Art 270: Early Modern Architecture

Ms. Gilkerson
Oberlin College
Spring 2006
T/TH 11-12:15

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Office Hours: T/Th 4:30-6 & by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course surveys new developments in European architecture from the seventeenth through the nineteenth centuries. From the rise of rationalism in architectural theory and the birth of the French academy of architecture during the seventeenth century through the appearance of new institutions and political and technological revolutions during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the course will consider major monuments and movements from the Baroque to Art Nouveau.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
To sharpen your critical skills in looking, thinking, speaking and writing about European architecture of the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries.

COURSE MATERIALS
There is one required textbook, available for purchase at the Oberlin College Bookstore:


Other required reading is indicated in bold, while additional or suggested reading is for your own enrichment, and is not required for the course.

This text, as well as all other required and most supplemental readings, will be available on reserve in the Clarence Ward Art Library. I may add occasional readings later in the semester.

COURSE WEB SITE:
Lecture slides will be available for study after each lecture at:
http://www.oberlin.edu/images/Art270/Art270.html
I encourage you to spend a few minutes after each lecture learning the images. You will be responsible for these images on the midterm and the final exam.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, DUE DATES AND GRADING
1. Short Paper (Feb. 28, 3 p).........................................................................................10%
2. Mid-term (Mar. 21)........................................................................................................ 20%
3. Long Paper (May 11, 8-10 pp)..................................................................................... 30%
4. Final Exam .................................................................................................................... 25%
5. Short Presentation and 1 p. paper (Mar.7, Apr.18, and May 2) plus Class Participation.....................................................................................................................15%
HONOR CODE
It is essential that you write and sign the Honor Code on all work you hand in for this class. The Honor Code reads: "I affirm that I have adhered to the Honor Code on this assignment." For details, go to: http://www.oberlin.edu/students/life/rules-regs05/06honor_code.pdf Work submitted without this statement will be returned ungraded.

ATTENDANCE
Absences: Since attendance and participation are essential to learning this material, repeated absences will be penalized, and may result in a no-entry for the course--even if all written work has been completed. I will take roll at various times during the class.

LATE PAPERS
Late work: All work is due at the beginning of class on the assigned day. Assignments due on days when the class does not meet are due at 4:30 in my mailbox. Late work will be accepted without penalty only in cases of true emergency or by prior agreement with me. In other cases, work turned in late will be accepted, with half a grade deducted for every day between the due date and the date it is handed in.

SCHEDULE

T 2/7 INTRODUCTION

PART ONE: RISE OF THE BAROQUE
TH 2/9 Rome Renaissance Legacy and the Rise of Baroque Splendor

T 2/14 Baroque Capitals: Rome, Paris and London

TH 2/16 Roman Baroque: Bernini and Borromini
T 2/21  Baroque in Northern and Southern Italy

TH 2/23  NO CLASS

T 2/28 French Baroque I: Urban Palaces and Churches

Short paper due in class.

TH 3/2  French Baroque II: Country Houses
   Read: TBA

T 3/7 DISCUSSION I: Versailles and Court Society

TH 3/9 The Quarrel of the Ancients and Moderns; Architectural Education

T 3/14 English Baroque: Jones, Hawksmoor, and Wren

TH 3/16 Rococo Churches and Monasteries in Germany, Prague and Bohemia
   Read: Kaufmann, Court, Cloister and City, Chaps. 14 and 15.

T 3/21 MIDTERM

TH 3/23 ART LIBRARY VISIT- RARE ARCHITECTURE BOOKS

SPRING BREAK
PART II: THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND THE REVOLUTIONARY ERA
T  4/4  The Enlightenment: Neolassicism, Science and Archaeology

TH 4/6  The Enlightenment City in Europe

T  4/11  Experimental Architecture and Landscape Design in the late 18th Century

TH 4/13  Revolutionary Architecture

Long paper topic and bibliography due in class.

T  4/18  DISCUSSION II: Architecture for Revolution
Read: TBA

PART III: NINETEENTH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE IN EUROPE
TH 4/20  The Rise of Nationalism

T  4/25  Historicism and New Building Types

TH 4/27  New Technology and Architectural Form, 1851-90

T  5/2  Ephemeral Palaces for the People: Exposition Architecture
Read: TBA

TH 5/4  The City Transformed, 1848-93

T  5/9  Crisis of Historicism, 1879-93

TH 5/11 Conclusion

Long paper due in class.

Part I. Reference and Background Readings:
Unfortunately, there is no recent survey of Baroque and Rococo architecture, but I recommend Anthony Blunt, ed., *Baroque and Rococo. Architecture and Decoration* (N.Y., 1978), an out-of-print collection of essays organized by country.


In addition the volumes in the Penguin History of Art listed below cover our period and should be consulted for further information. These books are on reserve in the Art Library, and most are also available in paperback editions from Yale University Press.

- Blunt, Anthony. *Art and Architecture in France 1500-1700*.
- Summerson, John. *Architecture in Britain 1530-1830*.
- Wittkower, Rudolf. *Art and Architecture in Italy 1600-1750*.

The following titles are recommended for historical information.


Additional background bibliography for Parts II. and III is forthcoming.