CIEE Lisbon, Portugal

Course title: Lisbon: City and Architecture
Course code: AHIS 3003 LILC
Programs offering course: Language and Culture
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Fall 2020

Course Description

This course covers the history of Lisbon from Roman times to the challenges of the present by analysing selected aspects of urbanism and architecture and their relationship with Portuguese and international historical contexts. In this course, students will distinguish historical buildings and their structure, form and function, and examine urban development.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Develop their seeing and critical skills as a way to examine the history of the city;
- Distinguish art and architectural styles, relating them with particular national developments and real local buildings;
- Examine the interaction between Lisbon’s topography and the historical development and role of each neighborhood;
- Select the most significant buildings that characterize the functions and social representations of a quarter or a particular period in time;
- Critically examine sources and literature about architecture and urbanism;
- Produce independent research on a specific topic related to a neighborhood or building, thereby honing analytical, writing and presentation skills.

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

The course will be based mainly in in-field classes. In each study visit, we will explore a neighborhood of the city, and particular buildings, corresponding to an important subject of the history of the city and its architecture. We will analyze and discuss strategies of seeing architecture and urban development as we are experiencing it on our field trips. For that purpose, we will stop in key buildings and urban features, where we will have explanations, discussions and oral presentations by students. We will have in-class sessions and on line discussions to debrief in-field classes and assess students’ progress.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Journal 20%
2. Midterm 20%
3. Two blog posts 20%
4. Individual Topic 20%
5. Participation 20%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Journal
Students should record information from each lesson in a journal: images, drawings, stories or other elements that caught the student’s attention and should be kept as a memory so that they can be used for their assignments. One entry per class is compulsory. The use of art history concepts and vocabulary is required.

Midterm

In the middle of the course, students will have to answer an in-class test. In the first part, images of buildings, maps and other representations will be presented and students will have to answer short questions about them (identifying the neighborhood or building or other architectural detail, adding a description and discriminating different features and styles). In the second part students will have to answer an essay question, relating different aspects of the history of Lisbon and its urbanization.

Two blog posts

Students will have to deliver two blogs posts on two of our visits:

1. One should be a text and it must consist of a very short description of the visit and of the buildings visited within a historical contextualization of the neighborhood and of a personal analysis of the lesson (max 20 lines). The first post has to be related to the first part of the course (weeks 1-5).

2. The other should be a visual essay on one building of the field trip. The visual essay has to be on a building mentioned or visited during the visit. The student should mention its main features, draw attention to details and reflect on her/his own impression of the architecture. The second post has to be related to the second part of the course (weeks 7-12).

Individual Topic

A list of themes will be presented to the students by the teacher in the beginning of classes. Each student chooses a theme during the first two weeks of the course that she/he will have to work on to deliver a presentation and write a final essay on. Students should do research in order to contextualize the history of the object of study in the history of the city and to put into practice knowledge on the styles of architecture and urbanization. Students should also develop their own observation skills, personal sensitivity and interests:

1. The presentations are scheduled during the field trips. Each student will have to present her/his topic on site (10-15 mns). If two students choose the same topic, they will have to present it together (20-30 mns).

2. The final essay is always individual and should have between 1500 and 2000 words. Students will have to quote at least 4 scholar references. Wikipedia and travel or other type of blogs are not scholar references.

Participation

CIEE students are required to attend all classes. Absences are not allowed. If you are sick, you must inform your professor and provide a doctor’s note to the Resident Director. Half a point will be subtracted to your final grade if you miss 5 hours of classes. A point will be subtracted to your final grade if you miss 6 hours of classes. Two points will be subtracted to your final grade if you miss 7 hours of classes. You will fail the course if you miss more than 7 hours of classes. Students are expected to be engaged in fieldtrips and to participate actively in discussions.

Attendance

CIEE students are required to attend all classes. Absences are not allowed. If you are sick, you must inform your professor and provide a doctor’s note to the Resident Director. Half a point will be subtracted to your final grade if you miss 5 hours of classes. A point will be subtracted to your final grade if you miss 6 hours of classes. Two points will be subtracted to your final grade if you miss 7 hours of classes. You will fail the course if you miss more than 7 hours of classes.

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class: 1.0 Course Introduction: Classroom
Summary: Lisbon! What we do know about the city Introduction to the History and Geography of Lisbon in general terms since antiquity until nowadays. Some factors of Lisbon’s topography and history that have been decisive to its plan and architecture. Main art and architectural styles and chronology. Course structure, objectives and assessment.

Week 2
Class: 2.0 Understanding a disappeared city - Castel Hill Fieldtrip
Summary: Problems and sources for the study of urban history, urbanism and architecture for periods in time that have no material evidence in the city today. Roman, Visigoth and Islamic periods. Visit to Roman Theater and Museum. Lisbon in the medieval times: the Moorish city and the Christian conquest. Visit to St. George’s Castle and Lisbon Cathedral.
Readings: Rossa 2006, pp. 70-109; Miranda 1991, pp. 7-36

Week 3
Class: 3.0 West Lisbon - Belem: Fieldtrip
Summary: The development of a new late-medieval neighbourhood: Late Gothic, Manueline and Renaissance styles; We will analyse this period in Portuguese and European history and its influence in architecture. Visit to Monastery of Jerónimos and Belém Tower. Modern uses of the neighborhood. City and power representations.
Readings: Pereira 1994, pp. 5-16.

Week 4
Class: 4.0 Power and Architecture - Bairro Alto: Fieldtrip
Summary: 16th and 18th century Lisbon. We will discuss the causes and consequences of the dual Portuguese-Spanish monarchy (1580 to 1640) and the so-called restoration period for the history of Lisbon. We will explore the Joanine period (18th century), analyzing examples of different types of buildings. Maneirism and Baroque. Visit to Bairro Alto, Igreja de São Roque, Colégio dos Nobres, Rato.

Week 5
Class: 5.0 Lisbon and the Great Earthquake (1755) - Baixa: Fieldtrip and Guest Lecture
Summary: Lisbon on the Eve of the Great Earthquake. The Earthquake: destruction and disgrace in times of rationalism. The reconstruction projects. Lisbon in the second half of the 18th century and the development of a new city design. Marques de Pombal, the Enlightenment in Portugal and the so-called Pombaline style. Visit to Lisbon Story Center.
Readings: Birmingham 2003, pp. 67-98

Week 6
Class: 6.0 Midterm & Introduction to Modern Lisbon: Classroom
Readings: Watkin 2015, pp. 530-536

Week 7
Class: 7.0 Bourgeois Lisbon - Estrela and Campo de Ourique: Fieldtrip

Week 8
Class: 8.0 Working Class Lisbon - Graca: Fieldtrip and Guest Lecture
Week 9
Class: 9.0 The Sea Shore: Medicine, Refuge, and Leisure - CASCAIS: Fieldtrip

Summary: We will travel by train along the Lisbon shore to Cascais. We will note the type of buildings on the sea front, discussing how they are linked to the way perceptions and uses of the sea change along the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We will visit the town of Cascais and discuss how it developed from a fishing village to a destination of exiled elites and eventually became a parade of wealth.

Week 10
Class: 10.0 Modernism and Dictatorship - Avenues: Fieldtrip

Summary: Visit to Avenidas Novas and Gulbenkian Museum and gardens. We will go through architectural examples of Lisbon’s modernity, exploring the late 1920’s-1930’s ideas for a rational and orderly city: Instituto Superior Técnico; Instituto Nacional de Estatística; Casa da Moeda; main Avenues; Church of Nossa Senhora de Fátima. We will proceed to visit the headquarters of Gulbenkian Fundation. We will explore the harmony and functionality of the buildings as well as of the gardens.

Readings: Brites 2015, pp. 59-71

Week 11
Class: 11.0 Democratic Lisbon/Contemporary Architecture: Parque Das Nacoes: Fieldtrip

Summary: Lisbon after the 1974 Revolution: economic crisis and growth. We will explore the options of the rebuilding of Chiado after the fire of 1988 and the post-modernist projects for the city. Utopic Lisbon: growth, redevelopment and architectural purpose. Guitar building; the Metro Network; Expo 98 site.

Week 12
Class: 12.0 Lisbon and the Present Challenges - Classroom

Summary: What is it to be a Lisbonner today. Migration, touristic pressure, gentrification. Film screening and discussion: Lisboetas (Sérgio Tréfaut, 2004) Wrap up. **Essays Due**


Course Materials
Readings


Further readings


Online Resources
Desbarato – mega-gentrification in Lisbon: http://aestheticsofprotest.org/desberato-gentrificationin-lisbon/