



University of Nicosia, Cyprus
ARCH-511 Contextual Analysis

Course Code	Course Title	Credits (ECTS)
ARCH-511	Contextual Analysis	10
Department	Semester	Prerequisites
Architecture	Fall	None
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Required	MA Architecture	English
Level of Course	Year of Study	Lecturer
2 nd cycle	1 st	Alessandra Swiny
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Co-requisites
face-to-face	N/A	None

Objectives of the Course:

- To explore 'context' as a potential driver for analysis. This course will examine the relationship between the built and natural environment. Between architecture, culture, and the environment – between the building and the urban fabric in which it is situated.
- Develop student's ability to analyse: Social context (users), Physical context (location, orientation, proximity), Architectural context (historical context, building type), Urban context (functions, activity, streetscape, forms, materials), Climatic context (orientation, sun/wind exposure, weather)
- Develop student's ability to assess issues related to the natural environment (trees, vegetation, wildlife, animal life), urban landscape (material conditions, spatial conditions), urban infrastructure, movement and transportation networks (types of mobility, pedestrian, cycling), materiality, and planning policies.
- To teach students the required skills in order to conduct site analysis. Students will learn various techniques of research, analysis, data gathering and conducting individual proposals. Tools for gathering data as it relates to a specific site will be learnt.
- Students' will be made aware of the complex and layered issues involved in analysis.

Learning Outcomes:

- Readings and projects will introduce students to a variety of techniques for analyzing and representing the built environment, providing the basic tools for subsequent architectural research and studies.
- Ability to 'read', understand, and communicate 'site analysis' at various scales, in all its complexity
- Use of tools and means of expression to present historic, geographic,

demographic, economic, and sociological aspects of a given site or area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of all essential data concerned with context. • An intensive site research component will be utilized to yield data. 				
Course Contents:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits • Data gathering exercises • Case-study analysis • In-class discussion seminars and workshops • Lectures and Readings 				
Learning activities and Teaching Methods:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures • Seminar format / group discussions • Group work • Individual instruction and meetings • Site visits 				
Assessment Methods:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation • Assigned Research & Analysis projects • Written data/documentation • In-class student presentation • Final exam 				
Recommended Textbooks/Reading:				
Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
James A. LaGro	Site Analysis: Informing Context-Sensitive and Sustainable Site Planning and Design	Wiley	2013 (3 rd edition)	978-1118123676
Carlo F. Lanfranco	Site Divine - an alternative method of site analysis	Montag Press	2009	978-0982280904
Sophia Psarra	Architecture and Narrative: The Formation of Space and Cultural Meaning	Routledge	2009	978-0415343763