

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

Credits	3
Type of Course	Architectural History seminar, Fall 2019
Time	T 11:30 - 2:15 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	A. 9. Historical Traditions and Global Culture: <i>Understanding</i> of parallel and divergent canons and traditions of architecture, landscape and urban design including examples of indigenous, vernacular, local, regional, national settings from the Eastern, Western, Northern, and Southern hemispheres in terms of their climatic, ecological, technological, socioeconomic, public health, and cultural factors. A.1. Communication Skills: <i>Ability</i> to read, write, speak and listen effectively.
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](mailto:janet.white@unlv.edu)

Office: 225 ARC Office hours: T 2:30-4:00, W 10:00-12:00
Please make appointments to see me during these times through the
School of Architecture receptionist.

Learning 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 posted on course 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 Paper	
- Annotated bibliography	5 %
- Thesis statement (400 words)	5 %
- Research paper(2500 words)	20%

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, weekly lecture handouts, 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:

Ledoux's city of Chaux
Fourierism and the Phalanx
William Morris’ *News from Nowhere*
Tony Garnier’s Ville Industrielle
Le 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
Eco-villages

SOME BIBLIOGRAPHY (To assist with research; you are not expected to read all of these!)

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.