and Community
accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to your faculty member as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

Accreditation Statement

The USC School of Architecture’s five year BARCH degree and the two-year M.Arch degree are accredited professional architectural degree programs. All students can access and review the NAAB Conditions of Accreditation (including the Student Performance Criteria) on the NAAB Website, http://www.naab.org/accreditation/2009_Conditions.aspx

Critical Dates:

September 14, 2012: Last day to drop without a W
November 16, 2012: Last day to drop with a W