

ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES

Overview and Contact Information

The Architectural Studies Program at Mount Holyoke offers an interdisciplinary approach to issues of design, history, and theory. The program, which blends studio and academic work, explores the intersections between built forms and the natural landscape, as well as the interactions between architecture and the cultural landscape. Computer science, environmental studies, geography, and sociology all come into play, alongside art, math, and physics. There are awards, grants, and fellowship opportunities (https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/artstudio/awards) for students of Architectural Studies.

With interests ranging from architectural history to urban design, majors have enrolled in study abroad programs across the globe, including Copenhagen, Dublin, Florence, and Paris.

Contact Information

Michael T. Davis, program coordinator

Rose Ryan, Academic Department Coordinator

201 Art Building

413-538-2200

https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/architectural

Faculty

This area of study is administered by the Department of Art and Art History:

Michael Davis, Professor of Art History

Naomi Darling, Five College Assistant Professor of Sustainable Architecture

Thom Long, Five College Assistant Professor of Architectural Studies

Requirements for the Major

A minimum of 44 credits:

Foundation Concentration

One art studio course at the 100 level; for example: 4

ARTST-120 Drawing I¹

or ARTST-133 Studio Art Foundations

One of the following art history survey courses with significant architectural content: 4

ARTH-100 Image and Environment

ARTH-101 The Built Environment

ARTH-105 Arts of Asia

ARCH-201 Introduction to Architecture

Design Studio: 8 credits (taken at Mount Holyoke, Smith College, Hampshire College, or the University of Massachusetts, Amherst); for example:¹ 8

Mount Holyoke:

ARCH-205AD Introduction to Architectural Design: 'Sculpting Space'

ARCH-225ED Intermediate Studies in Architecture: 'Principles of Environmental Design'

Amherst:

ARCH 216	Intermediate Architectural Design	
Smith:		
LSS-250	Studio: Landscape and Narrative	
ARS-283	Introduction to Architecture: Site and Space	
ARS-285	Introduction to Architecture	
Hampshire:		
HACU-107	Introduction to Architectural Design	
IA-0180	Design Fundamentals I	
HACU-205	Topics in Architecture	
UMass:		
ARCH-300	Design I	
ARCH-301	Design II	
Intermediate Concentration: 20 credits at the 200 level		20
At least one course must be a studio art course ²		
At least one course must be an architectural history course or an art history course with significant architectural content. In the Department of Art and Art History, these courses include:		
ARTH-222	Age of the Cathedrals: Gothic Art in Europe, 1100-1500	
ARTH-230	Italian Renaissance Art	
ARTH-233	Renaissance and Baroque Architecture in Italy	
ARTH-243AR	Architecture 1890-1990: 'Building the Modern Environment'	
ARTH-262	Arts of Japan	
ARTH-263	Arts of India	
ARTH-271	Arts of Islam: Book, Mosque, and Palace	
ARTH-290	Issues in Art History ³	
Advanced Concentration: 8 credits at the 300 level (in area of concentration). Courses may be drawn from art history, studio art, architectural design, and related disciplines		8
Total Credits		44

¹ ARTST-120 or ARTST-131 or any of their offerings; for example ARTST-120BV, ARTST-120VE, or ARTST-131SE.

² Design studios are not substitutes for art studios

³ Drawing, multimedia, painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography; consult the studio art course offerings

⁴ Where the specific topic of the ARTH-290 course is appropriate

Other Requirements

- Program plan. Students who elect to major in architectural studies in the Department of Art and Art History should select an advisor who will assist them in mapping a program of study. The student's program plan must be outlined in writing and submitted for approval to the advisor during the semester in which the student declares her major in architectural studies. The program may, of course, be revised with the advisor's approval.

Additional Specifications

- Students are encouraged to fulfill the Science and Mathematics distribution requirement by taking courses in mathematics and physics that are required for graduate study in architecture.
- Students majoring in architectural studies are not eligible to minor in art history or art studio.

Requirements for the Minor

A minimum of 20 credits:

ARTH-100	Image and Environment	4
or ARTH-101	The Built Environment	
or ARTH-105	Arts of Asia	
or ARCH-201	Introduction to Architecture	
One approved art studio course at the 100 level, for example: ¹		4
ARTST-120	Drawing I	
or ARTST-131	Studio Art Foundations	
A minimum of one approved architectural design course at the 200 level		4
Two approved electives in art history, art studio, or architectural design at the 200 or 300 level		8
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Total Credits		20

¹ ARTST-120 or ARTST-131 or any of their offerings; for example ARTST-120BV, ARTST-120VE, or ARTST-131SE.

Other Requirements

- Program plan. Those intending to minor must meet with a member of the architectural studies faculty to develop an approved program of study.

Additional Specifications

- At least 16 credits must be above the 100 level to satisfy the requirements for the minor.
- Students majoring in art history or studio art are not eligible to minor in architectural studies.

Course Offerings

ARCH-201 Introduction to Architecture

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

This course introduces the many facets of architecture: history, theory, and design of buildings, landscapes, and cities. In addition to surveying architecture from the earliest forms of human habitation to contemporary residences, the course introduces basic analytical skills of architectural representation. Students will develop skills of speaking and writing about architecture, while also learning basic design tools: the sketch, map, plan, elevation, materials study, and landscape setting. Guest architects and theorists will introduce design topics and work with students preparing drawings and designs that are evaluated on effort and realization, not on proficiency.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

M. Davis

Restrictions: This course is limited to First-year and Sophomore students.

ARCH-205 Introduction to Architecture

ARCH-205AD Introduction to Architectural Design: 'Sculpting Space'

Fall. Credits: 4

This studio course will be a design investigation of a particular theme in or approach to architecture and the built environment. Students will develop and apply traditional and contemporary architectural skills (sketches, plans, elevations, models, computer diagramming, and various modes of digital representation) to interdisciplinary and socially pertinent design problems. Creative and indexical study and analysis will be used to generate and foster a broad range of concepts and language to solve architectural issues involving site, construction, inhabitation, function, form, and space. Our goal is to apply creative techniques in art and sculpture to the creation of meaningful space.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

T. Long

Advisory: One semester of design or drawing is recommended

Notes: Students enrolled in this course will be responsible for some of the cost of materials.

ARCH-225 Intermediate Studies in Architectural Design

ARCH-225DD Intermediate Studies in Architectural Design: 'Introduction to Digital Design'

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

This course introduces students to contemporary digital design tools in order to better communicate fundamental architectural ideas. Students engage with CAD, 3D modeling, and 2D visualization techniques in Rhino 5 and Adobe CC, ultimately becoming an integral part of their creative design process. Students become proficient in digital drawing and modeling as they craft a short series of cumulative design exercises focusing on the tectonics and articulation of architectural surfaces. Skills are introduced and expanded, but more importantly, students learn to navigate the virtual environment that now more than ever influences a designer's disciplinary interests and creative processes.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

J. Jaminet

Advisory: One semester of Drawing I, design, or sculpture is recommended.

ARCH-225EC Intermediate Studies in Architectural Design: 'Principles of Ecological Design'

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

This studio/lecture course explores the ecology of nature's architecture and human-built environments as we "study our living place", and let the ecology of place guide design. Students will closely observe and analyze individual and collective environments and landscapes, case-study examples, ecosystems, wildlife, habitats, and human spaces of form and function. Students will utilize whole-systems thinking, knowledge of environmental issues, Earth elements and the biosphere to better understand and creatively build resilient, environmentally responsible design plans. This interdisciplinary course will be active with literature, group discussions, individual and group work/presentations; and will include outdoor, creative and hands-on activities. Students will expand as ecological designers through weekly journals, visual exercises/sketching, mapping, palette and site-design challenges and projects.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

J. Bergeron

Advisory: One semester of design, or environmental studies, or drawing/art studio recommended but not required.

Notes: Students enrolled in this course will be responsible for materials cost and possible field trip transportation.

ARCH-225ED Intermediate Studies in Architecture: 'Principles of Environmental Design'

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

This hybrid studio addresses human comfort with lectures and problem work sessions integrated with design projects. We start with an in-depth study of the world's climate regions, the sun, and the earth's tilt and spin. Primary methods of heat transfer are investigated as students research two architectural solutions (vernacular and contemporary) within each climate. Using daylight, the sun's movement, and sun-path diagrams students will design, draw and build a functioning solar clock. Issues in day-lighting and thermal comfort will then drive an extended design problem. Students will be asked to solve numerical problems and present design solutions using both drawings and models.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

N. Darling

Prereq: 4 Credits in Architecture design studio.

Advisory: Knowledge of algebra and trigonometry.

Notes: Students enrolled in this course will be responsible for some of the cost of materials.

ARCH-280 Topics in Architectural Studies**ARCH-295 Independent Study**

Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 4

The department

Instructor permission required.

ARCH-305 Advanced Topics in Architecture**ARCH-305CS Advanced Topics in Architecture: 'Capstone Studio'**

Spring. Credits: 4

This studio provides a structured creative environment for students to explore and design in both an individual and collaborative setting. Students develop their own individual design projects, identifying their approach, then executing their creative acts throughout the semester. This course is highly interdisciplinary in nature, yet designed for students developing projects in various areas of architecture and design, environmental studies, and urban planning. Discussion and writing are integral to this studio. The semester culminates in a collective exhibition. Students must have an individual project in mind or in progress at the start of the term.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

N. Darling

Notes: A considerable amount of self-directed work outside of class hours is expected from students.

ARCH-395 Independent Study

Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8

The department

Instructor permission required.

ARCH-395P Independent Study with Practicum

Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8

The department

Instructor permission required.

Related Courses

Students who plan to enroll in courses outside of the Five Colleges, especially in courses to be taken at another institution or abroad, should first consult with their advisor and the program coordinator to determine if the courses meet the departmental criteria for the major.

Five College Course Offerings in Architectural Studies

Current courses in architectural studies are offered throughout the Five Colleges. Check listings in the Five College course schedule (<https://www.fivecolleges.edu/academics/courses/>):

- Amherst College: Department of Art and the History of Art
- Hampshire College: Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies (HACU), Lemelson Center (HCLC)
- Smith College: Department of Art, Landscape Studies Program
- University of Massachusetts: Architecture and Design, Building Construction Technology, Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning.