

Division of Interior Architecture  
College of Professional Studies  
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

## **IA 160: SURVEY OF DESIGN: DIVERSITY IN THE U.S. Summer 2011**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION** : 3 cr. Understanding the design of utilitarian objects and the design of space in selected Native American and non-European immigrant cultures. Investigates stereotype, discrimination, majority influence and historical tradition as a concept of design evolution in the U.S.GDR: HU1 & MNS.

**MEETING TIME** Online on D2L during 05/31/2011 - 06/17/2011  
(Monday through Friday; 4-5 hours each day)

**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Nisha A. Fernando

**OFFICE:** Room 330A CPS  
**OFFICE HOURS:** I am available by email each day.

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### **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize how diverse cultures in the U.S. have contributed to the American design heritage;
2. Identify the richness of design origins without prejudice;
3. Describe the effects of culture, ethnicity, human interactions, and environment on the design of material culture and built environment;
4. Develop a positive awareness of diversity and consciousness of alternative points of view that are necessary for participation in a multicultural society;
5. Reflect on the issues of diversity, assimilation, prejudice, and discrimination pertaining to their own worldview.

### **TEXT BOOK**

***'America's Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups that Built America'*** by Dell Upton (Ed.)  
(available for purchase from the UWSP Bookstore on a buy-back basis)

Additional readings will be posted periodically on D2L.

### **GENERAL SCHEDULE**

Please see the Class Schedule on D2L. As the course is fully online, you are expected to spend approx. 4-5 hours of online class time each day (bearing in mind of the possibility that some activities may take a shorter time). The class time may be dedicated to going through the daily lectures with notes, participation in daily discussion forums, preparing for assignments and studying for quizzes.

Unlike regular semester classes, the time you spend on this course will be intense, with many components to be covered and completed every day. **Therefore, it is very important that you use a reliable computer for ALL online work involved in this class to ensure timely submissions, completing quizzes effectively, and downloading all the course-related material.**

The lectures will be duly posted, supplemented by notes, on D2L. Please read through the notes and study the slides (especially the images) carefully. There will also be a discussion forum open every day where you can post any questions you have related to lectures. The instructor will answer them as promptly as she can daily. An additional discussion forum will be open every day for your participation in class. Each day there will be a guiding question(s) related to lectures, readings, and/or assignments. All submissions will be in the appropriate drop boxes on D2L. Each drop box will be open on due dates for each assignment.

## **COURSE ACTIVITIES**

### **(1) Short Reports (100 Points each)**

Selected chapters from *America's Architectural Roots* (edited by Dell Upton) will be used for the Short Reports. For each report, certain chapters will be assigned for reading. The instructor will provide guidelines and a format for writing the short reports (see 'Introduction to Short Report' in the class Schedule).

The purpose of this exercise is to understand in depth the variety of architectural examples influenced by many cultural groups from the past in a comparative manner. You must complete the reports in your own words, while using only specific terminology from the text. You may use quotations from the text, but please limit them to 1-2 per report. If short reports contain directly copied sentences from the text beyond 1-2 quotations, there will be a considerable reduction of points.

### **(2) Position Paper (250 Points)**

You will write a position paper based on an article on D2L provided by the instructor at the beginning of the course. The position paper is due only at the end of the course, which gives you ample time to work on it.

Carefully read the article and the instructions on how to write the paper. This is a critical thinking exercise that will sharpen your perception about cultural expressions; therefore, you are expected demonstrate your logical and analyzing abilities in the paper, rather than merely reporting on issues mentioned in the articles. The grade for the position paper is determined on how clearly and rationally you express these critical thoughts, original and creative thinking, and well-articulated, college-level writing.

There will also be a discussion forum on the paper, so that you can also discuss some of the interesting issues interactively with the instructor and your classmates. Please make sure you take advantage in this forum; it will also give you participation points. The position paper is due on D2L in the appropriate dropbox. Please refer to the Class Schedule for the due date.

### **(3) Quizzes (50 Points each)**

There will be a total of three quizzes, one at the end of the each week. Quizzes are based on key concepts and terms from the lectures, chapters you read for the short reports, and other readings on D2L. There will be a brief review before each quiz. Each quiz is worth 50

points and will contain mostly multiple-choice questions and a few short answer questions to be answered in a limited timeframe. All quizzes are online on D2L and cannot be made up unless under an extenuating circumstance, of which the students need to inform the instructor ahead of time.

#### **(4) Daily Discussions (100 Points)**

Each student is expected to participate “in class” on a daily basis. Each day, the instructor will start a discussion thread on a topic related to that day’s lecture (topics may also be on the short report for that week or the position paper). Students are expected to provide their thoughts, comments, ideas, critiques, and/or bring in a new topic to actively feed the ongoing discussions. These discussions not only help the instructor to know if students have successfully understood the topic, but also generate interesting conversations among students, just like how it would in a classroom. Points for the discussions are based on the level of engagement, the ways in which students contributed to the threads of the topic and provided useful ideas & comments, and the regularity and frequency of such contributions throughout the course.

#### **(5) Reflection Paper (100 Points)**

You will write a Reflection Paper at the end of the three weeks (1-2 pages) on what you learned from this course, how it may have influenced your concepts or ways of looking at the U.S. society. There will be an instruction sheet available to you in the last week of class.

#### **MAXIMUM POSSIBLE POINTS FOR EACH CLASS ACTIVITY**

Short Reports.....	200
Position Paper.....	250
Quizzes.....	150
Active participation in the discussions.....	100
Reflection Paper.....	100
<b>TOTAL POINTS .....</b>	<b>800</b>

#### **PERCENTAGE AND LETTER GRADE EQUIVALENTS**

100 - 93%	A	73 - 77%	C
90 - 92%	A-	70 - 72%	C-
88 - 89%	B+	68 - 69%	D+
83 - 87%	B	60 - 67%	D
80 - 82%	B-	59 - %	F
78 - 79%	C+		

#### **A Few Things to Remember:**

This course is designed for student success. In order to be successful it is crucial that you work online on a regular basis, complete assignments on time, and contribute substantially in the discussions.

**No late work is accepted unless you obtain the instructor’s prior approval. Unapproved makeup work or unapproved late work will receive no credit. All materials are**

**to be submitted only on D2L in the appropriate drop boxes. Please do not email your submissions to the instructor.**

Please notify the instructor immediately if you are unable to access D2L for a valid reason. Unless otherwise noted, the instructor expects you to view D2L on a daily basis within the three weeks of the course and spend at least 3 hours of time each day viewing and studying the lectures, doing readings, and completing assignments as necessary.

The university prohibits any level of plagiarism. The instructor will be posting the details related to university policies on this issue on D2L. Please make sure you read the document carefully.

The instructor strongly believes in fair and respectful treatment in all aspects of the class and she expects the same from you towards your peers and the learning environment in the class. The instructor also expects that you enjoy this class and its learning experience as much as she enjoys teaching it.

Good luck for a successful class in IA 160 Summer 2011!