

BUILDING CHICAGO BUILDINGS

UWM SARUP / SPRING 2018
ARCH 533 / UP 692, Lec 005
3 Credits

Fridays 9:00–11:40 am / AUP 189
Instructors: Kyle Reynolds & Matthew Messner
Contact: reynol54@uwm.edu & mmessner@uwm.edu

COURSE OVERVIEW

Building Chicago Buildings will take a critical look at the most complete Modernist City in the world through the buildings and infrastructure that made it so. Students will learn the history and theory behind the buildings that have influenced the way the world builds cities today, and the b-sides that have not been given their due attention. The course is structured with lectures at SARUP, several trips to Chicago to see projects in person, and office tours to meet the architects that are defining Chicago architecture today. From the first skyscrapers through Studio Gang's Aqua Tower, the city's underground to its building tops, and Sullivan to Mies, Building Chicago Buildings will focus specifically on built projects. Students enrolled in the course are required to do weekly readings, produce a guidebook, and give a presentation on a weekly topic as well as travel to Chicago on select classes for tours and observation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

-Skills and Tools: Through the practice of learning and understanding the complex history and theory behind the architecture of Chicago, you will better be able to understand and critique projects anywhere in the world.

-Analysis and Articulation: Think critically about themes and movements in architectural history and theory. Develop your own critical position by making arguments and citing precedent.

-Experimentation and Curiosity: You are encouraged to explore the physical and ideological City of Chicago throughout the class. We will touch on many ways in which to examine the city and its buildings, but you should try and establish your own techniques and methods of understanding the built world.



The Reliance building being built in approximately 1890.

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SCHEDULE

The schedule is subject to change. More information about assignments, deadlines, and requirements will be issued when each assignment is introduced. Required readings will be provided in PDF format by the Instructor.

Week 1: 1/26

Lecture 01

Mies's Metropolis or The Germans are Coming

Guidebook Topic: Miesian Modernist Buildings

Readings:

Presence of Mies (Selected Readings)

Mies in America (Selected Readings)

Week 2: 2/02

100% Contemporary Symposium

(SARUP Commons)

Week 3: 2/09

Lecture 02

If it ain't Wright, Burnham

Guidebook Topic: Chicago School Buildings

Group Presentations 1 and 2

Readings:

Colin Rowe – *Chicago Frame*

Giedion, Sigfried – *The Chicago School (Space Time and Architecture)*

Bruegman, Robert – *Myth of the Chicago School*

Week 4: 2/16

Chicago Trip

Tour of Monadnock, Fischer, Rookery, Railway Exchange, Reliance, etc.

Week 5: 2/23

Lecture 03

Towers in the City

Guidebook Topic: Skyscrapers

Group Presentations 3 and 4

Readings:

Abalos and Herreros - *Tower and Office*

Schuyler, Montgomery – *Skyscrapers – Rationalistic Architecture*

Bluestone, Daniel – *Skyscrapers – Constructing Chicago*

Zukowski, Jon – *The Sky's the Limit: Highrises and Commercial Buildings – in Chicago Architecture: Birth of a Metropolis*

Week 6: 3/02

Lecture 04

City in a Tower

Guidebook Topic: Cities in Towers/Projects/Marina City etc.

Group Presentations 5 and 6

Readings:

Goldberg, Bertrand – *The Critical Mass of Urbanism*

Lynn, Greg – *Multiplicitous and Inorganic Bodies*

Somol, Robert – *You Put Me in a Happy State: The Singularity of Power in Chicago's Loop*

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- Week 7: 3/09 **Chicago Trip**
Tour of History of Chicago Tower (Follow Tower and Office book)
- Week 8: 3/16 **Lecture 05**
For Whom the Bell Tolls
Guidebook Topic: Demolished Buildings
Group Presentations 7 and 8
Guidebook Draft Due

Readings:
Aguirre, Paola and Tucker, Michelle Ha – *When the Future was Here*
- Week 9: 3/23 **No Class**
Spring Break
- Week 10: 3/30 **Lecture 06**
New Kids on the Block
Guidebook Topic: Year 2000-Present
Group Presentations 9 and 10

Readings:
Mostafavi, Mohsen – *The Visible and the Tangible: The Work of Studio Gang Architects*
- Week 11: 4/06 **Chicago Trip**
Tour of Aqua, Poetry Foundation, etc.
- Week 12: 4/13 **Lecture 07**
Superblocks
Guidebook Topic: Superblocks and Campuses
Group Presentation 11 and 12
Guidebook Draft Due

Readings:
Whiting, Sarah – *Superblockism*
Whiting, Sarah – *Bas Relief Urbanism*
Koolhaas, Rem – *Content – Mistakes and The Chicago School*
- Week 13: 4/20 **Chicago Trip**
Tour of IIT and UIC
- Week 14: 4/27 **Lecture 08**
That Building Looks like a Dog
Guidebook Topic: Post Modernism

Readings:
Szacka, Léa-Chatherine – *Historicism Versus Communication: The Basic Debate of the 1980 Biennale*
Diamonstein-Spielvogel, Barbaralee – *American Architecture Now: Stanley Tigerman, 1984 (Video)*
Diamonstein-Spielvogel, Barbaralee – *American Architecture Now: Philip Johnson (Video)*
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Week 14: 5/4 **Chicago Trip**
Tour of 160 La Salle, Thompson Center, Harold Washington Library, The Anti-Cruelty Society

Week 14: 5/14-18 **Review**
Pin up and Review Guidebooks – First Floor Alcove

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Documentation

At the end of each assignment you will submit the working and final image/print files to the dropbox on D2L (not to be confused with DropBox the company) under the appropriate assignment folder. Submit only final production files as either Jpegs (for raster images) and PDFs (for vector images). All Files should be named with the following format:

533_SPR2018_MessnerReynolds_DoeJane_Assignment_Title.jpg

For your reference, the breakdown of the naming structure is below. We will be carefully monitoring and correcting file naming structure:

533(Course Number)_SPR2018(Spring Semester 2018)_MessnerReynolds(Professor Name)_DoeJane(Your Name)_Assignment(The assignment name: Guidebook or Presentation)_Title.jpg(A short descriptive name that states the title of your assignment)

Time Investment

UWM policy states that: Study leading to one semester credit represents an investment of time by the average student of not fewer than 48 hours for class contact in lectures, for laboratories, examinations, tutorials and recitations, and for preparation and study; or a demonstration by the student of learning equivalent to that established as the expected product of such a period of study. (UWM FD 2838)

On weekly average, this course will require the 3 hours in class plus an additional 9 hours outside of class to complete the assignments and readings.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in this course. An absence may be excused for medical emergencies or family emergencies only. These emergencies must be supported by proper documentation, such as a doctor's note on letterhead. The student is solely responsible for providing proper documentation for the absence to the instructor, and must do so prior to the end of the current semester. The student is also solely responsible for arranging for materials, etc. from a class (s)he has missed. Students who wish to observe a religious holiday shall notify the professor by the tenth day of the semester of the date when they will be absent unless the religious holiday is observed on or before the tenth day of the semester. (See below for additional details)

Attendance will be recorded during class. Students are allowed 2 unexcused absences, on the 3rd unexcused absence the student's maximum overall grade will drop by one letter. A 4th unexcused absence will result in an automatic failure of the course. Students with 4 or more excused absences will be asked to withdraw from the course without any consequences to their grade. The course content is too dense and moves too quickly to catch up with that many absences.

Students are required to arrive on time and be prepared prior to the start of class. Being on time and prepared does not mean showing up when the class begins, it means being in your seat, and ready to participate in that day's activities prior to the start of the class. There are many things to cover in an abbreviated time period and arriving late to class is disruptive to your professor, and fellow classmates. Students arriving over 10 minutes late to class will be considered absent. A student who consistently arrives late to class will be given 1 absence for every 3 late arrivals even if it is under 10 minutes.

Absences may be excused due to religious observance, and students who wish to do so should reference the following link.

http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S1.5.htm

Absences may also be excused due to call-up of reserves to active military duty.

http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm

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Grades

Although maximum effort is required for receiving a high mark in this course, it is not the sole determining factor in the final grade. It is possible to put forth maximum effort and execute poorly. Projects will be graded according to results, not potential. Verbal and written encouragement should not be mistaken as an indication of a resultant grade. Verbal feedback will be given in class during discussion, and project reviews and will indicate areas of the project that have been completed effectively as well as those that need improvement. The verbal feedback may not be given directly about your project, it may be a general discussion about the work of the class or it may only be a discussion about a select number of students' work. This is still feedback and is relevant to your own work. Students should pay attention to all critiques as a way to enhance their insight on the topic of inquiry. Should there be any doubt on the status of one's work, the onus is on the student to set up a time with their professor to meet and discuss where the work stands and what areas need to be improved. Final grades are non-negotiable.

The final semester grade will be weighted with the following values:

Participation and discussion:	20%
Presentation:	30%
Guidebook:	50%

Each assignment will be graded on a 100 point scale, with the following criteria:

A (100-93) A- (92.9-90)
Work must reflect outstanding achievement in content and execution and far exceed given requirements
B+ (89.9-87) B (86.9-83) B- (82.9-80)
Work must reflect high achievement in both content and execution and further develop given requirements
C+ (79.9-77) C (76.9-73) C- (72.9-70)
Work meets the given requirements
D+ (69.9-67) D (66.9-63) D- (62.9-60)
Work is below average and does not fulfill all requirements
F (<60)
Work is unacceptable and does not fulfill requirements

Grading Rubric

The grading rubric will be strictly enforced.

Participation and Discussion

To achieve a high mark in this category students must attend class, be on time, have appropriate readings and work completed and ready to present or critique, and participate regularly in class discussion.

Presentation

To achieve a high mark in this assignment, students must produce a thoroughly researched analysis of a Chicago building selected from the weekly topic list. Original analysis and original drawings that supplement existing reference materials are encouraged.

Guidebook

To achieve a high mark in this assignment, students must produce a thoroughly researched, well written, and graphically compelling guidebook while contributing equal effort in group work.

Work that at a minimum follows the directions and is executed without mistakes will

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result in a grade of C. In order to achieve high mark on the assignments students must go beyond the minimum requirements and produce in-depth original research and analysis.

Late Work

Consistent with the architectural profession, late work will not be accepted unless otherwise excused as stated in the Attendance section.

Incompletes

A notation of Incomplete may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student's control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work.

http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S31.pdf

Grade Appeal Procedures

A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School.

http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S28.htm

Studio Culture Policy

Refer to the SARUP website: <http://uwm.edu/sarup/live/policies/studio-culture/>

Accommodations

If a student with disabilities requires special accommodations to meet the requirements of the course, please contact the professor.

<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACltr.pdf>

Ethics

Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff.

http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S47.pdf

Academic Misconduct

Cheating on exams or plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, including failing a course or even suspension or dismissal from the University.

<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html>

Complaint Procedures

Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy.

http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S49.7.htm

UWM Standards

For additional information related to UWM policies and procedures please see:

<http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf>
