

The Architecture of Colleges and Universities in the US

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Carla Yanni, SAS - Art History

TH 01:10-04:10P

Honors College Seminar Room S124

College Avenue Campus

Will Count Towards SAS - Art History Major

Will Count Towards SAS - Art History Minor

Why do North American college students live on campus? Why do college professors conduct research? Why are some colleges private and others public? Why do colleges often have green lawns and open spaces? What do Americans hope to get out of college? Will distance learning cause the demise of the physical college campus?

This seminar will examine the history of American higher education by studying its architecture. We will look at American universities from the colonial period to the present. The course will be taught from a social historical perspective, taking into account changing educational theories and the relationship of those theories to architectural design and planning history. American colleges will be compared to British precedents and contrasted with relevant building types such as hospitals, lunatic asylums, and prisons. Turning points in the history of American higher education will guide the topics of each seminar: the establishment of colonial colleges, the Morrill Act and the rise of land grant universities, the G.I. Bill and the expansion of state universities after World War II, counterculture student movements in the late 1960s and 70s. Students will learn about architectural research techniques, visit university buildings, and read historic documents. The course will be conducted as a seminar, and students are expected to keep up with readings and participate in class discussion. The weight of the final grade will rest on a presentation and paper, but quizzes and in-class writing assignments may also be included.