A. Course Description

This course explores the evolution of society’s physical fabric as revealed by place, climate, culture, technology and time. The work of several well-known architects will be examined to study the impact of scientific knowledge and architectural design theory on history, culture, sociology and built form. Students will prepare several oral presentations to validate their understanding of the course content. Fall semester only. Open to non-majors.

B. Topics Covered

1. Research skills and procedures
2. Perception and thinking
3. The individual and the group
4. Coping with nature – earthquakes, floods, fires, famine
5. The natural environment – resources
6. The City
7. The language and symbols of architecture
8. Vernacular Architecture
9. Monuments in the history of architecture
10. The architect and the architect’s work
11. Building structures and systems
12. Architecture in the future – change and technology

C. Course competencies:

1. Use a library and the internet to research a topic in architecture.
2. Describe several ways in which individuals are basically different in their modes of perception and thought.
3. Discuss the influence of “the group” on individual behavior.
4. Discuss the mechanics of earthquakes and floods and the importance of natural disasters to architectural design.
5. Describe the hydrologic cycle, the structure and importance of rain forests, or world wind patterns.
6. Describe an ancient city, a typical dwelling in such a city or a few critical issues in modern city design.
7. Identify the symbolism in a well-known structure.
8. Give the meaning and an example of vernacular architecture.
9. Correctly match at least three of five monuments in architecture with their historical periods.
10. List several major responsibilities of an architect, or describe two types of architectural office structure.
11. Describe two types of (a) building foundations, (b) building frames, (c) building transportation systems, or heat transfer.
12. Identify and discuss two recent or future (projected) building technologies

D. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of AEC 135, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the roles of various design professionals in the creation of the built environment.
2. Describe a building by breaking it down into its 2D and 3D fundamental components.
3. List the environmental responses of a building to its location.
4. Give a report on a licensed architect, their education, philosophy and work.
5. Explain some of the coursework taken by architecture students pursuing an architectural degree.
6. Demonstrate oral and written communication skills appropriate to the level of the coursework.

E. Prerequisites

1. ENG 210 or ENG 250-260

F. Corequisites

1. None

G. Recommended Preparation

1. None

H. Texts