

University of Mary Washington
Department of Historic Preservation

American Building HISP 305-01
Spring 2019
Combs Hall #009
11:00 – 11:50 pm MWF

Instructor: Mr. Spencer
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Office hours:
Monday and Wednesday, 9-10 am
Tuesday and Thursday, 9-11 am
Or by appointment

I. Course Outline:

HISP 305, American Building, investigates the evolution of European-derived American building traditions from the colonial period up to the present day. The student will examine the changing relationship of building trades, architectural styles, materials, and structural systems and relate them to the social, economic and intellectual development of the United States. “American Building” teaches the student to appreciate the built environment as fundamental to the cultural heritage of the nation and an integral part of the larger cultural heritage of the world. Each building or modification reflects its time, available techniques, and the intention of the builders and owners. Field trips will help expand the classroom experience as it relates to these concepts. Additionally, each student will carry out an on-site term project consisting of archival research, measuring, drawing, and an architectural description of an historic resource in the Fredericksburg, Virginia vicinity.

Goals & Objectives:

1. Develop an understanding of basic forces associated with building construction.
2. Recognition and identification of building elements.
3. Enable students to understand and identify various construction techniques and manufacturing processes.
4. Enable students to “read” and interpret buildings using archaeological methodologies in conjunction with archival research.
5. Understanding of the building process, from plan to final product.
6. Understanding of the development and implementation of laws and regulations associated with the building process.
7. Recognition of how cultural and technological changes have influenced building spaces, design and construction.

II. Texts and Equipment:

Required:

Yes, you really need to purchase and read these!

Gabrielle M. Lanier and Bernard L. Herman. *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.

Carl R. Lounsbury, Vanessa Elizabeth Patrick, eds. *An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscapes*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1999.

Allen, Edward. *How Buildings Work: The Natural Order of Architecture*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005 (3rd Edition).

Recommended Text:

Stephen Calloway and Elizabeth Cromley, *The Elements of Style*. Revised Edition. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996.

Thomas C. Jester, ed. *Twentieth-Century Building Materials: History and Conservation*. New York: McGraw-Hill Companies, 1995.

Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred Knopf, 1984.

Steven J. Phillips, *Old-House Dictionary: An Illustrated Guide to American Domestic Architecture*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1992.

Dell Upton, editor, *America's Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups that Built America*. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1986.

***Class readings not found in your required text or distributed in class will be posted online through Canvas (<https://canvas.umw.edu/login>).

Required Equipment:

The Department will provide access to equipment necessary for the documentation assignment and its necessary completion. Any requests by property owners for drawings or images created by the students will be made at the Departments expense.

Suggested Equipment:

While equipment will be provided it is suggested that students purchase an architects rule (scale) and a good 30' measuring tape (preferably rubber encased).

Department Policies for Use of Equipment:

- Each student must be “logged-in” to the DHP equipment computer in the Department Office by an on-duty student aide, in order to check out and use departmental equipment.
- No student may check out or return any equipment for any other student than him/her self for any reason whatsoever.
- No student is permitted to check out equipment and then loan it to another student and ask that student to check the equipment back in for them.
- No equipment may be checked out for more than 24 hours, except for weekends. Equipment checked out on Friday afternoon may be checked in again Monday morning. If equipment is needed for more than a 24 hour period the student must check the equipment in at the end of the 24 hour period and check it out again for no more than an additional 24 hours.
- All equipment must be checked in and returned directly to an on-duty student aide, during normal working hours. Should a Department aide not be available, checked in equipment may be given to a faculty member.
- Any malfunctions or breakages must be reported to the Department aides at the time the equipment is checked in and returned. No malfunctioning or broken equipment should be checked in without the problem being identified.
- The Department aides regularly checks the equipment roster on the computer and notifies both the student and their instructor when equipment has not been returned on a timely basis by the appropriate student.

III. Grading Scale:

As prescribed by the University of Mary Washington:

A	“Unusual Excellence”	(93% or higher = A ; 90-92% = A-)
B	“Work Distinctly Above Average”	(87-89% = B+ ; 83-86% = B ; 80-82% = B-)
C	“Work of Average Quality”	(77-79% = C+ ; 73-76% = C ; 70-72% = C-)
D	“Work of Below Average Quality”	(67-69% = D+ ; 60-66% = D)
F	“Failure, No Credit”	(0-59% = F)

***If at midterm a student has a grade of D (a 66% or less) a “U” (unsatisfactory) will be entered.**

IV. Assignments:

Assignment #1, Documentation Project: Building on the fieldwork experience of HISP 205, each student, as part of a team, will be assigned an historic building in and around Fredericksburg which they will research and document. The project will consist of three parts, each part constituting 10% of their final grade.

Part I (Archival Research): Students will research the building using skills learned in HISP 205.

- Photographs, both historic and current will be required.
- Measured drawings (min. 1), will be required.

Part II (Material Investigation): Students will research the materials, technologies, and systems associated with the building to determine dates of construction and alterations.

Part III (Analysis): Students will combine both Part I and Part II into a cohesive narrative that explains how the building developed over time and places it within a local, regional, and even national context.

- Annotated photographs, both historic and current will be required.
- Annotated measured drawings (min. 1), will be required.
- Complete bibliography

Assignment #2, Modern Materials Research and Presentation Project: This assignment is a research project to assess the impact of modern materials on construction processes and the built environment. The student will choose one of the “new” building materials of the 20th century to research from the list provided, and inform the instructor of that decision. Through library and web based research the student will develop a five minute oral report with illustrations describing the development of this material, manufacture, significance to the **building industry, dates of use, and identification in the field**. It is also recommended that students **examine the Fredericksburg area for examples of their material** taking photographs as needed. Students will be asked to turn in a complete bibliography of resources used as well as an outline of the oral report. On-line resources should not constitute all resources used. Those that are used need to be vetted.

Laboratory Assignments (*due throughout the semester*): Some classes will consist of a laboratory experience on different materials and techniques important to understanding building development and historic construction methods. During each laboratory students will be given a list of questions to be completed. In many cases students will need to conduct some additional research to completely answer the questions. Each lab will need to be typed. While there will be five labs over the course of the semester, only four will need to be completed. However, should the student complete all five labs for a grade they may drop the lowest score. **Make-up labs will not be given.**

V. Tests and Examinations:

Mid-Term Exam: There will be a mid-term exam.

Final Exam: The final examination will cover material from the midterm to the end of the semester.

Exams will consist of short answer, identification, visual analysis and sequencing questions.

VI. Participation & Attendance:

The participation component of this class goes hand in hand with attendance. If you are not at class you will not be able to participate. For definition purposes participation for this class is not limited to speaking but also includes participation through observation, listening, and being physically present. Missing class will severely hamper your ability to achieve satisfactory results and in-class instruction/labs/observations will not be repeated unless the student has an **excused absence and notified the instructor before class**. Proper documentation of a missed class may be required and should not be taken by the student as a reflection on their character but rather as policy compliance.

VII. Grading:

Grading will be based on a number of factors in an effort to be fair, transparent, and to provide the best possible feedback to the student. Completeness and accuracy of the assignment will play a large factor in the final grade as will legibility. Please note; I make an effort to provide you with extensive feedback on your assignments which will be useful in the class, future classes and professionally. This process takes time especially on larger research projects so please be patient.

VIII. Late Assignments:

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date noted in the syllabus.

Unexcused late work will result in the loss of ten points (a full letter grade), if handed in after the start of class and an additional ten points for every 24 hrs overdue. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Should a student be absent for whatever reason they will need to e-mail the assignment to the instructor before class begins on the date the assignment is due. The following class, or the next class they physically attend, they will need to hand in a **hard copy** of the assignment (please do not make it my responsibility to print your work). An absence does not excuse a late assignment. No e-mailed assignments will be accepted from students present on the day an assignment is due. Excused late work is determined on a case by case basis by the instructor before the assignments due date. If you have a valid excuse or conflict please contact me as soon as possible.

Documentation of your excuse may be required. Please be advised that it is not my responsibility to remind you of projects past due.

IX. Final Grade:

Laboratory Assignments	20% (5% each)
Assignment #1	30% (Three parts, ea. 10%)
Assignment #2	10%
Midterm examination	15%
Final examination	15%
Total	100%

X. Honor Code:

You are expected to follow this, no exceptions. All graded assignment should be pledged and signed. Please see me if you have any questions regarding what is and is not considered plagiarism or cheating. ***While some of these assignments will require that students work in groups it is imperative that all students turn in their **own** work. That is to say measurements can be taken as a group but the field notes, hard line drawings and AutoCAD drawings should all be done individually. Tracing drawings and field notes from other team members is not permitted and constitutes an honor code violation.

XI. Classroom Behavior:

Students **ARE** expected to participate in class discussions and lectures as well as treat both the teacher and students respectfully. All cell phones should be turned off and absolutely no text messaging, twittering or blogging. Furthermore, students should conduct themselves in a manner that promotes a good learning environment by refraining from actions that might disrupt the class. Some examples, although not exhaustive, of inappropriate behavior include sleeping during class, talking during class, loud outbursts, reading the newspaper, the use of profanity, and showing up to class intoxicated. Students may be asked to leave class should these rules not be followed.

XII. Office of Disability Services:

The Office of Disability Services has been designated by the University of Mary Washington as the primary office to guide, counsel, and assist students with disabilities. If you receive services through that office and require accommodations for this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your approved accommodations. I will hold any information you share with me in strictest confidence unless you give me permission to do otherwise.

If you have not made contact with the Office of Disability Services and have reasonable accommodation needs, I will be happy to help you contact them. The office will require appropriate documentation of a disability.

Office of Disability Services
401 Lee Hall
540-654-1266
ods@umw.edu

XIII. Class Schedule:

Date	Subject	Readings/Home work (due on	Assigned	Due
1/14	<u>Introduction and Expectations</u> (Syllabus Review and Course Introduction)			
1/16	<u>"Reading" Historic Structures</u>	Lanier and Herman, pg. 1-9		
1/18	<u>Lots</u>	Lanier and Herman, pg. 51-60		
1/21	<u>No Class</u>			
1/23	<u>House Forms</u>	Lanier and Herman, pg. 10-51	Assignment #1 (Part I)	
1/25	<u>House Form (development)</u>	How Buildings Learn (Canvas)		
1/28	<u>Providing Structural Support</u>	Allen, pg. 172-174		
1/30	<u>Foundations</u>	Lanier and Herman, pg. 61-69 Allen, pg.201-203		
2/1	<u>Walls (function)</u>	Allen, pg.175-177		
2/4	<u>Walls (wood)</u>	Lanier and Herman, pg. 69-94		
2/6	<u>Walls (masonry)</u>	Lanier and Herman, pg. 95-113		
2/8	<u>Roof (function)</u>	Allen, pg.177-196 Comp and Jackson, Historic Truss Types (canvas)		
2/11	<u>Roof</u>	Lanier and Herman, pg.113-118		
2/13	<u>Roof</u>	<u>Peymon's Rug Store Lab</u>	Lab #1	
2/15	<u>Mid-term exam</u>			
2/18	<u>Materials (carpentry)</u>	The Origins of the Carpenters' Company of Philadelphia (canvas)		
2/20	<u>Materials (carpentry)</u>	Homebuilding and Woodworking in Colonial America pt. 1 (canvas)		Lab #1 due

2/22	<u>Materials (carpentry)</u>	Homebuilding and Woodworking in Colonial America pt. 2 (canvas)		
2/25	<u>Materials (carpentry)</u>	<u>Rising Sun Tavern Lab</u>	Lab #2	
2/27	<u>Materials (masonry)</u>	Mckee, Stone (canvas)		
3/1	<u>Materials (masonry)</u>	Mckee, Brick (canvas)		Lab #2 due
3/4-3/8	<u>Spring Break, No Class</u>			
3/11	<u>Materials (masonry)</u>	Mckee, Mortar (canvas)		Assignment #1 (Part I)
3/13	<u>Materials (masonry)</u>	Simpson Concrete Block (canvas)		
3/15	<u>Materials (masonry)</u>	<u>Cemetery Lab</u>	Lab #3	
3/18	<u>Materials (Iron and Steel)</u> <u>Nails and Hardware</u>	Nelson, Nail Chronology (canvas)	Assignment #1 (Part II)	
3/20	<u>Materials (Iron and Steel)</u>	Lee, Cast Iron In American Architecture (canvas)		
3/22	<u>Finish Work</u> <u>Plaster</u>	Mckee, Plaster (canvas)		Lab #3 due
3/25	<u>Finish Work</u> <u>Plaster</u>	<u>Kenmore Lab</u>	Lab #4	
3/27	<u>Finish Work</u> <u>Flooring, Doors, and Paneling</u>	Nelson, Wainscotting (aka paneling) in Historic Buildings		
3/29	<u>Finish Work</u> <u>Windows and Glass</u>	Wilson, Glass (canvas)		
4/1	<u>Finish Work</u> <u>Paint and Wallpaper</u>	Hawkes, Economical Painting (canvas)		Lab #4 due
4/3	<u>Building Profession</u> <u>Professionalism</u>	Fitchen, Chapter 1 (canvas)	Assignment #2	
4/5	<u>No Class</u>			
4/8	<u>Building Profession</u> <u>Codes</u>	Rabun, Structural Analysis of Historic Buildings, pg. 11-14 (canvas)	Assignment #1 (Part III)	Assignment #1 (Part II)
4/10	<u>Innovations and Impacts</u> <u>Heating</u>	An Historical Sketch of Central Heating (canvas)		
4/12	<u>Innovations and Impacts</u> <u>Lighting</u>	Early Nineteenth-Century Lighting (canvas)		
4/15	<u>Innovations and Impacts</u> <u>Automobile</u>			
4/17	<u>Reading a Building</u>	<u>Mary Washington House Lab</u>	Lab #5	
4/19	<u>Student Presentations</u>			Assignment #2

4/22	<i>Student Presentations</i>			
4/24	<i>Student Presentations</i>			Lab #5 due
4/26	<i>Review</i>			Assignment #1 (Part III)
5/1	<u>Final Exam, 12:00-2:30</u>			