

## Course Syllabus

Academic Year: 2009-2010

Term: Winter 2010

Semester Hours: 3

Course # HUM 301

Title: Sacred Art and Architecture

Professor: Daniel C. Nusbaum, Ph.D.

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I. Course Description: This course will introduce the student to the principals and theories undergirding church architecture and the decorative arts used in churches. The history of Church Architecture from the earliest days to the third millennium will be covered.

II. Required Texts:

USCCB: *Built of Living Stones, Art, Architecture and Worship.*

Norman, E., *The House of God, Church Architecture, Style and History*, Thames & Hudson, 1990

III. Expected Student Outcomes: The student should be able to assess church architecture from the point of view of a gathering space and a worshipping space in keeping with official Church documents. The student should have a critical knowledge of what constitutes appropriate church art and architecture in the third millennium.

IV. General Outline of the course: This course is divided into approximately thirteen three class hour meetings. Seven of these sessions will be dedicated to an evaluation of churches in the Archdiocese of Detroit that exemplify specific forms of historical and contemporary church design. These critiques will be carried out in small teams of students, usually three to a team. They will study, photograph and evaluate the church they have been assigned to and will give a two class hour presentation on that church to the full class. Each presentation will be followed by a class hour discussion of the report and the church presented. At this point the churches will include:

Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Detroit  
Saint Anne Church, Detroit  
Holy Family Church, Novi  
Saint Mary's Church, Monroe  
Saint Hugo of the Hills (original church), Bloomfield Hills  
Saint-Joseph sur la Baie, Erie  
Shrine of the Little Flower, Royal Oak

Since these choices will depend upon permissions from pastors, they are subject to change. These have been chosen because they represent a cross-section of architectural styles, both historical and contemporary.

The first six sessions of three class hours will be dedicated to the study of Church Documents, the history of church architecture and art and selected texts from the bibliography listed below.

#### V. Required course work and due dates:

a) Required readings from the texts will be due on the days specified by the professor:

Session 1 (1 ½ class hours) BLS (=Built of Living Stones), Nos. 1-11): Introduction.

Lecture on architectural history from catacombs through basilica forms and Byzantium. (1 ½ class hours)

Session 2 BLS Nos. 12-45: The Living Church (1 ½ class hours)

Lecture on architectural history through monastic forms and the Romanesque. (1 ½ class hours)

Session 3 BLS Nos. 46-65: The church building and sacred rites celebrated there. (1 ½ class hours)

Lecture on Gothic forms. (1 ½ class hours)

Session 4 BLS Nos. 66-139: The baptistry and other sacred spaces (1 ½ class hours)

Lecture on classical Renaissance and the Baroque synthesis. (1 ½ class hours)

Session 5 BLS Nos. 140-169: Artists and art assisting the church at prayer. (1 ½ class hours)

Lecture on churches of the Enlightenment and Gothic Revival: (1 ½ class hours)

Session 6 BLS Nos. 170-261: Building or renovating a church. (1 ½ class hours)

Lecture on modern architecture and the post Vatican II community. (1 ½ class hours)

b) Presentations due

Session 7: Presentation of on-site work: Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Detroit

Session 8: Saint Anne Church, Detroit

Session 9: Holy Family Church, Novi

Session 10: Saint Mary's Church, Monroe

Session 11: Saint Hugo of the Hills, Bloomfield Hills

Session 12: Saint Joseph sur la Baie, Erie

Session 13: Shrine of the Little Flower, Royal Oak

VI. Bibliography:

- Schloeder, S. J., *Architecture in Communion*, Ignatius Press, 1990
- Morill, B.T., Ed., *Bodies of Worship, Exploration in Theory and Practice*. Liturgical Press, 1999
- Klein, P. et al., *The Catholic Source Book*, Harcourt, 2007
- Godzak, R., *Catholic Churches of Detroit*, Arcadia, 2004
- Lynch, J.H., *The Medieval Church, A Brief History*, Longman, 1992
- Taylor, R., *How to Read a Church, A Guide to Symbols and Images in Churches and Cathedrals*, Hiddenspring, 2003
- Doig, A., *Liturgy and Architecture From the Early Church to the Middle Ages*, Ashgate, 2008
- Kieckhefer, Richard, *Theology in Stone, Church Architecture from Byzantium to Berkeley*, Oxford, 2004
- Kleiner, F.S. and Mamiya, C.J., *Gardner's Art Through The Ages*, 12<sup>th</sup> ed. Thomson, Wadsworth, 2005
- DuPre, J., *Churches*, Harper Collins, 2001
- Panofsky-Soergel, G., *Abbot Suger on the Abbey Church of Saint-Denis and its Art Treasures*. Princeton, 1979.
- LaVoy, Lambert, *Saint Joseph sur la Baie*, Erie, 1988.

VII. There will be a mid-term exam on lectures 1 through 6 that is one third of the final grade.

The research presentation in hard copy along with its in-class presentation will be one third of the final grade.

Class participation and discussion will constitute one third of the final grade.