Architectural Studies

The major in architectural studies is a Five College major administered by the Department of Art and Art History. Advisors in architectural studies: Professors Davis (art history), Sinha (art history), Smith (studio art), Staiti (art history); Assistant Professor Maier (art history). Five College Faculty: Five College Assistant Professor of Architecture and Design Long; Five College Assistant Professor of Architecture Darling; Five College Visiting Lecturer Jean Jaminit.

Overview

Contact Info
Rose Ryan, senior administrative assistant
Michael T. Davis, program coordinator

Requirements for the Major

Students who elect to major in architectural studies in the Department of Art and Art History should select an advisor who will assist them in mapping a program of study. The program must be outlined in writing and submitted for approval to the advisor during the semester in which the student declares her major in architectural studies. The program may, of course, be revised with the advisor’s approval.

Credits

- 44 credits in art and architectural history and theory, studio art, design studio, and related fields of study

Courses

One Foundation concentration: 8 credits

- One Art studio at the 100-level; for example, ARTST-120, Drawing I or ARTST-116, Art and Contemporary Issues
- One 100-level art history survey with significant architectural content (ARTH-100 or ARTH-105)

Design studio: 8 credits (taken at Mount Holyoke, Smith College, Hampshire College, or the University of Massachusetts, Amherst); for example:

- Amherst: ARCH 216: Intermediate Architectural Design
- Smith: LSS-250, Studio: Landscape and Narrative; ARS-283, Introduction to Architecture: Site and Space; ARS-285, Introduction to Architecture
- Hampshire: HACU-107, Introduction to Architectural Design; IA-0180, Design Fundamentals I; HACU-205, Topics in Architecture
- UMass: ARCH-300: Design I; ARCH-301: Design II

Note that the design studios are not substitutes for art studios.

Intermediate concentration: 20 credits at the 200 level

- At least one course must be a studio art course (drawing, multimedia, painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography; consult the art studio course offerings).
- At least one course must be an architectural history course or an art history course with significant architectural content. In the Department of Art and Art History, these courses include: ARTH-216, Empire; The Art and Archaeology of the Roman Provinces; ARTH-222, Age of the Cathedrals; ARTH-230, Italian Renaissance Art; ARTH-233, Renaissance and Baroque Architecture in Italy; ARTH-243AR, Architecture 1890-1990: ‘Building the Modern Environment’; ARTH-261, Arts of China; ARTH-262, Arts of Japan; ARTH-263, Arts of India; ARTH-271, Arts of Islam: Book, Mosque, and Palace; and appropriate topics within ARTH-290.

Advanced concentration: 8 credits at the 300 level (in area of concentration). Courses may be drawn from art history, art studio, architectural design, and related disciplines.

Students are encouraged to fulfill the Group II distribution requirement by taking courses in mathematics and physics.

Students majoring in architectural studies are not eligible to minor in art history or art studio.

Requirements for the Minor

Credits

- 20 credits, of which at least 16 must be above the 100 level

Courses

- ARTH-100 or ARTH-105
- A minimum of one approved architectural design course at the 200 level
- One approved art studio course at the 200 level. (Students are reminded that a 100-level art studio course is the prerequisite for admission into the 200-level art studio courses.)
- Two approved electives in art history, art studio, or architectural design

Those intending to minor must meet with a member of the architectural studies faculty to develop an approved program of study.

Students majoring in art history or studio art are not eligible to minor in architectural studies.

Course Offerings

ARCH-201 Introduction to the Built Environment

Spring

This course is conceived as an experiential gateway into the different fields embraced by architecture and design. Emphasizing the collaborative and interdisciplinary character of practice that engages with the built environment, the course units explore specific disciplines, such as architectural design, landscape architecture, interior architecture, urban planning, historic preservation, sustainability, or building technology. Hands-on projects involving visual documentation, design exercises, or fieldwork combine with lectures and discussion that consider the historical and critical context of design and planning.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

M. Davis

Restrictions: This course is limited to First-year and Sophomore students.

Credits: 4

ARCH-205AD Introduction to Architectural Design: ‘Sculpting Space’

Fall

This studio course will be a design investigation of a particular theme in or approach to architecture and the built environment. Students will develop and apply traditional and contemporary architectural skills (sketches, plans, elevations, models, computer diagramming, and various modes of digital representation) to interdisciplinary and socially pertinent design problems.
Creative and indexical study and analysis will be used to generate and foster a broad range of concepts and language to solve architectural issues involving site, construction, inhabitation, function, form, and space. Our goal is to apply creative techniques in art and sculpture to the creation of meaningful space.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

J. Jaminet

Advisory: One semester of design or drawing is recommended

Notes: Students enrolled in this course will be responsible for some of the cost of materials.

Credits: 4

ARCH-225  Intermediate Studies in Architectural Design

ARCH-225ED  Intermediate Studies in Architecture: 'Principles of Environmental Design'

Spring

This hybrid studio addresses human comfort with lectures and problem work sessions integrated with design projects. We start with an in-depth study of the world’s climate regions, the sun, and the earth’s tilt and spin. Primary methods of heat transfer are investigated as students research two architectural solutions (vernacular and contemporary) within each climate. Using daylight, the sun’s movement, and sun-path diagrams students will design, draw and build a functioning solar clock. Issues in day-lighting and thermal comfort will then drive an extended design problem. Students will be asked to solve numerical problems and present design solutions using both drawings and models.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

N. Darling

Prereq: 4 Credits in Architecture Design Studio; knowledge of algebra & trigonometry.

Notes: Students enrolled in this course will be responsible for some of the cost of materials.

Credits: 4

ARCH-295  Independent Study

Fall and Spring

The department

Instructor permission required.

Credits: 1-4

Course can be repeated for credit.

ARCH-391  Research Seminar in Art History and Architectural Studies

Not Scheduled for This Year

This seminar explores practical issues in doing advanced research in art history and architectural studies. Depending on student projects, activities could include reading primary sources, critical assessment of texts and archival materials, use of library and digital resources, and visual analysis. Students have an opportunity to think about how to organize research into a thesis, or how to make sense of research and internship experience off-campus or during study abroad.

Crosslisted as: Art History 391

Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive

A. Lee

Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.

Prereq: Jr, Sr, 8 credits in Architectural Studies.

Credits: 4

ARCH-395  Independent Study

Fall and Spring

The department

Instructor permission required.

Credits: 1-8

Course can be repeated for credit.

Related Courses

Students who plan to enroll in courses outside of the Five Colleges, especially in courses to be taken at another institution or abroad, should first consult with their advisor and the program coordinator to determine if the courses meet departmental criteria for the major.

Five College Course Offerings in Architectural Studies

Current courses in architectural studies are offered throughout the Five Colleges. Check listings in the Five College course catalog: Department of Art and the History of Art, Amherst College; Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies (HACU), Lemelson Center (HCLC) Hampshire College; Department of Art, Landscape Studies Program, Smith College; Architecture and Design, Building Construction Technology, Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, University of Massachusetts.