Syllabus: ART 101 Understanding Architecture

Portland Community College | Fall 2026

Welcome to Fall Term 2026 and your ART 101 Understanding Architecture class!! I look forward to getting to know you over the next several months and helping you learn about architecture.

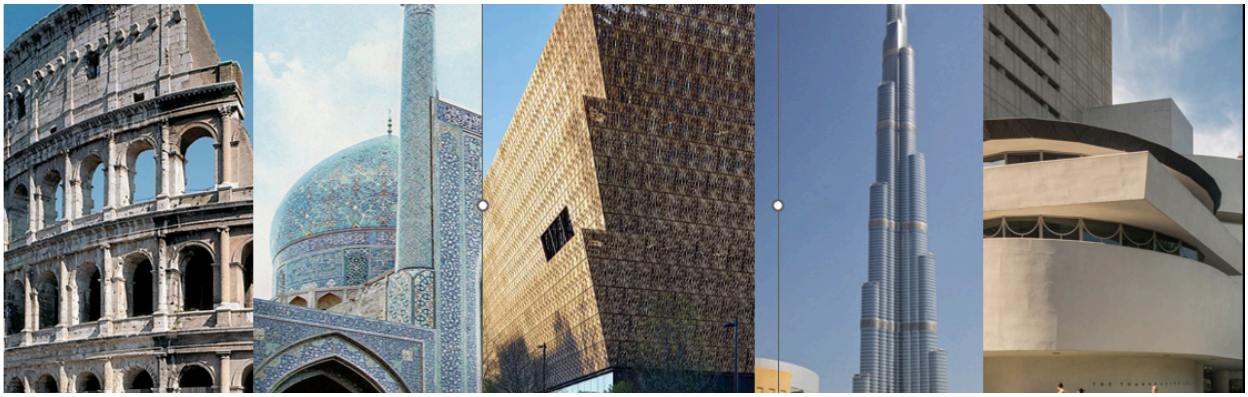


Table of Contents

Course and Instructor Information

…….…….…. page 2

Course Description, Instructional Approach, & Outcomes …….

page 2

Instructional Materials ..

……..……. page 3

Attendance & Participation

……. page 3

Office Hours

……..……

…. page 4

Best Way to Contact Your Instructor

……...……. page 4

Graded Assignments

…….…… page 5

Grading Criteria

…….

page 6

Revision Policy & Late Work

……. page 7

AI Policy

……

…….. page 8

PCC Policies

……

…….. page 8

Course Calendar & Outline

…… page 10

Please take a careful read of the syllabus!

It will tell you more about the course policies, expectations, and requirements.

Course Information

- **Course:** ART 101 Understanding Architecture
- **CRN 40856** — 4 Credits
- **Prerequisites:** WR 115, RD 115
- **Class Meeting s & Times:** Tuesdays/Thursdays 9:00 am to 10:50 pm
- **Modality & Location:** In-Person Class/HT 205 Sylvania Campus

Instructor Information

- **Instructor:** Julianne Sandlin, Ph.D. (aka Dr. J), she/her pronouns
- **Email & Phone:** julianne.sandlin@pcc.edu – 1-971-722-8021
- **Office Location:** Sylvania SS 4 (a standalone building on ground floor between CC and SS buildings) and Virtual Office via Zoom
- **Physical Address:** 12000 SW 49th Ave, Portland, OR 97219

Course Description

Have you ever seen a building and wondered why it looks the way it does? Wanted to know more about its history? Or even questioned how it was constructed? These questions and more are the focus of this in-person class, where we will explore ideas related to the style, history, structure, and function of buildings. We will also consider how architecture connects with ideas such as culture, power, and society. During the term, we will cover notable architectural monuments, styles, and cultures with the goal of

showing how they remain relevant in our contemporary culture. This is the first course in the Introduction to Art sequence (101,102,103), which can be taken in any order.

Instructional Approach

- This is an in-person class that meets Tuesday/Thursdays from 9:00-10:50.
- Classes are a combination of lectures and in-class activities.
- In-class activities are designed and expected to be completed during class.
- Most class meetings have an in-class activity worth 5 points. These are highlighted in pink on the course outline, which can be found at the end of this document.
- Since there is an in-class activity in most class meetings, regular attendance is critical. See the Attendance & Participation section below for further information.
- To prepare for the lectures and in-class activities, you must complete assigned readings prior to the scheduled class. Occasionally, you will need to work on an activity outside of class to meet the needs of the in-class activity.

Learning Outcomes

We will use the following learning outcomes to focus our work together. The list is a way of describing and naming what you will learn this term.

- Identify the elements and styles of architecture and the built environment.
- Analyze architecture and the built environment in terms of form, technique, or expression.
- Explain how architecture and the built environment are representative of meaning, cultural significance, and the historical moment in which they are produced.
- Apply visual arts vocabulary to discuss architecture, architects, and/or historical context.
- Interpret architecture and the built environment in relation to one's own experience.

Course Content and Outcome Guide for ART 101 This link will take you to the college's official description of the content and outcomes for our class.

Instructional Materials

Textbook

All readings are provided on the course website. You do not need to purchase a textbook. Readings need to be completed prior to the class in which they are scheduled.

Class Meetings

You will need to bring paper and pen/pencil to each class to take notes and complete in-class activities, such as writing assignments

Use of technology during class: I ask that you refrain from using laptops during class. The reason is that students often do better by taking notes by hand. Using laptops can be distracting, not only for the user but also for people sitting around the laptop. ***I understand this policy does not work for all learners.*** *If you want/need to use laptops or other devices, please speak with me or mention it on the Who's in Class Form.* Mobile phones and other devices should be silenced.

It is OKAY but not required to use laptops to complete in-class writing or reading assignments.

Internet, Computer, & Software Requirements for the course:

- The course website is provided on D2L Brightspace.
- Regular access to the internet outside of class is needed to access readings and other course materials. Need a computer? You can use one of PCC's computer labs.
- A couple of assignments will need to be submitted as a Google Docs or Microsoft Word file. If needed, you can download desktop versions of Microsoft Word for free from PCC. **Please note:** Pages Word Processor documents are NOT compatible and will not be accepted.

Attendance & Participation

You should plan to be on time and attend every class for the full scheduled meeting. Why? There are lots of reasons, but these are my top three:

1. This is an in-person class where our meetings are the primary way to learn the material. Lecture content and in-class activities are not provided online.
2. Your participation (verbal and non-verbal) is a key component of our course! Seeing and hearing each other builds our community, facilitates the lecture, and makes it so we can do in-class activities.
3. About 70% of your final grade is earned by doing in-class activities that cannot be made up outside of class. You will have a better outcome attending the majority of classes.

However, I understand that life circumstances can prevent students from being able to attend every class. Therefore, I set aside **two excused absences** for all students to use to manage personal emergencies, ill/wellness, childcare, etc. I don't expect communication regarding your reason for missing class, as it may be personal in nature.

After these two excused absences, your overall grade will drop by 5 points for each class you miss because you will miss the 5 points associated with the corresponding In-Class Activity.

If something arises or you anticipate needing to miss more than two classes, *please* talk with me.

Arriving Late/Leaving Early

Class starts promptly at 9:00 am. You signed up for a 9:00 am class. You are expected to be on time. After 2 late arrivals, your In-Class Activity grade will be lowered in proportion to the time you are late.

- Week 1 is a grace period as we all adjust to the new term, finding the room, and working with traffic patterns and life issues.
- If you are habitually a couple minutes late but consistently mentally engaged in class, that is MUCH more important to me. You may see a very slight reduction in your grade but nothing substantial that diligent work on activities cannot accommodate.
- **Interstate 5 southbound closure:** Consider how this impacts your travel to our 9:00 am class.

Leaving class early may mean you will not have an opportunity to work on the in-class activity, and this may affect your grade. Consider this when making appointments or other activities outside of class.

Office Hours:

Do you need help with an assignment? Want to review something from class or go over a grade? Then visit me during my office hours. Office hours are "drop-in," meaning you do not need to schedule an appointment. Just show up and I'll be there to talk with you!

In-Person Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00 am to 12:30 pm

- Office Location: Sylvania SS 4 (ground floor between CC and SS buildings)
- You can also call me (971-722-8021).

Virtual Office Hours: Wednesday from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm

- Use Calendly to schedule a virtual meeting with me during this time.
- If the above times don't work, you can schedule a virtual meeting with me using Calendly or email me to arrange for an in-person meeting.

Best Way to Contact Me

I encourage you to contact me outside of class! Other than my Office Hour options, email is the best way to do this. Send all emails to julianne.sandlin@pcc.edu.

- Please include ART 101 in the Subject line of your email.
- Only use your PCC gmail to contact me—other emails end up in my spam folder.

Response from Me

I generally check my email between 8am-5pm Monday-Thursday and 8am-3pm on Fridays. If you send an email on a weekday, you will be answered within 24 hours (usually much sooner). Emails sent over the weekend or holiday will be answered the following scheduled school day.

Graded Assignments

Who's In Class Form

The Who's In Class Form gives you the opportunity to share aspects of your identity and other information that can help me get to know you and know how to better support your overall learning in this course. A link to the form is also in the Week 1 Content on D2L.

In-Class Activities

Most work for ART 101 is in the form of In-Class Activities, which will include writing assignments, discussions, and a few quizzes. The In-Class Activities have two general purposes: (1) they allow you to apply what you've learned from lectures and readings; (2) they allow you to connect course topics to your lived experience.

- In-class activities are designed and expected to be completed during class.
- Most class meetings have an in-class activity. These are highlighted in pink on the course outline, which can be found at the end of this document.
- Most In-Class Activities count for 5 points; In-Class Activity #1 is 2.5 points; In-Class Activity #13 is 10 points.
- In-Class Activities make up about 70% of your total grade for ART 101.
- Since there is an in-class activity in most class meetings, regular attendance is critical. See the Attendance & Participation section above for further information.
- To prepare for In-Class Activities, complete assigned readings and show up mentally and physically for class meetings. Occasionally, you will need to work on an activity outside of class.
- Your two lowest In-Class Activity grades are dropped from your final grade.
    - This accommodates the Attendance Policy, which allows you to miss two classes.

- If you do not miss any classes, your two lowest in-class activity grades will be dropped.
- If you miss one class, your lowest in-class activity grades will be dropped.

I understand the structure of In-Class Activities may not work for all learners. If you have concerns, please meet with me so we can discuss them and explore possible accommodations.

Field Trip

Our class will take a walking tour of downtown Portland to see first-hand examples of some ideas covered in class. The field trip takes place during class on November 24. If you cannot or prefer not to make the tour, an alternate assignment will be provided. More information about the tour will be available on D2L.

Final Project

For Final Project, you get to explore how architectural topics covered in class show up for you in popular culture (think video games, TV shows, movies, and other forms of popular culture). It will be about a 4-page paper.

Final Projects are shared in-class on the Tuesday of Finals Week; *Attendance is required.* *If no attendance at this meeting, 20 points will be taken off your final grade.*

Workday

December 3 is a workday where you will meet with me to go over your selected topics for the Final Project. Think of it as a preliminary step for the final project.

- There will be a sign-up sheet for you to select a time that works with your schedule.
- Meetings do not have to occur during the scheduled class time. We will not meet as a class on this day, so you do not have to be at school at 9 am unless you have your meeting then.
- The meeting and how well you are prepared for it are worth 5 points.

Grading Criteria and Evaluation

Evaluation of Assignments

Your in-class activities and final project will be evaluated with grading rubrics. Evaluation of quizzes is based on knowledge and understanding of course content. I will do my best to provide grades and feedback within one week of the activity.

The table below shows the number of points assigned to each of the graded activities.

Graded Activities	Quantity	Points each	Total Points
Who's In Class Form	1	2.5	2.5
In-Class Activity #1	1	2.5	2.5
In-Class Activities #2-12 and #14-16	14	5	70
In-Class Activity #13	1	10	10
Workday	1	5	5
Final Project	1	20	20
Field Trip	1	10	10
Total Points			**120**

Final Grade

Your final grade is calculated using the total number of points you earn MINUS your two lowest In-Class Activity grades. Exceptions to this policy:

- If you miss one class, your lowest in-class activity grade will be dropped.
- If you miss two classes, no in-class activity grades will be dropped.

This means your final grade is based on a maximum of 110 points. The following table shows the scale for final grades by points and by percentage of points.

Letter Grade	Grading Scale by Points	Grading Scale by Percentage
A	88-110	80 – 100%
B	66-87	60 – 79%
C	44-65	40 – 59%
D	22-43	20 – 39%
F	21 and below	< 19%

Grading Scale

Each graded activity is based on the following scale -- it is different from the more common 10-point scale with which you might be more familiar. The table below shows the scale for most activities.

Letter Grade	Who' In Class Form, In-Class Activity #1	Most In-Class Activities	Tour, In-Class Activity #13	Final Project
A	2.5	5	9-10 points	17-20 points
B	2	4	7-8	13-16
C	1.5	3	5-6	9-12
D	1	2	3-4	5-8
F	.5	1	2 & below	4 & below

General guideline of the criteria by which a letter grade is determined:

- **A =** Demonstrates consistent advanced skill, understanding, and exceptional completion of the assignment/quiz requirements and concepts; shows strong evidence of using course material; includes numerous ideas and examples from the course materials to explain concepts.
- **B =** Demonstrates fluency, competence and understanding, and completion of the assignment or quiz requirements and concepts. Shows evidence of using course materials; includes specific ideas and examples from the course materials to explain concepts.
- **C =** Demonstrates basic competence and understanding and/or partial completion of the assignment or quiz requirements and concepts. Includes some specifics and examples from

course materials to explain concepts; may have some vague statements, more content may be needed, and/or further clarification of some statements may be needed.
- **D =** Demonstrates burgeoning competence and understanding and/or lacks completion of the assignment or quiz requirements and concepts. Little use of course materials; may use outside sources instead of course materials
- **F =** No evidence of competence and understanding.

Revision Policy

Learning is a process developed through effort and persistence. Your abilities are not fixed or determined by your first attempt. Because of this, any in-class activity or assignment (except for the final one) can be revised one time to improve your grade. For how to do revisions and their due dates, see the Late Work & Revisions Policy in the Course Info Unit on D2L.

Late Work/Missed Work

The majority of graded work for ART 101 is completed during class. If you miss a class, the work cannot be made up or turned in late. There are a few exceptions to this rule:

- If you are working on an in-class activity and you find you need more time to complete it, you MUST talk with me before the end of class to make arrangements.
- For the Field Trip Alternate Assignment, the Final Project, or work associated with In-Class Activity #13:
    - If for *any reason* you need more time to complete an assignment due outside of class, contact me *in advance* of the due date to arrange for an extension.
    - If no extension is arranged prior to the due date, late work will be eligible for 70% credit.

If something of a serious nature arises and you are missing in-class activities or other assignments, contact me as soon as possible to discuss options.

AI Policy

This is a "No AI" class unless otherwise noted. The work created for this class is designed to help you think critically about what you've learned. Most students are eager to do this thinking and the required work. However, I'm seeing many more students making use of AI to do some or all of their work. Just because AI is accessible does not mean that it is okay to use it.

If Generative AI use is found in a graded activity: it will receive a zero grade and will be reported as academic dishonesty. See the AI Policy for ART 101 in the D2L Course for the complete AI policy.

What is considered AI and therefore cannot be used in this class?

- Generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT, Bing Copilot, Claude, Gemini, etc)
- AI editing, rewriting, and grammar tools (Grammarly, Scribbr, Wordtune, Hemingway Editor, etc.)

What if I use translation tools to help write assignments?

Let me know if you use them BEFORE turning in a graded activity AND on the Who's In Class form (section 4, question 2). *Assignments written using translation tools often read as AI generated*. Carefully review translated text to ensure it accurately reflects your original meaning and sounds natural.

PCC Policies, Deadlines, and Resources

Drop/Withdraw Deadlines

A student is responsible to add/ drop/ withdraw classes. Please review PCC Registration Policy for more information.

Add and Drop Deadlines

- Students need to register online via MyPCC. See Online Registration Instructions to find out how.
- For 8-12 week classes, students need to drop out by the end of the first week of classes. Students can view course specific deadlines from the MyPCC Home tab, 'View My Drop & Withdraw Dates' link.
- For late add, students must add within two business days of the course drop deadline.

Accommodations and Services

PCC is committed to supporting all students. If you plan to use academic accommodations for this course, please contact your instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs. Accommodations are not retroactive; they begin when the instructor receives the "Approved Academic Accommodations" letter from you (submitted in person for courses on campus; via email for Online Learning courses). To request academic accommodations for a disability, please contact an Accessible Education & Disability Resources counselor on any PCC campus. Office locations, phone numbers, and additional information may be located on the Accessible Education & Disability Resources website.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students are required to complete this course in accordance with the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. The Handbook establishes students' freedoms and protections as well as expectations of appropriate behavior and ethical academic work. The Handbook includes items such as the Policy on Student Rights, and the Student Code of Conduct Policy and Procedures.

Generative AI Statement

The use of AI, including tools like ChatGPT, is not allowed for any course activity (assignments, class activities, and quizzes) unless otherwise noted by the instructor. All work submitted must be your own and be based on course materials. Information derived from AI tools is often inaccurate, incomplete, and mediocre at best. Any work that is found to have been created using AI tools will receive a zero and willy be reported for academic misconduct. The policy stated here is for this class only. Please check with instructors of other classes to see what their AI policy may be.

Academic Integrity (rules about cheating, plagiarism, or sharing work)

The handbook contains the Code of Student Conduct and the Academic Integrity Policy. Cheating includes any attempt to defraud, deceive, or mislead the instructor in arriving at an honest grade assessment, and may include copying answers from other students or using unauthorized notes during tests. Plagiarism is a particular form of cheating that involves presenting as one's own the ideas or work of another and may include using other people's ideas without proper attribution and submitting another person's work as one's own. Dishonest activities such as cheating on exams and submitting or copying work done by others will result in disciplinary actions including but not limited to receiving a failing grade. For further information, review the institution's Academic Integrity Policy.

Title IX/Nondiscrimination statement

PCC is committed to creating and fostering a learning and working environment based on open communication and mutual respect. If you believe you have encountered sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, national origin, veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability please contact the Office of Student Conduct and Community Support at (971) 722-7511 or titleix@pcc.edu.

Sanctuary College Statement

PCC is a sanctuary college. For more information, see the resources for undocumented students page.

Campus Resources

PCC offers a variety of resources to help you succeed in your classes and to enhance your college experience (e.g., jobs on campus, childcare, student clubs, tutoring, writing centers, Multicultural Centers, Women's Resource Centers, Veterans Resource Centers, Queer Resource Centers, Dreamers Resource Center, emergency loans, food pantries, advising, counseling). You can access information about college resources and activities at www.pcc.edu/student-life/.

Inclement Weather/Campus Closure Statement

If there is a campus closure due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, the class session will be canceled. I may assign out of class assignments in lieu of our in-person meeting. Please check our course in Brightspace where I will post announcements, content, and discussions during closures. If there is a delayed opening, we will meet IF there is more than 1 hour 30 minutes of class remaining. If there is less class time than this, the class will be canceled for the day.

Flexibility Statement

The instructor reserves the right to modify course content and/or substitute assignments and learning activities in response to institutional, weather, or class situations.

Class Attendance and Participation in Week 1

If you are not able to attend the first class: email your instructor (julianne.sandlin@pcc.edu) and plan to attend Thursday's class. Unless other arrangements have been made, students who do not attend the first day of class will be dropped as no-shows.

Course Calendar & Outline

- You will find all readings on the course's D2L website. See the corresponding Weekly Module for the weekly readings.
- You should read the readings in advance of the class meeting for which they are listed.

Week	Date	Topic/Activities

1	9/22 9/24 9/27 *Sunday*	**1st Day of Class** ● Course Policies ● What is Understanding Architecture? **LECTURE: Introduction to Architecture: The Basics** **IN-CLASS ACTIVITY #1** **TURN IN:** Who's In Class? Form (link to turn in form is on D2L)
2	9/29 10/1 	**LECTURE: The Shaping of Space** READ: Chapter 1, Understanding Architecture **IN-CLASS ACTIVITY #2** **LECTURE: Space is Not Neutral** READ: Space is Not Neutral Reading IN-CLASS ACTIVITY #3 *Tuesday, September 29 is the last day to drop 8-12 week credit classes (see: How to drop a class)*
3	10/6 10/8 	**LECTURE: Modern Architecture and Visual Analysis** READ: Modern Architecture READ: Visual Elements of Architecture IN-CLASS ACTIVITY #4 **LECTURE: Modern Architecture and the Utopian Dream** IN-CLASS ACTIVITY #5
4	10/13 10/15 	**LECTURE: End of the Utopia: Capitalism and Dystopias** READ: End of the Utopia Reading IN-CLASS ACTIVITY #6 **LECTURE: Postmodern Architecture** READ: Post-Modern Architecture IN-CLASS ACTIVITY #7
5	10/20 10/22 	**LECTURE: More on Postmodern Architecture** IN-CLASS ACTIVITY #8 ***You will need to do some work for this activity prior to class*** **LECTURE:** Architecture of Democracy (but whose democracy?) READ: Classical Architecture

		IN-CLASS ACTIVITY #9
6	10/27 10/29	**LECTURE:** Architecture of Democracy (but whose democracy?) IN-CLASS ACTIVITY #10 **Classical or Modern: Who will win the debate?** READ: Week 6 Reading IN-CLASS ACTIVITY #11
7	11/3 11/5	**LECTURE: Architecture of the Divine** IN-CLASS ACTIVITY #12 **Choose your own Architecture Adventure:** Gothic, Islamic, Buddhist, or Maya ● Choose 3 of these topics to learn about ● See the **Choose your own Architecture Adventure topic i**n the Week 7 content on D2L for what to do for your "Adventure" ● Work on the "Adventure" in class on 11/5 or 11/10 & outside of class ● Bring your "Adventure" to class on 11/12 where it will be used as part of the In-Class Activity #13 **Class on 11/5 & 11/10:** ● Choose **ONE** class to attend (your choice!) to show what you've been doing for your "Choose your own Architecture Adventure" ● This is a good opportunity to ask questions and get help! ● Students who do NOT attend one of the classes will lose 5 of the 10 points associated with In-Class Activity #13
8	11/10 11/12	**Choose your own Architecture Adventure: Continued** *If you came to the classroom on 11/5 and showed what you've been working on, you do NOT need to come to class on 11/10.* IN-CLASS ACTIVITY #13 *Part of the work for this Activity will be completed prior to class.*
9	11/17 11/19	**LECTURE: The Skyscraper, Part 1 - Its Development** READ: The Rise of the Supertalls IN-CLASS ACTIVITY #14 **LECTURE: The Skyscraper, Part 2 - Innovative Builds** IN-CLASS ACTIVITY #15
10	11/24	**LECTURE: Green Architecture? Defensive Architecture?** IN-CLASS ACTIVITY #16

	11/26	**NO CLASS: College Closed to observe Thanksgiving Day**
11	12/1 12/3	**Portland Architecture Tour—Class Visit to Downtown Portland** ****Participation Required or Alternate Assignment**** **Workday** ● Sign-up for a meeting with Dr. J about your final assignment ● See sign-up sheet and requirements for the meeting on D2L ● Meeting/Prep for Meeting: 5 points Saturday, December 5--Last day to change grade option or withdraw from 11-12 week classes (see: Grading Options and How to withdraw from a class)
12 *Finals Week*	12/8 **Tuesday** (last class meeting)	**Final Project Presentations—in Class** ***Attendance required.*** *If you cannot attend, make arrangements in advance with Dr. J, otherwise a 20-point deduction from your total course grade.* **DUE: December 8** • Final Project DUE & Presentation *(turn in a hard copy in class)* • Alternate Assignment for Architecture Tour (if not at the tour) ***Dr. J will submit final grades on Friday, December 11 by 5:00 pm***