

**AAE 453/653 VISIONARY AND UTOPIAN ARCHITECTURE:
 PLATO TO BLADE RUNNER**

Credits 3

Type of Course Architectural History seminar, Spring 2008

Time W 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Instructor Janet R. White

Prerequisites Admission to upper division, graduate standing, or consent of instructor

Course Description Examination of the nature of visionary and utopian architecture through analysis of historical and contemporary precedent, and exploration of the possibilities for application of visionary and utopian thought to design

NAAB Criteria 10. Western Traditions Understanding of the Western architectural canons and traditions in architecture, landscape and urban design, and the climatic, technological, socioeconomic, and other cultural factors that have shaped and sustained them

12 National and Regional Traditions: Understanding of the national traditions and the local regional heritage in architecture, landscape, and urban design, including vernacular tradition

1. Verbal Skills Ability to speak and write effectively on subject matter in the professional curriculum

3. Research Skills Ability to employ basic methods of data collection and analysis to inform all aspects of the programming and design process

Completion Req.s Students will be expected to respond to weekly readings and participate in class discussions; a research project including an in-class presentation and a research paper will be required.

If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <<http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>>.

AAE 453/653

**VISIONARY AND UTOPIAN ARCHITECTURE:
PLATO TO BLADE RUNNER**

Instructor: Janet White

e-mail: janet.white@unlv.edu

Office: 225 ARC

Office hours: W 1:30 - 4:30, Th 9:30-12:30

Please make appointments to see me during these times through the School of Architecture receptionist.

Objectives:

- 1) To introduce the concept of architecture as social critique, and the possibilities and limits of architecture as a vehicle for social change.
- 2) To familiarize students with an often ignored but significant body of work in which the built environment has been used to examine, question, or challenge the status quo.

Required Texts: None. Weekly reading assignments on reserve in the Architecture Studies Library and/or Electronic Reserves on UN LV Library website..

Course Requirements and Grading:

- Active and informed participation in class discussions 30%
- Weekly assignments (Reading Response paragraphs and others) 20%
- In-class presentation and discussion on research topic 20%
- Research project documentation 30%
 - Annotated bibliography 5 %
 - Thesis statement (400 words) 5 %
 - Research paper 20%(2500 words at 400-level, 5000 words at 600-level)

Reading Responses:

- short (max. 200 words) TYPED responses to reading assignments; standard (i.e. grammatically correct) English expected
- should raise an issue or pose a question evoked by the week's readings
- due at beginning of each class, to be read aloud as initiators of discussion
- grading will be +, check, or - ; evaluation on depth of thought demonstrated and quality of expression

In-class presentation:

Each student will be responsible for one hour of class time and one weekly reading assignment:

- selection of a reading to be placed on reserve for the week prior to presentation
- 30 minute presentation of research, with accompanying visual images
- moderator for 30 minute discussion of reading and material presented

Additional Requirements for 600-level:

Students taking this as a 600-level course will be required to write a 5000-word research paper. They will be expected to demonstrate that they have conducted extensive research and have thoroughly mastered the topic, and to develop a research hypothesis with a higher degree of complexity and originality than those of undergraduate students.

Website:

- The website for this class is <<http://faculty.unlv.edu/jwhite>>
- The course Syllabus, Calendar, and assignments are posted on the website.

Policies:

- All UNLV policies as set out in the Undergraduate Catalog and all School of Architecture policies as set out in the SOA Student Handbook are in effect for this course. A summary of certain particularly significant sections of these publications, entitled “The Rules,” can be found at <<http://faculty.unlv.edu/jwhite>> . Students are required to familiarize themselves with this document and to submit to their instructor, by the end of the first week of classes, a signed statement that they have read it. (A page with this statement, which can be printed out and signed, appears at the end of “The Rules” at the above URL.)

SOME POTENTIAL RESEARCH TOPICS

Students’ research, presentation and paper will focus on analysis of the intersections between architecture and culture in specific visionary and utopian proposals, built and unbuilt. Some potential subjects:

Sforzinda by Filarete

Ledoux's city of Chaux

Fourierism and the Phalanx

William Morris’ News from Nowhere

Tony Garnier’s Ville Industrielle

Corbusier's City for 3 Million

FLW’s Broadacre City

Female Utopias: Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s Herland

Elizabeth Burgoyne Corbett’s New Amazonia

Fanny Wright’s Nashoba Community

Archigram and Plug-in City

Kenzo Tange and the Metabolists’ plans for Toyko

B. F Skinner’s Walden Two

SOME BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bellamy, Edward. *Looking Backwards, 2000-1887*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin & Co., 1889.
- Benson, Timothy O. et. al. *Expressionist Utopias: Paradise, Metropolis, Architectural Fantasy*. Berkeley: U of CA P, 2001.
- Bestor Jr., Arthur Eugene. *Backwoods Utopias: The Sectarian and Owenite Phases of Communitarian Socialism in America 1663-1829*. Philadelphia: U of Pennsylvania P, 1950.
- Carey, John, ed. *The Faber Book of Utopias*. London: Faber and Faber, Ltd., 1999.
- Choay, Françoise. *The Rule and the Model. On the Theory of Architecture and Urbanism*. Trans. MIT Press. 1980 (French) ed. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1997.
- Collins, George R. *Visionary Drawings of Architecture and Planning: 20th century through the 1960's*. Cambridge, MA: MIT press, 1979.
- Conrads, Ulrich and Hans Sperlich. *The Architecture of Fantasy: Utopian Building and Planning in Modern Times*. Trans. Christiane Crasemann Collins and George Collins. New York: Praeger, 1962.
- Conrads, Ulrich. *Programs and Manifestoes on 20th Century Architecture*. Trans. Michael Bullock. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1970.
- Dahinden, Justus. *Urban Structures for the Future*. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1972.
- Fogarty, Robert S. *All Things New: American Communes and Utopian Movements 1860-1914*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1990.
- Guarneri, Carl. *The Utopian Alternative: Fourierism in 19th-century America*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP, 1991.
- Hayden, Dolores. *Seven American Utopias: The Architecture of Communitarian Socialism, 1790-1975*. Cambridge, MA: MIT P. 1976.
- Hinds, William A. *American Communities and Co-Operative Colonies*. Chicago: Charles H. Kerk & Co., 1908.
- Huxtable, Ado Louise. *The Unreal America: Architecture and Illusion*. New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1997
- Kumar, Krishan. *Utopia and Anti-Utopia in Modern Times*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell Ltd., 1987.
- Le Corbusier. *Looking at City Planning*. 1946. trans. Elenor Levieux. NY: Grossman Publishers,

1971.

Lemagny, Jean-Claude. *Visionary Architects: Boullée, Ledoux, Lequeu*. 1968. Santa Monica, CA: Hennessey & Ingalls, 2002

More, Sir Thomas. *Utopia*. Trans. and ed. Robert Adams. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1975.

Morris, William. *News from Nowhere*. Hammersmith, ENG: Kelmscott Press, 1892.

Nordhoff, Charles. *The Communistic Societies of the United States from Personal Vision and Observation...* 1875 ed. New York: Schocken Books, 1965.

Pitzer, Donald E. ed. *America's Communal Utopias*. Chapel Hill, NC: U of NC P, 1997.

Plato. *The Republic*. Trans. Richard W. Sterling and William C. Scott. New York: Norton, 1985.

Riley, Terence, et. al. *The Changing of the Avant-Garde: Visionary Drawings from the Howard Gilman Collection*. New York: Museum of Modern Art, 2002.

White, Frederic R. *Famous Utopias of the Renaissance*. New York: Henricks House, 1955.