Boston University College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
Undergraduate Academic Program Office
725 Commonwealth Avenue, Room 102

CAS/GRS Course Revision Proposal Form

This form is to be used when proposing a revision of an existing CAS or GRS course.

Once completed, this form should be submitted to Senior Academic Administrator Peter Law (617-353-7243) as a PDF file to pgl@bu.edu.

For further information or assistance, contact Associate Dean Joseph Bizup (617-353-2409; jbizup@bu.edu) about CAS courses or Associate Dean Jeffrey Hughes (617-353-2690; hughes@bu.edu) about GRS courses.

DEPARTMENT OR PROGRAM: Art and Art History
CURRENT COURSE NUMBER: AH 201
DATE SUBMITTED: 9/28/16

CURRENT COURSE NAME: Understanding Architecture: Theoretical Approaches to the Built Environment

CURRENT 40 WORD COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Introduces a range of approaches to the analysis of architecture. Learn how scholars and architects have interpreted meaning in architecture through the rubrics of art, structure, language, nonverbal communication, experience, and culture.

CURRENT CROSS-LISTING DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM, if any: n/a

TO BE OFFERED NEXT:  Sem./Year: ___Spring___ / ___2017___

INSTRUCTOR(S): Daniel Abramson

DEPARTMENT CONTACT NAME AND POSITION: Daniel Abramson, Professor
DEPARTMENT CONTACT EMAIL AND PHONE: dabr@bu.edu, x31441

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR REVISION (check all that apply):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Short Title</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Credits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cross-listing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>X 40 Word Description</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prerequisites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Divisional Studies Credit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other (Explain)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: The “short title” appears in the course inventory and on student transcripts and must be 15 characters maximum including spaces. The “40 word description” appears in the CAS/GRS Bulletin.

PROPOSED REVISIONS: For each item checked above, provide the current information, then the proposed information, then a brief explanation for the proposed change, including the intended impact of the change.

1. Title
a. Current information: Understanding Architecture: Theoretical Approaches to the Built Environment

b. Proposed information: Understanding Architecture

c. Explanation & impact The course is no longer exclusively focused or organized around architectural theory, and so should not be advertised as such. The impact of the name change is only positive. Keeping the main title means no student confusion. Omitting the subtitle only clarifies the content.

2. 40 word description

a. Current information: Introduces a range of approaches to the analysis of architecture. Learn how scholars and architects have interpreted meaning in architecture through the rubrics of art, structure, language, nonverbal communication, experience, and culture.

b. Proposed information: Introduces a range of approaches to understanding architecture in an historical perspective. Learn how architects and others have interpreted meaning through rubrics of art, nature, and culture, focused upon European and American architecture from 1400 to the present.

c. Explanation & impact: Previously the course was organized around theoretical themes in an ahistorical structure. The new senior hire in the department, Professor Daniel Abramson, believes the students are best served and will more deeply comprehend this material if it is presented within its historical framework. The impact of the revised description will only be positive. The revised 40 word description maintains the basic content and tone of the original, but specifies the historical frame of the course.

IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS/PROGRAMS: Will any of these changes have an impact on students pursuing the degree requirements or expectations of other departments, programs, or schools?
Check one: ☐ Yes  ☒ No

If YES, please identify impacts and attach cognate comment from the appropriate department/ program/ school.

RESOURCE NEEDS: STAFFING, FACILITIES, AND EQUIPMENT: As a result of the proposed changes, will there be any changes in the staffing, special facilities or equipment needs of the course (e.g. laboratory, library, instructional technology, technical resources, etc)?
Check one: ☐ Yes  ☒ No

If YES, explain further and indicate whether currently available staffing, facilities, and equipment are adequate for the proposed course. (NOTE: Approval of proposed revisions does not imply a change in resource commitments on the part of CAS.)

FURTHER INFORMATION THAT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN ORDER FOR THIS PROPOSAL TO BE CONSIDERED:
1. A complete week-by-week SYLLABUS with student learning objectives, readings, and assignments that reflects the proposed changes (see guidelines on “Writing a Syllabus” on the Center for Teaching & Learning website. Be sure that syllabus includes your expectations for academic honesty, with URL for pertinent undergraduate or GRS academic conduct code(s).

2. Cognate comment from chairs or directors of relevant departments and/or programs. Use the form available here. You can consult with Joseph Bizup (CAS) or Jeffrey Hughes (GRS) to determine which departments or programs inside and outside of CAS would be appropriate.

DEPARTMENT APPROVAL: ________________ 9-27-76
Department Chair (Associate Chair)

______________________________ __________________________
Other Department Chair(s) (for cross-listed courses) Date

DEAN'S OFFICE CURRICULUM ADMINISTRATOR USE ONLY

CAS/GRS CURRICULUM COMMITTEE APPROVAL:

☐ Approved Date:__________________________
☐ Tabled Date:__________________________
☐ Not Approved Date:______________________

Divisional Studies Credit:

☐ Endorsed

☐ HU
☐ MCS
☐ NS
☐ SS

☐ Not endorsed

______________________________
Curriculum Committee Chair Signature and Date

Comments:

PROVISIONAL APPROVAL REQUESTED for Semester/Year ____________________________

______________________________
Dean of Arts & Sciences Signature and Date
Comments:

CAS FACULTY: Faculty Meeting Date: □ Approved □ Not Approved

__________________________
Curriculum Administrator Signature and Date

Comments:
Understanding Architecture

History of Art and Architecture (AH) 201 • Spring 2017 • Tue.+Thurs., 8:00-9:15 a.m.
Professor Daniel Abramson
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30-3:00 p.m. or by appointment
725 Comm. Ave., rm. 210A • dabr@bu.edu • 617.353.1441

The real content of a work is the vision of the world expressed in its way of forming.
Umberto Eco, The Open Work, 1962

Summary
The primary goal of this course is for you to gain a familiarity with the theory and history of architecture from 1400 to the present, framed by the evolution of European and American architecture in a global context. Lectures and class discussion focus on major theories, buildings, architects, and urban developments of the period, emphasizing issues of history, technology, nature, and society. Architecture is here understood theoretically as a form of social mediation, between individuals and groups, and as a form of philosophical meditation, how we conceive the world.

This course is also designed to teach basic architectural terminology, concepts, and procedures of analysis and historical interpretation. Most broadly, the course helps you understand architecture as a “vision of the world” expressed in built form, following the definition of art above.

No prerequisite in art or architectural history is necessary.

Written work for the class includes: a) five short reading response papers addressing theoretical primary texts to be found on the course Blackboard site; b) a three-page paper analyzing a local Boston building, and; c) a nine-to-eleven page research term paper on an architectural theory or topic of your choosing from the period 1400 to the present. Additionally, two quizzes and a final test evaluate your conceptual understanding and factual knowledge of the course's major themes and exemplars. Review sessions will be scheduled before each quiz and test.

It is expected that students will abide by Boston University’s Academic Conduct Code (http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/)
Requirements
Reading Responses (30%): Due . . . . (late penalties apply)
Short paper (15%): Due . . . .
Quizzes (20%): . . . .
Final test (15%): . . . .
Term paper (20%): Optional draft due . . . .
Final version due . . . .

Reading responses are to be submitted printed out in class. Consistent class participation can weigh positively in the final grade. The Turnitin electronic anti-plagiarism program may be used for written assignments (instructions to follow). Pick up all returned work from the class envelope in the art history department office. Class communication will be through Boston University email accounts.

Note: A failing grade in any requirement may result in a failing grade for the course.

Readings and Images
• Required readings in block letters, which will be the basis for the five reading response papers, can be found on the course Blackboard site, along with other class material, including lecture image lists, lecture powerpoints, assignments, and the syllabus.
• Images from lectures, which will be part of the quizzes and final test, can be accessed and reviewed on-line at on the art history department’s Cumulus website.
• Recommended readings in italics are from Kathleen James-Chakraborty, Architecture Since 1400 (University of Minnesota Press, 2014). These recommended readings provide useful information, illustrations, and context related to the class lectures and required readings. This optional textbook is on reserve at Mugar Library and for sale at the school bookstore (rent used, $xxx; rent new, $xxx; buy used, $xxx; buy new, $xxx).

Schedule

Week 1

Introduction

15th-Century Florence’s Rational Renaissance Spatial Ideal
Architecture Since 1400, pp. 30-43

Week 2

Alberti’s Representative Social Facade
READING RESPONSE #1 DUE: Leon Battista Alberti, On the Art of Building in Ten Books, 1485 (excerpts)
Architecture Since 1400, pp. 49-54

16th-Century Rome and the Mythic Central Plan/Looking at a Tufts Building
Architecture Since 1400, pp. 61-64
Week 3

Mannerism Against Authority
*Architecture Since 1400*, pp. 55-56, 64-67

Italian Villas and Gardens: Cultivated Autonomy
*Architecture Since 1400*, pp. 67-70

Week 4

The Academic Reaction: Regulation and Visuality
*Architecture Since 1400*, pp. 70-74
SHORT PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Faith, Power, and the 17th-Century Catholic Baroque
*Architecture Since 1400*, pp. 125-128, 132-156

Week 5

National Classicism in 17th-Century French Architecture
*Architecture Since 1400*, pp. 75-79, 157-164

QUIZ I

Week 6

English Classicism and the 18th-Century Picturesque Garden
*Architecture Since 1400*, pp. 79-81, 173-190

From Reaction to Revolution Before 1800
READING RESPONSE #2 DUE: Marc-Antoine Laugier, *An Essay on Architecture*, 1753 (extracts)
*Architecture Since 1400*, pp. 237-246, 250-51

Week 7

19th-Century International Styles: Neoclassicism and Beaux-Arts
*Architecture Since 1400*, pp. 246-249, 273-74

Reforming the 19th-Century City: London, Paris, Chicago
*Architecture Since 1400*, pp. 273, 279-289, 329-332

Week 8

Realism and Romanticism
READING RESPONSE #3 DUE: Victor Hugo, "This Will Kill That," (1831)
*Architecture Since 1400*, pp. 251-258, 276-278

Medievalism, Naturalism, and Functionalism
*Architecture Since 1400*, pp. 261-72, 293-296, 303-305, 323-329, 342-47
Week 9

Architecture for the Twentieth Century: Material, Structure, and Space
Architecture Since 1400, pp. 335-337, 359-364

QUIZ II

Week 10

Strains of the Modern
READING RESPONSE #4 DUE: Le Corbusier, Towards a New Architecture, 1923 (excerpts)
Architecture Since 1400, pp. 350-358

Interwar Urbanism
Architecture Since 1400, pp. 370-393, 399-400

Week 11

Postwar Modernism Around the World/Research Orientation
Architecture Since 1400, pp. 393-399, 404, 429-431, 439-442

The Postmodern Return of History: Myth, Play, and Context
Architecture Since 1400, pp. 432-434, 456-463, 464-465

Week 12

Postwar Urbanism: Technology and Tradition
Architecture Since 1400, pp. 406-409, 443-445

Deconstruction: The End of Humanism?
READING RESPONSE #5 DUE: Peter Eisenman, "Strong Form, Weak Form," 1991
Architecture Since 1400, pp. 463-464, 465-468

Week 13

Architecture Now: Spectacle, Supermodernism, and Sustainability
Architecture Since 1400, pp. 453-454, 468-488
TERM PAPER DRAFT DUE (OPTIONAL)

FINAL TEST

Exam Period
TERM PAPER DUE, 4 PM (submitted digitally to course Trunk site, under 'Assignments')