2008 SPRING SEMESTER

Binghamton University, Department of Art History
ARTH 387J GENDER AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

Instructor: Kivanc Kilinc
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Course Description:
The relationship between gender and the built environment has predominantly been discussed in Western accounts through a Eurocentric perspective. In this course, we will read a selection of recently-published texts on different cities, historical figures and women’s movements to explore interconnected histories which span across distant cultures and geographies. By comparatively visiting Western Europe, the Middle East, and what has been considered the “bridge” between the two, Ottoman Turkey, we will set a journey through “the times and spaces of modernity” of the 19th and 20th centuries and hear about concomitant “her-stories” of women, architecture, the city, and the built environment. Through such textual spaces, different representations of these contexts, their similarities and interdependencies will be explored.

Course Format:
The course will be run in the form of a lecture / discussion. Participants will be expected to undertake weekly readings. Attendance is obligatory. Grades will be based on attendance (%10), level of participation and contribution to class discussion (%20), midterm (%30) and the final exam (%40). Course themes will be illustrated with slides.

Required Textbooks:


COURSE SYLLABUS:

Theme: Gender and the Built Environment: Reading Spaces, Building Narratives


Theme: The Women-less Civilization


Theme: The “Heroes”: Building the Canon in Modern Architecture

Film:  **Mon 18 Feb:** Film: “My Architect, A Son’s Journey”, Nathaniel Kahn, 2003, 116 minutes.


Theme: Debating the “New Woman”: The Weimar Republic


Theme: Changing Women: Historical Avant-Gardes and the New Public


Mon 10 Mar: MIDTERM EXAM

Theme: Imagining the Orient: The “Invisible” Women


Theme: Gender, Architecture and the City in the Islamic World

Film: Wed 19 Mar: “Hamam,” directed by Ferzan Özpetek, 94 minutes.


Theme: Comparative Readings: the Ottomans in Egypt


**Theme:** Crafting the “New Woman” in Turkey


**Wed 7 May:** Review

**FINAL EXAM:** TBA

**Important Dates:** Jan 28 Classes begin; Feb 8 Last day for seniors to submit an application for degree form for Fall 2008; Feb 8 Course drop/delete deadline; Feb 8 Course add deadline; Mar 21 Residence halls close 9 a.m.; Mar 21-30 Spring recess (Easter); Mar 30 Residence halls open at 2 p.m.; Mar 31 Classes resume; Apr 4 Course withdraw (with a "W") deadline; TBA; Registration and academic advising for Fall 2008; Apr 18-21 Recess (Passover) begins 1 p.m.; Residence halls will remain open; Apr 22 Classes resume May 9 Last day of classes; May 10-11 Reading period; May 12-16 Final examinations; Residents must vacate residence hall 24 hours after last exam; May 17 Graduate School Commencement Ceremony; May 18 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies

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