

## **ARCH 100: Introduction to Architecture**

**Spring Semester 2026**

Ball State University  
Estopinal College of Architecture and Planning  
Department of Architecture

<b>Course Instructor</b>	<b>Adriana Elser</b> Assistant Teaching Professor of Architecture E-mail: <a href="mailto:adrianaelser@bsu.edu">adrianaelser@bsu.edu</a> Office: AB 431
<b>Office Hours</b>	By appointment
<b>Location + Time</b>	AB100; MW 13:00-13:50
<b>Credit Hours</b>	2
<b>Course Prerequisites</b>	None. Open to all students.
<b>Course Description</b>	An introduction to architecture through an exploration of products of the built environment.

### **Communication Policy**

Canvas will be our primary platform for this class. All readings, assignments, and other support materials will be posted on Canvas. All communication from me will come in the form of either a Canvas message or Announcement. As such, you are expected to check our Canvas page regularly. However, please use **EMAIL** to contact me with any questions or concerns. I will respond within one day during the week, and by Monday at noon for any messages sent over the weekend.

### **Course Format**

This class will consist of lectures, homework readings and assignments, quizzes, and projects. All readings, other materials, quizzes, and assignments will be organized within the **Modules** tab on Canvas. You are responsible for keeping up with the material and submitting assignments on time.

There is another section of Arch100 this semester being taught at the same time by Professor Miguel San Miguel. The content of our courses will differ, however we have coordinated multiple items and assigned projects will be team-graded.

### **Course Objectives**

- To provide an introduction to architecture through an exploration of products of the built environment (from [BSU Undergraduate Course Catalog](#))
- To introduce architectural theory, perspective, and critique

All items listed in the syllabus may change at Instructor's discretion

- To develop the skills needed to analyze architectural form and space
- To examine social, technical, cultural, economic, and environmental issues which underlie the built environment

### **NAAB Student Performance Criterion**

- A.7 History and Global Culture: Understanding of the parallel and divergent histories of architecture and the cultural norms of a variety of indigenous, vernacular, local, and regional settings in terms of their political, economic, social, ecological, and technological factors.
- D.1 Stakeholder Roles in Architecture: Understanding of the relationships among key stakeholders in the design process- client, contractor, architect, user groups, local community-and the architect's role to reconcile stakeholder needs.
- D.5 Professional Conduct: Understanding of ethical issues involved in the exercise of professional judgment in architectural design and practice and the understanding of the role of the NCARB Rules of conduct and the AIA Code of Ethics in defining professional conduct.

### **Course Requirements**

- In-person lectures
- Reading assignments, videos, and recorded lectures as posted to Canvas Modules
- Completion of quizzes, projects, and other course assignments
- Maintenance of an Arch100 sketchbook with class notes, project development, etc.

### **Late Coursework Policy**

Assignments can be submitted up to 24 hours late but will be penalized by a minus-3 level lowering of your grade (ex. C becoming a D). After this grace period, you will receive a zero.

### **Course Technology Policy**

You will need access to a laptop or tablet for the entirety of the semester in order to access materials for this course, including in class. If this will be an issue for you, please contact me as soon as possible so that I might help you make arrangements. Unless you have an accommodation, you are expected to take hand-written notes during the lectures as this will enable you to sketch alongside your writing. NO LAPTOPS will be allowed in class except to take quizzes and PHOTOS or other recordings of the lectures are not permitted unless you have a documented accommodation requirement.

### **Course Text**

Readings, when assigned, will be posted as PDFs or hyperlinks on Canvas.

### **Attendance Policy**

All items listed in the syllabus may change at Instructor's discretion

Attendance will be taken at the discretion of the instructor. Recordings of the lectures will not be made available.

### **Course Assessments**

- Assignments—50% of final grade
  - Travel Poster
  - Hockney Collage
  - 5 Year Plan
  - Movie Analysis
- Quizzes—45% of final grade
  - Quizzes will be administered via Canvas during class time—you MUST have a laptop or tablet with you to take the quiz.
  - Quizzes 1-3 will be 20 questions, and you will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. Quizzes 1-3 will cover the material immediately preceding that quiz.
  - Quiz 4 will cover the BArch Thesis Presentations, and you will be able to complete it on your own time.
  - Quiz 5 will be cumulative, 30 questions, and you will have 45 minutes to complete the quiz.
  - Lectures, readings, and any material posted within the modules are fair game.
- Sketchbook—3% of final grade
  - You are expected to take handwritten notes in this class so that you can easily sketch alongside your written information.
  - At the end of the semester, you will submit a scanned PDF of your sketchbook as a SINGLE document
- Arch100 Bingo—2% of final grade
  - Throughout the semester, there will be mini “pop” projects. These are quick and simple assignments graded on completion.
- Extra Credit—Project Mulligan
  - You will be given the opportunity to resubmit ONE of your projects incorporating feedback for a higher grade. This will replace your original project grade.

### **Course Grading Policy**

- “A” - Work of excellent quality and is recorded for those students who do outstanding work.
- “B” - Work of good quality and is recorded for those students who do work which is clearly above the average.
- “C” -Work of average quality and is recorded for those students who do average work. Fulfilling the requirements without any additional effort will earn you a C.
- “D” - Work of below average quality but above failure.

All items listed in the syllabus may change at Instructor’s discretion

- “F” –Work that is not of acceptable quality.
  - “F” is recorded (1) when a student fails a course and (2) when a student drops a course after the twenty-third day of a semester or the seventh day of classes in a summer session unless, in the judgment of the instructor, the reasons for dropping the course are such that the student should have a “W”. Students who discontinue attending a class for which they are registered will receive an “F” unless they officially (by appropriate signature) withdraw from the course.

**Grade Distribution Scale**

B+	= 87%	A	= 94% or higher	A-	= 90%
C+	= 77%	B	= 84%	B-	= 80%
D+	= 67%	C	= 74%	C-	= 70%
F	= 59% and lower	D	= 64%	D-	= 60%

**Course Policy on the Use of AI**

The use of explicit AI programs to assist in writing, generating images, or other aspects of assignments is prohibited. This includes programs such as ChatGPT, Midjourney, DALL-E, Nano Banana, etc. If a student is found to have used such a program to complete an assignment, they will receive a zero for that assignment.

The use of AI tools built into other programs such as Adobe products (Ai, Ps, Id, etc.) should be limited to specific tasks. For example, the Magic Wand tool in Photoshop uses AI to select related pixels in an image; however, control of the tolerance and other settings remains with the user. This is an acceptable use of an integrated AI tool. Using an integrated AI tool to create the majority or totality of a project is unacceptable.

**University Statement**

We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

**The Learning Center**

The Learning Center offers free tutoring for most courses in the core curriculum (and many outside the core curriculum), for any writing task, and for general

study strategies such as time management, test taking, speed reading, and effective textbook reading and note taking. Call 285-1006 or visit NQ 350 to make an appointment to meet with a tutor.

### **The Writing Center**

The Writing Center offers free writing feedback sessions to all students. They work with students on essays, reports, reflections, research projects, web content, lesson plans, slideshows, poster presentations, resumes, and other media. Call 285-8370 or visit Bell 295.

### **Counseling and Health Services**

Counseling and Health Services' Outreach and Special Programs mission is to assist students in reaching their personal and educational goals and removing barriers to learning. To request a program please call 285-1736.

### **Academic Conduct and Integrity Policy**

Students must comply with and are responsible for knowing the student academics ethics policy, as published in the Ball State University Student Handbook. Cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers, etc. will not be tolerated.

### **Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities**

Students are expected to read, understand, and adhere to these community standards.

<https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/studentrights/policiesandprocedures/studentcode>