

48-240 History of World Architecture, I

Diane Shaw

Reflecting the inseparable relation between building and human needs, this course is not only a history of architecture, but also a history through architecture. Over the semester, we will examine the history of architectural and urban design as a form of cultural expression unique to its time and place. Through readings and lectures, we will study the ways that the design, use, meaning, and legacy of a building and its site was conditioned not only by the architect's will or the patron's desire, but also by a web of technological, religious, social, cultural, economic, and political factors of the time. This course cuts a broad swath through time, geography and cultures, surveying critical episodes in the built environment of Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and the Americas from ancient times through the nineteenth century. This course is the first half of the B.Arch's required two-semester survey of the history of architecture, and also welcomes non-majors. The survey introduces you to the subject and skills of architectural history and sets a foundation for subsequent course work. Other advanced level architectural history courses offered by the School of Architecture include courses focused on a region, period, and/or theme.