Why You should Consider Taking This Elective Course – Spring 2018

The majority of Architecture graduates will find career positions in the construction industry. This is a major sector of the American economy. But do we really understand the sheer scope of this vast and confusing enterprise? Even if we do, do we know how we arrived at the industry we have today? And where is it heading?

This pioneering course (there is nothing like it at any other American university) will take you on a journey from ancient times, exploring along the way how:

- the Greeks & Romans built their signature contributions
- medieval society marshaled the resources to cope with an ecclesiastical building boom
- architects and engineers slowly evolved as professions during the 17th & 18th C
- the American colonists adapted English & European methods
- the industrial revolution transformed the way we build
- today’s American industry evolved during the 19th C & beyond
- and much more

This course is not only about history. You will be briefed on the industry we have today and the particular characteristics that make it unique. You will learn how other country’s industries have developed along different lines and what we can learn from this. Finally, there will be an analysis of current trends and speculation on where the industry may be heading in the longer term.

By taking this course you will round out your knowledge of the industry in which you will be making your career. It will provide a context within which you can situate everything else you have learned about the history of architectural design. i.e. how were those buildings actually built?

The course is led by Brian Bowen, Professor of Practice, College of Design. Prior to retiring he ran a well-known International Construction Consulting company with offices on all five continents. He is currently the Chairman Emeritus of the Construction History Society of America.

CIOS rankings for 2017 averaged 4.8. One student commented, “This is the only class I’ve ever taken that felt like the purpose of the class was to learn for the joy of learning. Inspiring professor. Great elective.”

For further information contact Prof. Bowen at brian.bowen@design.gatech.edu

Open to graduate and junior/senior undergraduates in Architecture, Planning, Building Construction & Engineering.