

Syllabus for

Architectural History: The Role and Future of Traditional Chinese Architectural Forms

Course Description:

The Traditional Chinese Architecture course will survey four principle forms of traditional Chinese architecture, and present a selection of Domestic structures. Two field trips will be conducted to examine an example of each of these forms. During the spring Yunnan Excursion trip the students will examine the Pagodas at Dali, and the gates of the Confucian temple in Jianshui. Students will be taught how to photographically record and then measure each type of structure. Each student will undertake an intensive study of one traditional building. A research paper will use not only standard academic documentation but photographs and drawings to indicate analysis and understanding of a Chinese structure.

Course Outcomes:

The student will learn to *identify* the authentic form and iconography of traditional Chinese Gates, Pagodas, Pavilions, Walls and Domestic structures. Having quickly surveyed the ancient prototypes of these structures both in India and China, the student will begin a concerted study of these four forms. Once familiar with them each student will choose one building to study in detail for a research paper. S/he will photograph the building in situ, measure its plan and elevation, and photograph and develop a visual record of the iconography, imagery, pigmentation and ornament of this building. S/he will also be able to describe and illustrate the primary construction techniques involved in its structure. Finally, the student will compose an essay in which the following question is addressed: "Can such a traditional Chinese architectural form once again become part of the vernacular of contemporary Chinese architecture?"

Course Requirements and Form of Assessment:

Students must attend all class lectures, field trips and demonstrations because each class will require active participation such as learning how to how to record and document a building. A mid term test will be administered to determine the student's comprehension of the four + one forms of Chinese architecture. A research project will demonstrate the student's ability to analyze a structure physically, iconographically and historically. Each student will also compose an essay on the "future of traditional Chinese Architecture.

Grading: Class Participation: 25%, Mid Term 25%, Research 40%, Essay 10%

Attendance is Required:

In each class a set of skills will be practiced, such as site visitation, photographing of subject matter, measurements. Non participation in such exercises will diminish a student's grades by 2% for each segment missed.

Academic Honesty:

TBC abides by Loyola University/s Academic Policy Statement.

Required Texts:

Boyd, Andrew. *Chinese Architecture and Town Planning*. London: Tiranti Press, 1962; Chicago: the University of Chicago Press, 1962. [If out of print, offprint will be given to students]

Liang Ssu-Ch'eng, *Chinese Architecture, a Pictorial History*, Minneola: Dover Publications, Inc. 1984.

Class Schedule:

- First Week:** Introduction to Primary Forms of Chinese Architecture. For next class read pp.7-65 Liang Ssu-Ch'eng, "Chinese Structural Systems."
- Second Week:** Timber Frame Buildings: Yonghegong. Site Visit. For next class read pp. 123-165 Liang Ssu-Ch'eng, "Buddhist Pagodas."
- Third Week:** Yunnan site visits: Dali Pagodas, Jianshui Confucian Gates
- Fourth Week:** Examination of Chinese Platforms and Wall Types. (reading to be determined for this class.)
- Fifth Week:** Study of Pavilions + Forbidden City. For next class read Andrew Boyd, pp. 75-127.
- Sixth Week:** Study + field trip to Beijing Hutongs: Domestic Structures
- Seventh Week:** Mid Term Examination + setting forth research methods
- Eighth Week:** Review of Research Proposal + How to record a building. Bring Camera, measuring tape (metric), tablet. For next class read pp. 71-123, Liang Ssu-Ch'eng, "The Period of Elegance."
- Ninth Week:** Further study of Structural Systems. For next class read pp. 47-79, 177, 199-225 Chen Congzhou, *Chinese Houses*.
- Tenth Week:** Ornamentation of Traditional Structures
- Eleventh Week:** Why traditional architectural types were rejected. For next class read: Xing Ruan, *Allegorical Architecture*, pp. 38-88.
- Twelfth Week:** Iconography, symbolism of Traditional structures.
- Thirteen Week:** Verbal / Visual Presentation of Research in Progress.
- Fourteenth Week:** Research Project in standard academic form.
Essay due.