



IT 2308 1W1 INTRODUCTION TO THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT | SPRING 2026

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Carolyn Barrientes, MFA

Assistant Professor of Industrial Technology & Theatre Design

Virtual Office Hours: By appointment, email me for request

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Class Format: ONLINE

Course Description

Introduction to the Built Environment. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours

An introduction to the design and construction of the built environment- the world we live in. The purpose of this course is to expose students to a complex topic through a series of articles, videos and a text that showcases architectural design and how it applies to the human factors of use. This is an applied course that enables the student to visualize concepts around them as they are discussed.

May be applied toward the core curriculum requirement in Language, Philosophy and Culture.

Required Textbook: (AVAILABLE ON PDF, posted on blackboard)

The Built Environment: A collaborative Inquiry into Design and Planning. Second Edition
EDITED BY Wendy R. McClure and Tom J. Bartuska John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Improve students' understanding of our built environment through visual and drawing exercises.
2. Improve students' understanding of the language of design and architecture.
3. Understand the roles of a professional architect, designer, landscape architect, interior designer and product designer, to name a few.
4. Introduce the students to important Architects and their buildings.

5. Increase the knowledge of important architectural elements, learn to analyze a building and be aware of the evolution of architecture through time.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for Empirical & Quantitative and Teamwork skills:

- Empirical & Quantitative. Students will develop empirical and quantitative skills to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- Teamwork. Students will develop teamwork skills to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

Course Expectations The instructor will: ☐ Provide weekly communication and check-ins with students via announcements, videos, or email. ☐ Be available during office hours posted in syllabus. ☐ Respond to student emails within 24-48 hours of receipt during the hours of 9:00AM-5:00PM, Monday-Friday. Weekend communication will occur as available. ☐ Provide grades/feedback to assignments within one week of the submission due date. ☐ Provide clear and concise instructions on how to complete the online course requirements. Rubrics will be provided when they apply. ☐ Provide a range of opportunities to engage in the course content in a meaningful way. ☐ Listen to student feedback and adjust the course as needed to meet the needs of the students.

- **The successful student:** ☐ Will familiarize themselves with the course syllabus, policies, assessments, evaluation, grading criteria, and course design. ☐ Will complete all coursework on assigned due date. If work cannot be completed by the due date due to illness, injury, family emergencies, etc., the student will make arrangements with the professor prior to the due date. ☐ Will engage in the course, with their peers, and the instructor with open communication and active participation. ☐ Will be respectful in their communication with the professor and classmates. ☐ Will respond to professor communication in a timely manner. ☐ Will not plagiarize and will demonstrate integrity in all their work. ☐ Will be proactive and resourceful to problem solve in case of internet or technical issues.

SRSU ADA Statement:

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartz Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director or Ronnie Harris, LPC, Counselor, at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartz@sulross.edu or ronnie.harris@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

Student Responsibilities Statement:

All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the [Student Handbook](#) and the [Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog](#) and for abiding by the [University rules and regulations](#). Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize themselves with the requirements of such laws.

Library Information:

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123). The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass. Offer additional access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may also use online resources available through SWTJC website, library.swtjc.edu. The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for Inter-Library Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery from the Alpine campus.

Class Structure: ONLINE

Time Commitment: It is very important you do not fall behind and that you regularly check your email and Blackboard for communication.

Assignments:

No late work will be accepted without proper documentation or prior approval by the instructor.

Course Communication: The official e-mail communications channel for this course is the Sul Ross State University e-mail account (yourname@sulross.edu) of each student and professor. For the purposes of this course, no other e-mail account is acceptable.

Due dates:

All assignments and projects will be given due dates which must be met. All assignments will be due by 11:59 pm on the assigned date. Assignments and projects will not be accepted if they are turned in late without approval. Late assignments will lose ten points per calendar day. Students are responsible for meeting the deadlines even if classes are missed.

Grading:

All work will be graded on specific criteria using the following guidelines. Any sketches and drawings assigned will be graded on a 100-point (percentage) scale. Criteria for grading will include accuracy of content, appropriateness of content for assignment, presentation, and clarity.

Final grades will be determined by totals in these areas:

- 25% class participation and communication online
- 25% midterm paper
- 25% Assignments
- 25% Final comprehensive exam

In the event one of the above categories is not completed during the course that percentage will automatically be divided between the other categories at the same level. All assignment points will be converted to percentages for individual assignment letter grades.

Grades will be earned on the basis that “C” is average work, “B” is above average work, and “A” is well above average work. Barring any unusual circumstances there will be NO INCOMPLETES given at the end of this semester.

Academic Integrity:

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person’s work as one’s own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

All students are expected to complete their own work at all times. Any dishonest conduct will be promptly rewarded with an immediate “F”.

Plagiarism:

A student guilty of plagiarism and/or cheating will receive a grade of “F” in the course involved and the grade will be so recorded on the transcript. Students giving and receiving assistance in any unauthorized manner during an examination will subject themselves to this cheating policy. A pattern of cheating will result in suspension.

Supplies:

There are some basic supplies you will need for the class such as pencils (lead), erasers, a notebook with pockets to keep handouts given in class and paper.

Other supplies needed for this class:

Color pencils, pastel chalks, watercolor paints and paint brushes; black fine point sharpie; craft glue or glue stick; Ruler (Min. 12” long, metal with rubber or cork on bottom) • X-Acto- Blade with a small pack of #11 blades, small scissors; Tracing paper pad 9”x12” or other. Other supplies as needed TBD

Midterm Paper: Worth 100 points (25% of your grade)

One midterm paper will be given on the announced date. The paper will cover material from class lecture and assigned readings. It is your responsibility to complete the paper when scheduled. NO make-up work or late papers will be accepted. All

Written Assignments: To comply with course standards and requirements all written assignments should reflect all aspects of the project, be free of grammatical errors, well organized, and typed double-spaced using a 12-point Times New Roman font. All written assignments that contain references should be properly documented.

Final Comprehensive Exam: Worth 100 points (25% of your grade)

The final exam time for this course is Friday, March 6. Finals will be DUE on this day.

PLEASE NOTE: A course schedule of assignments for this semester will be posted on Bbd.