ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES (ARCH)

ARCH Courses

ARCH-203 Scene Design
Fall. Credits: 4
An introduction to the art and work of the set designer in the performing arts. Students will learn how a designer approaches a script, how this work impacts a production, and what means are used in the execution of the process. They will learn how to develop their own visual imaginations and how to create visual concepts through discussion, renderings, models, and some hand drafting.

Crosslisted as: THEAT-222
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
V. James
Notes: Students enrolled in this course will be responsible for some of the cost of materials.

ARCH-205 Introduction to Architecture

ARCH-205AD Introduction to Architecture: 'Design'
Spring. Credits: 4
This studio course introduces a series of design investigations around particular themes and approaches to architecture and the built environment. Students will develop visual communication and architectural design skills (sketches, plans, elevations, sections, projected drawings and model making) to tackle 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 and design issues involving site, inhabitation, function, form, materiality, light and space. Our goal is to apply creative techniques in art and sculpture to the creation of meaningful space.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
N. Darling
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-225ED Intermediate Studies in Architecture: 'Environmental Principles'
Fall. 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: ARCH-205
Advisory: Knowledge of algebra and trigonometry. A digital design studio is recommended.
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'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course 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-311 Makerspace Design-Build Studio
Spring. Credits: 4
The rise of digital fabrication processes has blurred the traditional division of labor enabling architects and designers not only to draw but to also fabricate projects, often using the very same programs. Following the rise in CAD/CAM has been a burgeoning Maker movement as more and more individuals have rediscovered the joys (and sometimes frustrations) of realizing projects within a collaborative environment. This class will introduce students to both traditional and digital making through a series of exercises that will enable students to realize projects using the facilities of the Fimbel Lab.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
N. Darling
Prereq: ARCH-205, and Digital Design Studio at Hampshire College or Smith College.
Instructor permission required.

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