

Academic Year/course: 2021/22

## 30704 - Architectural composition I

### Syllabus Information

---

**Academic Year:** 2021/22

**Subject:** 30704 - Architectural composition I

**Faculty / School:** 110 - Escuela de Ingeniería y Arquitectura

**Degree:** 470 - Bachelor's Degree in Architecture Studies

**ECTS:** 6.0

**Year:** 1

**Semester:** First semester

**Subject Type:** Compulsory

**Module:**

## 1. General information

### 1.1. Aims of the course

The overall goal of this course is to provide the student with the tools that help them acquire a thoughtful, deep knowledge of the Theory and History of Architecture (since the birth of Western culture in Greece until the end of the Middle Ages). The aim is for them to develop a clear, diachronic and sequential vision, as well as teaching them different ways to approach the analysis and interpretation of architectural works, as well as the and the different compositional strategies that used to create them.

### 1.2. Context and importance of this course in the degree

The course also aims to enhance the students' ability to understand the architectural profession and the architect's role in society, by acknowledging and showing them the bond that architecture has demonstrated it has with the latter throughout History. Additionally, it aims at providing students with instruments that help them develop architectural designs grounded in an ample and rigorous knowledge of the basic concepts of the discipline.

### 1.3. Recommendations to take this course

The course 'Composition 1' is framed within a whole educational project encompassing all the compulsory courses belonging to the Architectural Composition (Theory and History) area. This project addresses the study of the History of Western Architecture as seen from the perspective of its *composition*, that is, of the mechanisms and strategies through which the architecture project is created. The first course in the degree, *Composition 1*, begins with an introduction to the architecture developed in the Neolithic and in the Ancient World, moving on from there to the evolution of Western architecture from Greek Architecture (8th century BC - 1 BC), a period in which the aesthetic principles of our civilization were gestated, until Gothic times (13th-14th centuries). Thus, the course leads chronologically to *Composition 2*, taught in the second year, which begins with the emergence of the Renaissance in Florence in the 15th century, and ends with the last decades of the XIX Century, a period in which the changes that would ultimately lead to the birth of the avant-gardes started showing. This last part of the course is completed in the third year of the degree with *Composition 3*, whose time frame goes from the birth of the avant-garde until the last experiments carried prior to the burst of WWII. The last course in this series, *Composition 4*, addresses, already in the fourth year, the development of the artistic and architectural culture during the second half of the 20th century, ending with the latest trends that define cultural interests at the dawn of the 21st century.

The aim of this system is to follow a diachronic and orderly itinerary that allows the student to become familiar with the concepts, forms and vocabulary of the Theory and History of Architecture, as well as with its most significant works, architects, and the movements, groups, styles or schools in which they belong, always contextualized in the place and time where they happen.

## 2. Learning goals

### 2.1. Competences

1. Identify the studied architectural works, being able to locate them, in an informed way, in the period to which they belong.
2. Be able to comment on architectural works in a well-grounded and convincing way, using the knowledge acquired during the course as a tool to develop the ability to analyze History's most relevant works of architecture, and understand them in direct relation to the materials, construction systems and techniques with which they were built, but also as a product of a specific cultural moment.

3. The ability to understand, interpret and analyze specialized texts (on Theory, History and Architectural Composition), as well as to elaborate and properly communicate properly structured and reasoned ideas.
4. Understand and have knowledge of the general theories of form, composition and architectural types and styles from Greece to the Middle Ages.
5. Know the history of architecture from Greece to the Middle Ages.
6. Know the architectural, urban and landscape traditions of Western culture, as well as its technical, climatic, economic, social and ideological foundations, aesthetics and the Theory and History of Fine and Applied Arts from Greece to the Middle Ages.
7. Know the relationship between cultural patterns and the social responsibilities of the architect.
8. Know the basics of vernacular architecture.
9. Know the Urban Sociology, Theory, Economics and History of the studied periods.

## 2.2. Learning goals

1. Demonstrate the analytical ability to comment on the studied works studied with a critical and synthetic perspective, identifying them and contextualizing them in the historical period to which they belong.
2. Be able to relate the studied architectural works with their historical context, explaining their specific features in the context of the social, economic and technological systems in which they were generated.
3. Understand the basic evolutionary threads that can be found in the History of Architecture as well as the main causes of that evolution.
4. Demonstrate to be in possession of the necessary speaking and written abilities that allow the student to be able to undertake the study of the subject, as well as having an adequate knowledge of the specific terminology of this subject.
5. Demonstrate a clear, diachronic and sequential vision of the History of Architecture, as well as mastery of the architectural composition mechanisms present in the work of architecture.
6. Synthesize, through examples, the typological, technical, material, and formal features which are subsequently consolidated in the different periods of the History of Architecture studied throughout the course: from Greece to the Middle Ages.
7. Identify the studied architectural works, being able to place them in an reasoned way in the period to which they belong, justifying their relationship with the history of the place where they are built.
8. To rigorously and precisely use the specific language and terminology of the architectural discipline.
9. To know and be able to use specific bibliography.

## 2.3. Importance of learning goals

This course develops the student's aptitudes to:

1. Take a committed position towards architectural design, a position based on the knowledge of the Theory of architecture that also contributes a critical approach to it.
2. Develop architectural designs based on an ample and rigorous knowledge of the basic concepts of discipline.
3. Undertake, based on a rigorous knowledge of Historical Architecture, a research project.

# 3. Assessment (1st and 2nd call)

## 3.1. Assessment tasks (description of tasks, marking system and assessment criteria)

Students will be required to demonstrate that they have achieved the expected learning outcomes through the following assessment activities:

### ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

In the exercises, both theoretical and practical, the depth of the acquired knowledge, the capacity for synthesis, clarity, the form of expression, the presentation, etc. will be valued.

The percentages of each which the final grade will be calculated as follows:

**THEORY 60%, PRACTICE 40%** (Both of them have to equal or exceed 5.0 in order to pass the course)

The evaluation of the different parts will be made according to the criteria listed below:

### 1. THEORY (60%)

The evaluation will consist of:

**1.1. A voluntary mid-term theory exam (November)** where the contents of the first half of the subject's syllabus will be assessed. The teacher may choose not to offer this exam if he considers it appropriate.

**1.2. A second mid-term theory exam (February)** where the contents of the second half of the course will be assessed. Those students who have obtained a grade of 4.5 or higher in the November exam may choose to take this exam. The final theory grade will be the arithmetic average of the 2 mid-term exams, given that both of them have been graded 4.5 or higher.

**1.3. A final theory exam (February):** In it, the complete contents of the course will be evaluated. This exam will be required for students who did not pass the mid-term exam, and optional for those who, having passed it, decide to take this exam

instead of the second mid-term exam. In this case, the final theory grade will be the one obtained in the exam.

**1.4. An extraordinary final theory exam** in September where the contents of the entire course will be assessed. This will be required of students whose final theory grade is less than 5. There will not be a second mid-term exam in September, even if the student passed the November exam.

The theory grade will represent 60% of the final grade for the course.

The written exams will typically consist of three parts:

1. Image recognition.
2. Terminology.
3. Critical comment on images, also indicating chronology, location, style / period.

This examination design may however change if the teachers consider it appropriate. To pass the exam, all questions of a theoretical-practical nature must be answered, and there must be a balance between the grades obtained in all its parts. The student will not pass the exam if he has clearly failed one of the sections.

## **2. PRACTICE SESSIONS (40%)**

The active participation of the students in the practical classes - for which it will be essential to have carried out the exercise proposed for that day - will allow the teacher to meet his students and carry out a continuous evaluation of the subject.

Organization of practice sessions:

Classes will be organized in work groups depending on the students finally enrolled. Each practical class will typically consist of:

- 2.1. A presentation, in which the teachers will present the content of the practice.
- 2.2. A session of student presentations, in which the students will present the case(s) assigned to the group.
- 2.3. A graphic counseling session, in which the teacher will help the students to solve the doubts and questions that have arisen during the development of the work
- 2.4. A session where students submit and present the results.

Except for the first exercise, the presentation session of each practice will be held on the same day as the delivery session of the previous practice. The number of assignments and their specific organization may vary, although their spirit will follow the previous criteria. Likewise, students will be encouraged to work in their assignments during practice hours in order to get as much work done in the classroom as possible.

In the work carried out in the practice sessions, the presentation and layout of the work and the analytical, organizational and synthesis of the contents presented will be valued. In general, both in practice work and in the theoretical exams, the student's ability to synthesize the concepts, his clarity of expression, etc. will be considered in the evaluation. As in the case of the practices carried out during the course through continuous assessment, this grade will represent 40% of the final course grade.

Around the dates set for the exams (the specific date will be provided by the teacher), students will be allowed to re-submit improved/repeated/pending assignments. The eventual (voluntary) submission of the improved graphic assignments will allow the student to improve his grade if the new submission is an improvement on the original one.

## **3. FINAL GRADE**

**To pass the course, the average of the two grades (theory and practice) must be equal to or greater than 5, each one being equal to or greater than 5.**

The average grade of all practical assignments developed throughout out during the course will represent 40% of the course. In order to make the average grade of both parts, the student must have passed both parts independently with a grade equal to or greater than 5. Students who obtain a grade of less than 5 in one of the parts (theory or practice) must take an extraordinary examination in September, either taking the September exam, if they failed Theory, or presenting pending or improved assignments, if they failed the practical part.

Not passing the course by September means, unless otherwise indicated, having to retake the course in its entirety, both theory and practice, next course.

Total or partial plagiarism of work done in previous courses will mean failing the course in its entirety.

In special cases, which will always be arbitrated by the teaching staff, it will be possible to carry out complementary practices, in order to substitute or add to those developed in the regular course.

Following art. 9 of the Regulations for Learning Assessment Standards currently in force (agreement of December 22, 2010, of the University Governing Council), in the event that there are students who do not opt ??for the continuous evaluation corresponding to the practical part of the course, they will be required to submit all assignments proposed on the date the EINA sets for the official February or September examinations.

## **4. Methodology, learning tasks, syllabus and resources**

### **4.1. Methodological overview**

The methodology followed in this course is oriented towards the achievement of the learning objectives. A wide range of teaching and learning tasks are implemented, such as lectures, practice sessions, tutorials, assignments, and visits.

### **4.2. Learning tasks**

This course is organized as follows:

- **Lectures.** Two weekly hours of lectures in two different groups, following the course calendar (Some weeks the theoretical classes can be three hours due to adjustments in the course schedule.) A list with the materials dealt with in the classes will be provided to the students via Moodle platform of the University of Zaragoza, as a complement to their notes for the individual study of the course. In addition, a suggested bibliography will be provided weekly.
- **Practice sessions.** During the course, up to four practical assignments will be developed in which several case studies proposed by the teacher will be analyzed from different perspectives. These exercises will be resolved graphically and orally, they will be delivered and discussed in class. The participation of the students will be valued especially. The basic documentation necessary for the development of the assignments will be provided through Moodle. The students must study further with the resources of the University Library.
- **Tutorials.** According to the course's faculty office hours. It is recommended that the student previously makes an appointment with the teacher.
- **Visits.** Course trip: On dates to be determined depending on the practice sessions, exams, and assignments schedule, a voluntary trip of 1 to 2 day long will be organized. In it, students will visit, among others, some of the buildings from the periods studied during the course.
- **Voluntary assignments** tutored by the teachers of the course that will allow students who have passed the course to improve their final grade.

### 4.3. Syllabus

This course will address the following topics:

- T01. INTRODUCTION [I]: Course Presentation
- T02. INTRODUCTION [II]: ARCHITECTURE BEFORE GREECE - Prehistoric architecture and the Ancient World.
- T03. GREECE [I]: ARCHAIC GREECE - Minoan and Mycenaean Civilizations / Origins and constitutive elements of the Greek Temple.
- T04. GREECE [III]: CLASSICAL GREECE. Evolution of the Greek Temple / The Acropolis
- T05. GREECE [III]: HELLENISTIC GREECE
- T06. ROME [I]: From Etruria.
- T07. ROME [II]: BUILDING AN EMPIRE - Arches, Vaults, Domes.
- T08. ROME [III]: Civil Constructions (II), Domestic Architecture, Urban Planning.
- T09. PALEO-CHRISTIAN AND BYZANTINE ARCHITECTURE [I]: from Constantine to the Sixtine Renaissance and Hagia Sophia.
- T10. BYZANTINE ARCHITECTURE [II]: Byzantium after Justinian I.
- T11. ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE: From the Omeya Emirat to the Alhambra.
- T12. ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE [I]: Pre-Romanesque and Romanesque architecture in France.
- T13. ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE [II]: Regional Romanesque Architecture | GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE [I]: Introduction.
- T14. GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE [II]: Gothic architecture in France and England.

The course dates and overall schedule will be specified in a PDF file with which the students will be provided in the introductory session. The specific contents of topics above and organization of each session may vary.

### 4.4. Course planning and calendar

The course schedule is specified in a pdf that is provided to students on the first day of the course. This schedule will be adapted to the specificities of the academic calendar of the current course.

#### Week 1:

- T01. INTRODUCTION [I]: Course Presentation.
- P01. No practical sessions.

#### Week 2:

- T.02. INTRODUCTION [II]: ARCHITECTURE BEFORE GREECE - Prehistoric architecture and the Ancient World.
- P02. Assignment P1. Seminar S1

#### Week 3:

- T03. GREECE [I]: ARCHAIC GREECE - Minoan and Mycenaean Civilizations / Origins and constitutive elements of the Greek Temple.
- P03. Assignment P1. Drawing Studio

**Week 4:**

- T04. GREECE [II]: CLASSICAL GREECE - Evolution of the Greek Temple / The Acropolis
- P04. Submission and Presentations, Assignment P1. Presentation of the brief for Assignment P2.

**Week 5:**

- T05. GREECE [III]: HELLENISTIC GREECE
- P05. Assignment P2. Seminar S2

**Week 6:**

- T.06. ROME [I]: From Etruria to the Roman Temple.
- P06. Assignment P2. Drawing Studio

**Week 7:**

- T07. ROME [II]: BUILDING AN EMPIRE - Arches, Vaults, Domes
- P07. Assignment P2. Drawing Studio

**Week 8:**

- T08. ROME [III]: Civil Construction (II), Domestic architecture, and Urban Planning
- P08. Submission and Presentations, Assignment P2. Presentation of the brief for Assignment P3.

**Week 9:**

- T09. PALEO-CHRISTIAN AND BYZANTINE ARCHITECTURE [I]: from Constantine to the Sixtine Renaissance and Hagia Sophia
- P09. Preparation of Mid-term exam.

**Week 10:**

- T10. BYZANTINE ARCHITECTURE [II]: Byzantium after Justinian.
- P10. Mid-term Exam.

**Week 11:**

- T11. ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE: From the Omeya Emirat to the Alhambra.
- P11. Assignment P3. Seminar S3

**Week 12:**

- T12. ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE [I]: Pre-romanesque and Romanesque architecture in France
- P12. Assignment P2. Drawing Studio

**Week 13:**

- T13. ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE [II]: Regional Romanesque Architecture | GOTHIC [I]: Introduction
- P13. Submission and Presentations, Assignment P3.

**Week 14:**

- T14. GOTHIC [II]: Gothic architecture in France and England.
- P14. Preparation of Final exam.

**THEORY:** Two mid-term exams: 1st mid-term exam (optional) in November, 2nd partial exam in January or February, coinciding with the final exam. Final exam: 1 final exam following official EINA calls. The presentation of the ID card/passport in the exams is mandatory.

**PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENTS:** Presentation of 3 seminars and delivery of 3 graphic assignments that will be developed throughout the course.

Further information concerning the timetable, classroom, office hours, assessment dates and other details regarding this course will be provided on the first day of class or please refer to the College of Higher Engineering and Architecture (EINA) website (<https://eina.unizar.es/>) and Moodle.

#### 4.5. Bibliography and recommended resources

<http://psfunizar10.unizar.es/br13/egAsignaturas.php?id=8624>