

Grading Contract Addendum

Earning Higher than a B

[Assignment Options]

You will earn higher than a B in the class (B+, A-, A) if you do all of what is required for a B *and* put in extra work/labor that benefits you *and the whole class*. You must complete three of the following according to the specifications and labor requirements of that assignment. Each one is worth a $\frac{1}{3}$ of a letter grade (completing one = a B to a B+; two = B to an A-; three = B to an A). **You may only complete 1 assignment in each category.**

The same logic applies to those who are contracting for a C or below. Finishing one of these assignments will bring you up $\frac{1}{3}$ of a letter grade (e.g. C to a C+).

In all cases, you should consult with the Professor by filling out the proposal form if you want to pursue these options. Each option needs to be completed fully in order to count. You should review the individual prompt and requirements carefully, and clarify with the Professor if anything is unclear.

Your professor is not the only audience for this work -- any of these forms of additional labor are meant to benefit all of us as a community. As such, peers and/or the professor can leave you comments on any of the work you produce.

Instructions for Submitting Your Work

STEP 1: Before you decide to do ANY work on this list, please check in with the professor by [filling out this Google Form](#). She will get back to you with questions or approval to go ahead with your project.

STEP 2: When you are finished with your project, you should first send the project and your reflection to the Professor to confirm its completion. The easiest way to do this is to compose an email to the professor with all pieces attached.

STEP 3: The professor will look through your materials and confirm its completion. If she gives you the go-ahead, then you should post it to the public **Course Stream** in our Google Classroom so that your peers can see, use, and engage with the information that you've provided. They are your primary audience for this work.

STEP 4: If your peers reply to the work you've posted, you should reply to them! These comments can count as a part of your monthly comment log. That's it!

Option 1: Creative Project

[Can Pursue in a Team]

This course is NOT a studio art class. You will not learn how to paint or sculpt. However, that doesn't mean that you can't be inspired by what you are learning to do something creative as an interrogation of the material in the course. The goal of this assignment is to explore the History of World Architecture through **something creative** -- whether that is painting, sculpture, drawing, dance, music, poetry, or creative writing. To complete this project, the creative project must be something new and original to this class, not something that you are working on for another course.

Labor Requirements:

- Whatever you choose to produce, it should be intimately linked to what you are learning in this course. Maybe you are interested in thinking through city organization and exploring that in a drawing project. Maybe the floral and tree-like motifs found in the elaborate tiles of Islamic architecture have you investigating these shapes in a painting? Maybe you are a writer and you want to explore the story behind a structure that captivated you? Or maybe, you have never done a creative project before and want to challenge yourself to create something with materials you have at home? Come up with an idea and submit your proposal through the [Google Form](#).
- The professor may ask you to schedule a brief meeting to talk about your project. There is a lot that will be decided as you proceed, but we want to make sure that your project is sufficiently connected to this course. You should be prepared to talk about what aspects of the course are informing your approach.
- Do your creative project in whatever manner makes sense. Be sure to document the process!
- Once you are finished, you should write a 2-page reflection on what you set out to accomplish, what your final project actually accomplished, and how it connects to things that you are learning in this course. Sometimes, those connections are on a conceptual level and may not be readily visible -- this is where your writing comes in to help the class understand how you are applying this course to your own work.
- If team-based, each member should write 1-page about their contributions to the project and the division of labor.
- When you feel good about your project and reflection, please send them to the professor for approval. When she gives you the okay, please post both of them to the Course Stream.

Option 2: Oral Presentation

Writing is not the only way that we communicate about architecture. One skill that you will build in this course is learning how to talk about it! A couple of years ago, the Metropolitan Museum of Art started a project called *82nd & 5th* where curators and art historians spoke about works of art in a fluid, conversational way. Your task is to do something similar with a work of architecture in a **three-minute presentation**.

Labor Requirements:

- Watch at least 3 examples of the videos on *82nd & 5th*: <https://82nd-and-fifth.metmuseum.org/>. I recommend “[Pensive](#)” by Soyoung Lee, “[Eternity](#)” by Maxwell Hearn, or “[Startled](#)” by John Carpenter. Take a note of the length, speech style, focus. Write down things that you like and want to emulate in your own presentation. There are so many great examples as you poke around the website!
- Choose a structure outside of the United States for this project. Make sure there is ample photographic evidence of it so that your presentation can be dynamic. Once you make a decision, please submit the [Google Form](#) to propose your project.
- Once you settle on an object, start drafting a script for yourself. Your presentation should not exceed 3 minutes, so you’ll have to be choosy about what you choose to cover. Having a script to practice with is handy because you want to sound practiced and confident. If you speak fully ad-lib, then you will likely come across as more hesitant or unsure, or you might even go over time. Practice it a few times before you record it!
- Construct a visual presentation to use with your script. This could be a formal Powerpoint or Google slides presentation. Alternatively, you might want to experiment with recording your engagement with a 360-degree view (if your object has one), rotating the site/structure as you talk.
- Record your presentation for the class using [Screencastify](#) or another similar technology. When you finish, do check that your audio quality and timing are working! Your video should either have captions that are automatically generated or you should provide your script to the class to be as accessible as possible.
- After you finish your oral presentation, you should write a 1-page reflection on what you learned by preparing and conducting it. Think about the decisions you made, how you overcame challenges, and how you accomplished your goals.
- When you feel good about your project and reflection, please send them to the professor for approval. When she gives you the okay, please post both of them to the Course Stream.

Option 3: Annotated Bibliography

Since this course is a survey by design, there will be moments when you want to know more about a particular topic than we are realistically able to cover. This project asks you to do additional research beyond our class to create a **well-researched annotated bibliography**. These bibliographies are useful to the class because it not only provides a list of extra resources, but your annotations will also provide key summaries about the relevance and argument contained in each source. Annotated bibliographies are often a great first step to a larger research project.

Labor Requirements:

- To do this project, you need to identify a topic that you want to dig further into beyond what we are covering in this course. You can consult with the professor before finally settling on a topic. Come up with an idea and submit your proposal through the [Google Form](#).
- Use the resources at the [St. Olaf College Library](#) to identify potential sources. Your sources should be academic in nature (scholarly publications, peer-reviewed articles, museum catalogs, etc). Make sure you have a blend of content that explores not only the topic but also the historical context and/or material and/or artistic technique when appropriate. You should take this opportunity to connect with a [research librarian](#) to assist you with this search.
- Select **7-10 sources** that you want to review. Each citation should be formatted according to the “[Bibliography](#)” format of the **Chicago Manual of Style**, which is the citation style we use in Art History. Because this is a bibliography, the Professor will look for accuracy in your citations. Resources should be listed in alphabetical order.
- Below each citation, you will need to write your “annotation” in English. These annotations are meant to give the reader information about the value and relevance of the source. You’ll describe the contents, including the type of source and the argument of the author. Be thorough in this analysis to demonstrate your understanding. Each annotation should be about a paragraph in length; anything less will be incomplete.
- After you finish your bibliography, you should write a 1-2 page reflection on what you learned by preparing and conducting it. Think about the decisions you made, how you overcame challenges, and how you accomplished your goals.
- When you feel good about your annotated bibliography and reflection, please send them to the professor for approval. When she gives you the okay, please post both of them to the Course Stream.

Option 4: Digital Humanities Project

[Can Pursue in a Team]

Traditional academic assignments like papers, presentations, or annotated bibliographies are not the only way art-historical information can be communicated. In the last 10 years, there has been a greater push to pursue art history through the digital humanities. While scholars who focus on this use the digital humanities as a method for analysis, your task here is to use a digital tool to present and explore art historical knowledge.

Labor Requirements:

- To do this project, you need to identify either an architect, a structure, a period of time, or a cultural style that you want to interrogate further. This will be the basis of your digital humanities project. Come up with an idea and submit your proposal through the [Google Form](#).
- You will use either the [Timeline JS](#) or [Storymap JS](#) by Northwestern University's Knightlab to create a public digital humanities project online. These tools are easy to use and good for the novice who wants to explore the digital humanities. (The professor will be open to you using alternate tools, but only if you have previous familiarity with them).

The tool you choose will be determined by the nature of your project. For example, if you want to deeply analyze an image like this example of [Kuniyoshi's print *Takiyasha the Witch and the Skeleton Spectre*](#) or this example of an [Ainu attush robe](#), then Storymap JS will make the most sense. If you want to think about architecture in geographic terms, like this project involving [Hiroshige's 53 Stations of the Tōkaidō Road](#), then Storymap JS can also be used in this way. Finally, if you want to make a timeline of a period or of a type of architecture or of an architect's life, such as this example of [Roger Shimomura](#) or [Miné Okubo](#), then Timeline JS will serve you well. Look through these examples to determine how you want to approach your topic.

- Get in touch with the professor with a project proposal that outlines what you want to accomplish with your project. Because each project is so unique, she will be able to provide you with some advice and technical support specific to your approach. If you need further assistance, you can also make use of the resources at DiSCO.
- Put together your project! Your finished product should not only consider the presentation of textual information but media/color/images that help communicate.
- After you finish your project, you should write a 1-2 page reflection on what you learned by preparing it. If team-based, each member should write an additional 1 page about their contributions to the project and the division of labor.
- When you feel good about your project and reflection, please send them to the professor for approval. When she gives you the okay, please post both of them to the Course Stream.

Option 5: Study Guide

Our course does not have exams, but that doesn't mean that study guides are not helpful in processing and reviewing information as you learn. Craft a **detailed study guide** about a period of architecture in a country outside of the US (e.g. Joseon-period Korean architecture) or a particular technique (lashed roofs, post-and-lintel construction, cantilevers), complete with a well-designed one-page graphic handout. Your goal is to make this study guide as useful as possible to your classmates who are learning this material alongside you.

Labor Requirements:

- To do this project, you need to identify a time period or topic that you want to cover. Come up with an idea and submit your proposal through the [Google Form](#). There can be no overlaps with other students, so if you have a Plan B or Plan C, please indicate this in your proposal.
- Use resources online and at the [St. Olaf College Library](#) to identify sources beyond our textbook and class lectures. Your sources should be academic in nature (scholarly publications, peer-reviewed articles, museum catalogs, etc). Think about how you can provide knowledge that gives additional depth/breadth/information to the class.
- Construct a study guide for the class. This can take a variety/combo of formats (an illustrated google doc, a website, digital flashcards, a poster/pdf, etc). The goal is to be as useful as possible for your peers. Think about how you personally would best process this information if you had an upcoming exam.
- One popular option is to produce a one-page detailed graphic handout or infographic. You can do this in any program or by hand (organizing/ drawing/ collaging objects). Think about this as a one-page graphic cheat sheet of the most important information. The end result should be presented as a .PDF. No graphic experience? No problem! There are plenty of free infographic creators online that you can explore, such as [Canva](#). This particular resource is oriented towards students and educators and has a wide variety of templates for you to use if you don't know where to get started.
- After you finish your study guide, you should write a 1-page reflection on what you learned by preparing and conducting it. Think about the decisions you made and how you accomplished your teaching goals.
- When you feel good about your project and reflection, please send them to the professor for approval. When she gives you the okay, please post both of them to the Course Stream.

Option 6: Core Assignment Revision

A revision is not simply responding to professor/editorial feedback, but reworking ideas, reorganizing thoughts and pushing yourself to take greater risks in your writing. Each core assignment is only two pages in length -- long enough to get a taste, but not long enough to fully explore any one idea. This revision asks you to take another look at one of your individual core assignments. Your expansion should be at least double in length and explore new avenues of interest.

Labor Requirements:

- To do this project, you will need to choose one of your indiv. core assignments to revise/expand. Come up with an idea and submit your proposal through the [Google Form](#).
- Read the professor's comments about your work carefully. Sometimes, she might have suggestions for stronger writing, deeper analysis, or interesting points. Use this as a jumping-off point for your revision/expansion.
- If the professor noticed any issues of grammar/awkwardness in your writing, or issues with structure/organization, this is something that *must* be addressed in your submission. You will want to take your paper to the Writing Center to gain additional feedback.
- Many of the core assignments will not require you to integrate outside sources. However, if you expand your paper, you may want to bring in some new ideas to bring variety to your writing. All sources must be cited according to the **Chicago Manual of Style** (the citation style used in Art History).
- Your final paper must at least double the original assignment, however, you are free to go further. You are also free to go beyond the confines of the original assignment prompt to explore new avenues of ideas.
- After you finish your revision/expansion, you should write a 1-page reflection on what you learned by preparing and conducting it. Please add this to the end of your paper after a page break. Think about the new decisions you made and what your goals were with the revision/expansion.
- When you feel good about your paper and reflection, please send them to the professor for approval. When she gives you the okay, please post your paper with a brief explanation of your work for your peers in the Course Stream.

Option 7: Virtual Tour

[Can Pursue in a Team]

Use any skills at your disposal to create a virtual tour of an architectural complex. This cannot be just of a single building, but rather, should explore how multiple structures are related to one another. You might think about producing a “follow-along” audio guide or a map as part of your tour.

Labor Requirements:

- To do this project, you need to identify a theme for your tour. Remember that this tour must be of an architectural complex -- a series of interrelated buildings at a single site. Come up with an idea and submit your proposal through the [Google Form](#).
- Use resources online and at the [St. Olaf College Library](#) to identify works of architecture beyond our textbook and class lectures. You will want to locate images of the various sites that you can use for your tour.
- Once you have a group of images and your theme, construct an abstract for your tour not to exceed 500 words. This needs to be well written and clear. Think about this being on the brochure of a travel agency trying to entice people to visit.
- Construct your tour using any tools at your disposal. You can make an audio guide or plot your sites on Google Maps. If you aren't sure how to do it, an easy way to go about it is organizing your tour in Google Slides by combining a map, images, and text. Each stop on your tour should have a description of what the site is and how it connects to your overall theme. Help your audience see this tour as cohesive.
- Consider the order of your sites carefully. Is there a natural walking path that is important to experience? To understand the history behind the complex, does it make sense to proceed in a certain order? Is that order chronological? Spatial? Event-based? How will you transition between each stop on your tour? Think about this as if you were going to lead it in the future.
- When you finish, you should write a 1-2 page reflection on the process, decisions, and challenges.
- If team-based, each member should write 1-page about their contributions to the project and the division of labor.
- When you feel good about your exhibition and reflection, please send them to the professor for approval. When she gives you the okay, please post both of them to the Course Stream.

Option 8: Building Community through Commenting

This class values the effort that you put in supporting your peers and learning from them. As of 9/30, the Professor has decided to add an *additional* Higher than a B Assignment: Building Community through Commenting. The idea behind it is to leave comments on other Higher than a B Assignments posted by your peers. You might already be doing this! If so, get credit for this important work.

Labor Requirements:

- To do this project, please indicate your desire to participate by submitting a proposal through the [Google Form](#).
- You will be responsible for leaving **10 comments** on peer Higher than a B Assignment submissions that are *invested*. You can find a directory of submissions [here](#) with links to the Course Stream.

What does an invested comment mean? It means more than a single sentence simply saying “good work!” or “that was awesome!” Your comment(s) should show that you actually took the time to look through that project and think about what you learned or gained from it. Other things to consider are how the project tied into the work we are doing in this course or any other resources/ideas that you can offer the author to expand their own research!

- Because this assignment was added mid-stream, you will be able to count past comments made! (Or, if you left a comment in the past and need to add more information to sufficiently be invested, feel free to add another one to elaborate on your first).
- You should create an **independent comment log** to keep track of your 10 comments. You can model this on the one we use monthly if you like, or feel free to get creative with your own design.
- When you finish, you should write a 1-2 page reflection on why looking through the projects of other students was a worthwhile experience for you. What were some of the major takeaways from this experience?
- When you feel good about your comments, your log, and your reflection, please send them to the professor for approval. Because your comments already live in the Course Stream, there is no need to post your log once the professor confirms completion. However, you may want to share your reflection with the class.

[Hidden Option 9]: Exemplary Labor in the Course

This option is perhaps the most simple but the most difficult at the same time. If by our last class, you have no late, missed, or ignored assignments, then you will earn an extra $\frac{1}{3}$ of a letter grade (equal to one item in the Section “To Earn Higher than a B”) to your final course grade. This rule is meant to reward those students who engage in all the labor of the course in the fullest spirit asked of them and demonstrate themselves to be exemplary class citizens. You may use your gimme and still qualify for this.

You do not need to do anything extra to complete this assignment and you do not need to submit a form.