Syllabus – Fall 2011
ARCH1000
Architecture at Northeastern

Date/Time: Wednesday 2:50-4:30 PM
Classroom: 200 Richards Hall

Instructor: George Thrush, FAIA
Professor & Director,
School of Architecture
e-mail: g.thrush@neu.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

This class is an opportunity for you to meet the Director of the School of Architecture, and to be introduced to different ways of thinking about architecture, building, meaning, and the built environment. You will be asked to participate in discussions, both online and in-class, and to prepare a class presentation using MS Powerpoint.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken. You are allowed one unexcused absence for the quarter.

Credit/Grading: You will receive one credit for this course. You will be grade with an S (pass) or a U (fail). If you miss two unexcused classes, you will receive a U.

Lectures: Attendance at NU Architecture Series Lectures is required. Lectures are generally held Monday evenings at 6pm in Room 20, West Village Building F. Online discussion groups to follow each lecture.

Mandatory Reading:
Why Architecture Matters
Paul Goldberger
(available for $15 on Amazon.com)

Discussion Boards: Weekly discussion boards will be posted online using the e-education platform 'Blackboard'.

Additional Online Blogs/ Reading (optional):
www.archinect.com
www.dezeen.com
www.archidose.blogspot.com
www.inhabit.com
www.architects.org
Making Architecture More Connected
Design Magazine
A Daily Dose of Architecture from NYC
Sustainable Design Blog
Boston Society of Architect’s Website
**September 7**  
*Introduction*

In class:
- Contacts for advising, pre-registration for Spring, co-op, Academic Honesty, etc.
- Overview of School's approach and distinction
- Paul Goldberger and *Why Architecture Matters*

**Online Assignments / Discussions:**
- Review Chapter 1, *Meaning, Culture Symbol*, and be prepared to discuss in class. (remember to bring your name placard)

**September 14**  
*Meaning, Culture Symbol*

In Class:
- Discussion of Both/ And thinking, as opposed to Either/ Or
- Form AND Content, examples
- Ethics, Aesthetics, Vitruvius, Alberti, and the relationship of ideas to actions

Online Discussion: Review Chapter 2, *Challenge and Comfort*. Cite your own examples of different modes of Architectural Thinking

**September 21**  
*Challenge and Comfort*

In Class:
- Use, practicality, ambition, sequence, promenade, and vision

Online Discussion: TBA

**September 28**  
*The Landscape, with Jane Amidon*

In Class:
- Landscape tradition, modern ideas in landscape, Landscape Urbanism
- Landscape as Art; as sequence; as ecology; as active filter, and as public space

Online Discussion: Review Chapter 3, *Architecture as Object*

**October 5**  
*Architecture as Object*

In Class:
- Space versus Anti-Space
- Monuments, follies, towers, and sculpture
- The language of objects

Online Discussion: Review Chapter 4, *Architecture as Space*

**October 12**  
*Architecture as Space*

In Class:
- Typology: Drums, rooms, courtyards, squares and other figures
- Experience, sequence, promenade, connections to discourse on public space.

Online Discussion: Review Chapter 5, *Architecture and Memory*
**October 19**  
*Building and Time*

In Class:
- Weathering, Memory, Narrative, Film
- A Topographical History of Boston

**October 26**  
*Architecture and Memory*

In Class:
- Memories, real and otherwise
- Memory as personal, political, and cultural record keeping
- Memorials

Online Discussion: Review Chapter 7, *Buildings and the Making of Place*

**November 2**  
*Top of the Prudential Tower*

SITE VISIT:
- Meet at 52nd Floor of the Prudential Tower at 3:00 pm sharp.
- Discussion of the evolution of Boston’s Morphology

Assignment:  
*Prepare individual presentations in MS Powerpoint for presentation to the class on December 2.  
Email to George Thrush by November 28 at 5:00 pm.*

**November 9**  
*Olmsted and Boston, w/ Jane Amidon*

In Class:
- The Back Bay Fens, Commonwealth Avenue, The Emerald Necklace
- Performance Landscapes then and now

Online Discussion: *Olmsted*

**November 16**  
*Buildings and the Making of Place*

In Class:
- Rossi, Norberg-Shulz, Kahn, Duany and Plater-Zyberk
- London, Paris, Las Vegas, Garden Suburbs, Houston, and Atlanta,

Online Discussion: *Glossary!* (maybe the best part of this excellent book)

**November 23**  
NO CLASS- Thanksgiving Break

**November 30**  
*Student Presentations*

In Class:
- Selected Students will present in class.
- Course Evaluation