DESCRIPTION
This course acquaints students with major building types, styles, and architects by addressing critical debates that have structured the past, present and future of building in the USA. Divided into six temporal sections, the weight of the course is shifted toward modern and contemporary architecture and urbanism. Throughout, we consider architecture as a formal and spatial art while equally regarding it in terms of the social, economic and political values to which it gives visible expression. Below are a few examples of places we may discuss with respect to form, function, and cultural significance.

**PRECONTACT**

**Sod House, Minden, NE**
40.5047° N, 98.9506° W
Constructed from large slabs of sod dug out from the prairie, these homes were typically used only for a few years, while settlers proved their claims and saved for a stick-built house.

**Cahokia Mounds, Cahokia, IL**
38.6499° N, 90.0715° W
Archaeological remains of significant pre-contact cities, such as Cahokia and Mesa Verde, CO, will be examined as urban and ceremonial centers.

**SETTLER**

**Stone Plantation, Montgomery, AL**
32.349430° N, 86.425483° W
Built in 1852 and known as “Home Place,” this was one of three plantations owned by Barton Warren Stone. 83 enslaved Africans worked at this location, growing cotton and making pork products. The family also profited from a small banking operation.
Boott Cotton Mills, Lowell, MA  
42.6482° N, 71.3084° W  
Opened in 1835, this huge complex on the Merrimack River contained both factories and dormitories housing a largely female workforce, who wove cotton cloth on mechanical looms. Today the site has been redeveloped as luxury condominiums.

Bob’s Big Boy, Burbank, CA  
34.1526° N, 118.3462° W  
Although not the first location of the restaurant chain started by entrepreneur Bob Wian, it is the oldest remaining, having been designed by LA architect Wayne McAllister in 1949. Elements of streamlined, moderne style are evident, but the design also looks forward, heralding the arrival of car culture and the address to a spectator who is moving at automotive, not pedestrian speed.

Aqua Tower, Chicago, IL  
Studio Gang Architects, 2010  
41° 53' 11" N, 87° 37' 12" W  
This skyscraper has been celebrated for its unique aesthetics, as well as its many technical innovations. The rippling balconies that give the building its distinctive appearance also serve to disrupt high winds, allowing a tuned mass damper to be omitted and outdoor space to be provided up to the 82nd floor.

questions +/- or comments about the course?  
Please email me!  
Jennifer Burns  
jenbee60@illinois.edu