

Sacred Spaces

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[Download a printable study guide here.](#)

Please check the online course for the most up-to-date version of course materials and assignments. If the online materials differ from this print study guide, the online materials take precedence.

Course Information

Course Description

One of the oldest and most universal habits of human beings is the creation or construction of sacred spaces. They can be enormous, impressive and last for thousands of years or they can be as simple as a series of lines scratched into the ground marked by rocks. This course will explore the process that human beings used to make spaces sacred. It will examine four major examples of sacred spaces from the history of architecture. These will include Egyptian pyramids and temples, the great temple of Athene in Athens called the Parthenon, the now destroyed church in Rome dedicated to St. Peter, built over his grave and one of the great Gothic cathedrals of France, Notre Dame de Chartres. We will finish by looking at some of the implications of how spaces are made sacred or profane in the modern world.

For these structures the course will study both architectural styles and the social and political contexts that shape the buildings. Students will come to recognize how the patronage and functions of sacred spaces shape their form and decoration.

Course Learning Goals

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- Understand and use some of the tools art historians use to research and analyze art and architecture and its development over time.
- Explain the connection between the art and architecture of a society and its social, religious and political values.
- Recognize several famous architectural structures and explain how they functioned in their societies.
- Recognize the difference between arts that are public and serve broad community goals and arts that are private which benefit an individual or a family group. You will learn how public projects are funded.
- Compare sacred spaces from different periods and cultures

Course resources

This course has no textbook. Students will read selections from a variety of texts, watch videos and view online interactive lectures. The online interactive lectures have a visual and an audio component and vary in length.

Electronic Reserve Readings:

Eliade

Roth
Pollitt
Zaidman & Pantel
Balch and Osiek
Collins

Toynbee and Ward-Perkins
Stoddard
Kraus
Glawell

Course Competences

In this course, you will develop the following competences:

Competence	Competence Statement and Facets
A1G	Can explain the functions of public art and its relationship to communities.
A1E	Can interpret the work of writers or artists within a historical or social context.
H1F	Can describe and explain the roles of individuals, groups, societies, or states in history
H2E	Can compare one social, cultural, economic, or political institution in a society to a comparable institution in a different society

How the Competences will be Demonstrated in this Course

Students will demonstrate mastery of the competences in this course by writing essays which compare and analyze works of art, view videos and complete worksheets about their contents, participate in discussions of course materials with classmates, and write final papers as competence projects.

Students must complete a final paper FOR EACH COMPETENCE that they have signed up for. Competence paper assignments are outlined on page 7.

Course structure

This course consists of 10 modules. The estimated time to complete each module is one week.

To view the course schedule, click on the Schedule link on the left-hand navigation bar. This page contains the most recently updated listing of the topics and assignments due for each week of the course.

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Assessment

Assessment of Learning

Percentage distribution of Assessments

- Participation in discussions 30% (3% for each weekly discussion)
 - Module 1 4%
 - Module 2 4%
 - Module 3 4%
 - Module 4 4%
 - Module 5 4%
 - Module 6 4%
 - Module 7 4%
 - Module 8 4%
 - Module 9 4%
 - Module 10 4%
 - Final Project 30%
- Participation in the class discussions is a course requirement. You should login to the Discussion board at least every second day and ideally every day.
 - Deadlines for assignments and discussions are at the end of the week as set by the instructor. All work for that week should be submitted before the deadline unless other arrangements are made with the instructor. Students should be aware that online discussions cannot really be made up after that discussion is over.
 - Exceptions to weekly deadlines will be considered if the student is able to document a major medical or family emergency. Please contact your instructor as soon as you think there may be a problem.
 - All students in the class are bound by The University's Academic Honesty Policy.

General Assessment Criteria for All Writing Assignments

All writing done for the course, whether posted to the gradebook or posted as part of class discussion should follow all the rules of English grammar and spelling. While discussions are generally less formal than in essays, they should be written in complete grammatical sentences so the students meaning comes through clearly. Bad grammar isn't just wrong because it is bad, bad grammar confuses people.

All materials quoted from sources must be placed in quotation marks and properly cited. This is true in all writing for the course including the discussions. Please see the Academic Integrity Policy section below for more details.

Assessment Criteria for your Final Paper or Project by Competence

A-1-E: Can interpret the work of writers or artists within a historical or social context.

Choose a sacred space to research and analyze. Write a six page paper with a bibliography and appropriate illustrations. Consider the following issues:

- Artists and architects: what do we know about the people who designed and built the space?
- Patronage: who paid for this building either with money for with other resources? Who was making important decisions about where the building was located, a how it was decorated, and which people have access to it?
- Decoration: what stories and messages are told by the decorations? Who was their intended audience?

- Function: how did the space function? What kinds of rituals or ceremonies were held there? Did it function in any additional ways?
- Style: what is the architectural style of the building? How does the style relate to earlier examples or contemporary examples from other geographic locations?

A-1-G: Can explain the functions of public art and its relationship to communities.

Find a sacred space that is a specifically public space. Try to find one that is not simply open to the public, but which in some way expresses the beliefs and priorities of the community. Write a six page paper that explains how the community's priorities can be seen:

- in the funding of the building
- in the decoration of the building
- in the rhetoric used by leaders in the community to explain and justify its construction and existence.

Compare this public building to a private sacred space created in roughly the same time and place. How are these issues different in this private sacred space?

H-1-F: Can describe and explain the roles of individuals, groups, societies, or states in history.

Choose two sacred spaces and compare their patronage. How did the conditions of patronage affect these structures? Write a six page paper with a bibliography and to appropriate illustrations.

- Who were there patrons?
- What were their goals and priorities?
- How did the goals and priorities shape the appearance of the architecture and decoration of the building?

H-2-E: Can compare one social, cultural, economic, or political institution in a society to a comparable institution in a different society.

Choose two sacred spaces/buildings from different periods and geographic locations. Research and compare and contrast them, paying special attention to the roles of individuals and groups in the patronage, construction, function and social context of the two structures. Do the different conditions in these two societies explain the differences that we see in the form and function of these sacred spaces? Write a six page paper exploring these questions. Add an appropriate bibliography and illustrations.

Online Discussion

Assessment Criteria for Online Discussion Participation

- For full credit in the discussion, please follow the directions. All students should read the discussion questions carefully and answer all aspects of the question, meeting any requirements for length of the post, added illustrations, etc.
- Student posts should reflect an appropriate mastery of the course content including information from reading assignments, videos, and lecture materials.

Grading Scale

A = 95 to 100	A- = 91 to 94	B+ = 88 to 90
B = 85 to 87	B- = 81 to 84	C+ = 77 to 80
C = 73 to 76	C- = 69 to 72	D+ = 65 to 68
D = 61 to 64	F = 60 or below	INC

For SNL courses taken for Pass/Fail, a "Pass" represents a grade of "A" for purposes of financial aid and employer reimbursement.

Students wishing to declare a Pass/Fail option must do so before the end of the 2 nd week of the quarter.

Online Participation Guidelines for this course

- Students are expected to participate in the discussions in a timely fashion.
- Student posts should be respectful of other students' ideas and opinions even in cases where they do not agree.
- The content of discussions is intended to allow students to work with concepts that they are learning each week. Please cover the relevant materials in the learning activities to enhance the quality of the discussion.
- Please read the entire discussion prompt. If there are several parts to a question, answer each one. Follow the instructor's directions and deadlines in order to make the discussion and productive for the entire class.
- Please address your fellow students find name in the discussions, and your post with a signature. This is not only polite; it allows other students and the instructor to follow the thread of the discussions. In larger classes this keeps us all from being confused.

Discussion Boards

Discussion Boards are a forum for discussion and sharing information among students. Your instructor may create one or more public conferences related to the topics you are studying each week.

At the beginning of the quarter, your instructor will set up three discussion conferences. These three conferences will help you and your classmates get off to an immediate start on the course, by providing conversational spaces for necessary, ongoing social and administrative activities. These conferences are:

- Introductions
- Course Q&A
- A social meeting space for discussion that is not directly related to course content. (This has different names in different courses.)

The Q&A conference is where the management and administrative tasks of the course are conducted, and where you can ask 'process' questions and receive answers. You will also find the schedule of specific dates for your course in this Conference, and the emails sent out to the whole class using the Listserver.

The (**Museum Café dicussion area**) is a space for socializing and continuing discussions of ongoing interest to the group.

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Policies

Academic Integrity

DePaul University is a learning community that fosters the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas within a context that emphasizes a sense of responsibility for oneself, for others and for society at large. Violations of academic integrity, in any of their forms, are, therefore, detrimental to the values of DePaul, to the students' own development as responsible members of society, and to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Violations include but are not limited to the following categories: cheating; plagiarism; fabrication; falsification or sabotage of research data; destruction or misuse of the university's academic resources; alteration or falsification of academic records; and academic misconduct. Conduct that is punishable under the Academic Integrity Policy could result in additional disciplinary actions by other university officials and possible civil or criminal prosecution. Please refer to your Student Handbook or visit <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/homehandbook.html> for further details.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a major form of academic dishonesty involving the presentation of the work of another as one's own. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the following:

- The direct copying of any source, such as written and verbal material, computer files, audio disks, video programs or musical scores, whether published or unpublished, in whole or part, without proper acknowledgement that it is someone else's.
- Copying of any source in whole or part with only minor changes in wording or syntax, even with acknowledgement.
- Submitting as one's own work a report, examination paper, computer file, lab report or other assignment that has been prepared by someone else. This includes research papers purchased from any other person or agency.
- The paraphrasing of another's work or ideas without proper acknowledgement.

Plagiarism, like other forms of academic dishonesty, is always a serious matter. If an instructor finds that a student has plagiarized, the appropriate penalty is at the instructor's discretion.

Disability Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities on an individualized and flexible basis. The Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) determines appropriate accommodations through consultation with the student. For certain learning disabilities and/or attention deficit disorders, the Productive Learning Strategies Program (PLuS) determines the appropriate accommodations. See the instructor for more information or call OSD at 773-325-7290 (phone) or 773-325-7296 (TTY); or call PLuS at 773-325-1677.

Incomplete Grades

The intent of the Incomplete grade is to allow students extra time to complete their final assignments. This need arises because, in the closing weeks of the course, they have an event of significant magnitude that adversely affects their ability to complete the course, e.g. serious illness, death in the family, overseas deployment, or natural disaster.

You must request an incomplete grade in writing two weeks before the end of the quarter. Incomplete grades will be considered only after you have satisfactorily completed at least 75 percent of the coursework, and you have such an unexpected, uncontrollable event that prevents you from completing your course. Do not assume that you will qualify for an incomplete. Students who are failing the course at the point where they request an incomplete will not receive one, nor will they be granted after the end of the quarter. Incomplete grades are given at the discretion of the instructor.

If you do receive permission from the instructor to take an incomplete in the course, you will be required to complete a contract with the instructor, specifying how you will finish the missing work within the next two quarters (excluding summer). Incompletes not finished by the end of the second quarter (excluding summer) will automatically become an F grade on your transcript.

Instructors may not change incomplete grades after the end of the grace period without the permission of a college-based Exceptions Committee.

NOTE: In the case of a student who has applied for graduation and who has been approved for an Incomplete in his or her final term, the incomplete must be resolved within the four week grace period before final degree certification.

Protection of Human Subjects

For more information see: <http://research.depaul.edu/>.

Demonstrating the acquisition of competences in this course can involve “interactions”—interviewing and or observing other people—discussing those interviews or observations with other class members and writing them up in one or more final report (s). As such, these activities qualify as “research” with “human subjects” and are subject to University and Federal guidelines. Because it takes place in the context of this course, your research is exempt from approval by the School for New Learning’s Local Review Board only under the following conditions:

1. The information you collect is EXCLUSIVELY for the purpose of classroom discussion and will NOT be used after the term is over. If there is any possibility that you will EVER use it in further research or for publication, you must obtain approval from the Local Review Board before you begin.
2. You assess and ensure that no “harm”—physical, mental, or social—does or could result from either your interviews and/or observations or your discussion and/or reports.
3. The privacy and confidentiality of those that you interview or observe must be protected. Unless you receive specific permission, in writing, from the person(s) you interview or observe, please change their names, and make sure that their identity cannot be readily ascertained from the information you provide.
 - a. If you want to use real names and relationships, they must sign an “informed consent” document. For information on creating an “informed consent document” see, for example, <http://www.research.umn.edu/consent>.

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Course Expectations

Time Management and Attendance

SNL’s online courses are not self-paced and require a regular time commitment EACH week throughout the quarter.

You are required to log in to your course at least four times a week so that you can participate in the ongoing course discussions.

Online courses are no less time consuming than “face to face” courses. You will have to dedicate some time every day or at least every second day to your studies. A typical four credit hour “face to face” course at SNL involves three hours of classroom meeting per week, plus at least three to six hours of study and homework per week.

This course will require at least the same time commitment, but your learning activities will be spread out through the week. If you have any problems with your technology, or if you need to improve your reading or writing skills, it may take even longer.

The instructor should be notified if your life events do not allow you to participate in the course and the online discussions for more than one week. This is particularly important when there are group discussions or you are working as part of a team.

If you find yourself getting behind, please contact the instructor immediately.

Your Instructor’s Role

Your instructor's role in this course is that of a discussion facilitator and learning advisor. It is not their responsibility to make sure you log in regularly and submit your assignments. As instructor, s/he will read all postings to the general discussion forums on a daily basis but may not choose to respond to each posting. You will receive feedback to assignments.

The instructor may choose to designate "office hours" when s/he will be online and available and will immediately respond to questions. Depending on the instructor, this response may be by e-mail, instant messenger or telephone. Otherwise, you will generally receive a response to emailed or posted queries within 48 hours.

Your Role as a Student

As an online student, you will be taking a proactive approach to your learning. As the course instructor's role is that of a learning guide, your role is that of the leader in your own learning.

You will be managing your own time so that you can complete the readings, activities and assignments for the course, and you will also be expected to take a more active role in peer learning.

Credits

This course was designed and produced by Catherine Zurybida and staff of SNL Online at DePaul University.

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