

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI 'MEDITERRANEA' DI REGGIO CALABRIA

Subject Code: 16605

Subject Name: History of Contemporary Architecture

Professor: Tommaso Manfredi

Department: Patrimonio, Architettura and Urbanistica (PAU)

Degree course: Architectural Sciences

Class: L 17 – three years

Type of educational activity: basic

Disciplinary Area: 08/E2 Conservation and Architectural History

Scientific-Disciplinary Sector: ICAR 18 – Architectural History

Compulsory preliminary exams: none

Course Year: third

Semester: first

ECTS: 8

Hours: 80

Synthetic description:

The course covers the history of western architecture from the middle of the eighteenth-through the twenty-first century. The processes of the general evolution of architecture throughout this vast period will be covered, including the most important aspects of larger cultural movements, both individual architects and buildings. In depth lectures will be dedicated to the formation of the architect, to the instruments and to the procedures of the diffusion of an international language of architecture.

Acquisition of knowledge on:

The intention is to equip students with knowledge about the procedures and a critical interpretation and analysis of architecture in the period under examination. In this context particular attention will be drawn to an analysis of the transformation of the language of architecture in its rapport with the cultural history and the evolution of the practical construction and the concept of the city and the territory.

Evaluation method:

A final oral examination may be preceded by interim exams and will include a discussion of a publication dedicated to architects and architecture of the past two centuries, chosen by the student: (cfr. F. Cerver Asensio, *Architettura oggi*, ed. Electa 2006; P. Jodidio, *Architecture now*, ed. Taschen, vol. 2-7, *Atlante di architettura contemporanea*, ed. Gribaudo 2003, etc.).

Student's Independent work:

Students will be required to undertake a multi-media project, such as a video-clip regarding a pre-selected subject about contemporary architecture. This project will be presented at the end of the course.

Detailed course program

- Europe in the second half of the eighteenth-century: the study of the antique and the birth of a new architectural language (France; Great Britain; Italy; Russia; and the United States)
- Europe in the nineteenth-century: the codification of the languages and consequences of technological innovation (France; Great Britain; Germany; Austria and Italy; Scandinavia, Russia and Greece; the United States)
- Planning and transformation of the European city between the eighteenth and nineteenth century
- Architecture and city in Great Britain and in the United States between the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth-century
- Pioneers of modern architecture in rapport with their cultural origins
- Radical architects and history
- The modern movement in Europe and national developments - the “avantguard”
- Architecture and history in European totalitarian regimes
- The “other modernity” in Italy in the first half of the twentieth-century
- Architecture and re-construction after the wars: the Italian situation
- Architecture in the second half of the twentieth century in Europe, Latin America, Australia, Japan
- Contemporary architecture in the United States
- The end of the twentieth-century: “complexity and contradiction”

Resources and main references

- 1) David Watkin, *Storia dell'architettura occidentale*, Zanichelli, Bologna 2007 (terza edizione 2007 o successiva), *Il Classicismo nel XVIII secolo*, pp. 361- 440; *Il XIX secolo*, pp. 441-564.
- 2) William J. R. Curtis, *L'architettura moderna dal 1900*, Phaidon, Londra, 2006 (II ed. italiana).

The bibliography concerning in-depth technical themes will be assigned during the course, and will be available via the electronic portal.