

construction history from the pyramids to the burj

ARCH 517, sec. 1a & 1b, SPRING 2017

TR 1540-1700, 3 cr.

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This course will examine the history of human construction over the last 4500 years. By focusing on materials and techniques rather than styles, construction history offers an alternative narrative to traditional understandings of architectural history, making productive connections to histories of economics, industry, and labor and to related disciplines such as structural and civil engineering. Lectures will focus on material typologies, showing how production methods and economics have influenced design—and vice versa.

Students will have the option of executing a detailed analytical model illustrating technical aspects of a selected work or writing a 15-20 page term paper. There will be a take-home midterm and final. No technical knowledge or mathematical background is required—concepts will be explained in intuitively and qualitatively.

OPEN TO ALL MAJORS