Universidad Zaragoza

Academic Year/course: 2024/25

30704 - Architectural composition I

Syllabus Information

Academic year: 2024/25
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

The overall goal of this course is to provide the student with the necessary tools to develop a deep knowledge and a thoughtful approach to the understanding of the History and Theory of Western architecture, from the Ancient World to the 14th Century. The goal is to offer a clear, diachronic, sequential vision, paired with a picture of the different ways in which the analysis and interpretation of the work of architecture, and the compositional mechanisms that generate it can be approached.

This approach and these goals are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda (https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/), and particularly with some specific goals: SDG-4: Quality Education; SDG-5: Gender Equality, with a focus on target 5.1, as well as SDG-11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, especially regarding goal 11.4.

2. Learning results

- A clear, diachronic, and sequential vision of the History of Architecture, as well as dexterity on the use of the composition strategies at work in architectural design.
- Ability to synthesize, by means of examples, the typological, technical, structural and morphological features of each studied period of the history of architecture, from Antiquity to the 14th century.
- Ability to identify the architectural works studied throughout the course, and to correctly locate them in the period where they belong in a reasoned way; that is: justifying their relationship with the history of the place where they were built.
- Ability to adopt a reflective position, based on the knowledge of the Theory and History of Architecture, when analyzing architectural designs, and provide a critical, well-grounded response.
- Fluency in creating an argumentative and convincing commentary on architectural works, using the knowledge acquired during the course as a basis to interpret the most relevant architectures in History. This implies understanding them both in relation with the materials, construction systems and techniques used to build them, and as a product of a particular cultural moment.
- Ability to understand, interpret and analyze specialized texts (on Theory and History of Architecture), as well as the skill to produce properly structured and argued content.
- Skill to use a rigorous and accurate language, as well as the specific terminology pertaining to the architectural field.
- Ability to use specific bibliography.

3. Syllabus

0. Introduction:

T1. First Settlements and Megalithic Architecture.
T2. Architecture before Greece: Mesopotamia and Egypt.

1. Ancient Greece.

T3. [I]. Introduction. archaic era,
T4. [II]. Classic era.

T5. [III]. Hellenistic era

2. Republican and Imperial Rome.

T6. [I] Introduction. Etruscan Architecture. Temples and Sanctuaries.
T.7 [II] Singular buildings, architecture for entertainment.
7.8 [III] Other civil architecture, domestic architecture, urban planning.

3. Paleo-Christian, Byzantine and Muslim architecture.

T.9. Paleo-Christian architecture in the Roman Empire.
T10. Byzantine Architecture (VI-XI Centuries).
T.11. Muslim architecture (from the Umayyad to the Ottoman period). Islamic architecture in Spain.

4. From Pre-Romanesque to Gothic times.

T.12. Carolingian architecture. Primitive Romanesque architecture.
T.13. Regional Romanesque. Introduction to Gothic architecture.
T14. Gothic architecture in France. Introduction to the Gothic in England.

4. Academic activities

[T1] master class: They will be taught weekly, according to the class calendar. In them, the teacher will present the specific contents of each topic of the program that can be evaluated in the theory test, as well as the specific bibliography for its study.

Theoretical-practical classes [T2B]: In alternate weeks, students will solve cases related to theory classes.

Seminars [T3A]: A maximum of 3 analysis exercises of architectural works related to the syllabus will be developed. The work will generally be done in groups of 3 students. The practices will involve the development of graphic/written/visual content, and will be delivered, presented and discussed in class.

5. Assessment system

Option 1: Continuous evaluation.

Generally speaking, the student's successful learning of the contents of the course will be supervised through a continuous evaluation process. In order to pass the course students must separately pass both the practical the theoretical part. In both cases, they must get a grade equal to or greater than 5/10. The final grade for the course will be the weighted average of the grades obtained in the theoretical tests (60%) and in the practical exercises (40%), provided that the score in each of them equals or is above 5/10.

The theoretical part will be evaluated in two partial exams (written tests), each corresponding approximately to half of the contents of the syllabus. In them, the student must demonstrate knowledge of the contents taught in the lectures and further developed in the bibliography. The structure of these tests structure will be explained to students at the beginning of the course. The theory grade will correspond to the average of both.
In the practical part, each assignment will be evaluated separately, and the final grade will be the average of all three. A score of 5 or more will mean the student has passed this part. Students will be allowed to repeat and resubmit, before the date scheduled for the theoretical exam, those exercises where they have not obtained the desired grade, so as to have them graded again.

Option 2: Extraordinary exam.

The course may also be passed in an extraordinary exam, which will consist of: a) a written test which will have a structure similar to that of the tests in the continuous evaluation, but will cover the contents of the entire syllabus, and b) the individual delivery of the practical exercises. The final grade will be the weighted average of the grade

obtained in the theoretical test (60%) and in the practical exercises (40%), provided that in both cases the score equals or exceeds 5/10.

6. Sustainable Development Goals

4 - Quality Education
11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities
17 - Partnerships for the Goals