Bachelor of Arts Architectural Studies Society
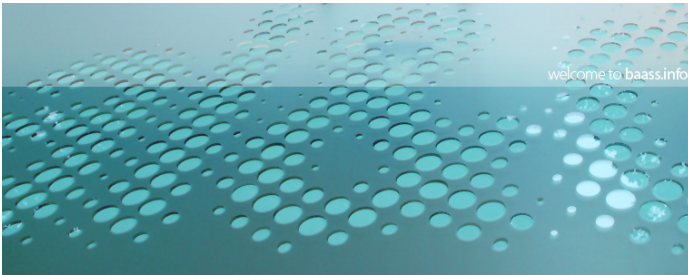

Introduction

BAASS is the Bachelor of Arts Architectural Studies Society at the Faculty of Architecture Landscape and Design (al&d) at the University of Toronto. In short, we are the course union for undergraduate architecture students.

BAASS was formed in Spring 2000 as a method of further enhancing the student experience at UofT. Our goal is to help improve student life in the architectural programs, and to create a community amongst the undergraduate and graduate students, teacher assistants, and instructors at al&d. BAASS acts as the official voice for students so we highly encourage input from the school community to help better our program.

BAASS is funded independently through donations by our members and executive committee members. The Arts and Science Student Union (ASSU) gives partial financial support for selected special events.

BAASS Executives are dedicated to helping ensure that the education of all students registered in ARC courses at U of T is the best that can be possibly offered. We strive to ensure easier access to academic resources and general information; provide a direct communication link to the faculty and professors; and work to provide an overall better university experience through social and educational opportunities outside the classroom. **http://baass.info/index.html**

BAASS Executive

ARC 131H1F Introduction to Architecture

Instructor(s): L. Richards

Enr: 385		Resp: 223				Retake: 83%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	1	11	33	36	15	5.5
Explains	1	0	0	9	32	35	21	5.6
Communicates	3	0	7	18	25	26	18	5.2
Teaching	1	0	1	10	31	34	19	5.5
Workload	0	0	4	57	25	9	1	4.4
Difficulty	0	1	5	66	20	5	0	4.3
Learn Exp	1	0	4	30	25	28	9	5.0

Richards' breadth of architectural knowledge and experience was appreciated by his students. However, some wished his presentation of lectures was more engaging. Students were disappointed with Richards' substitution of recordings for a couple of lectures while he was away.

Lecture slides were found to be visually communicative and informative. Students suggested the need for tutorials where assignment requirements could be discussed in detail. Assignments and exams could have been handed back faster and with more specific comments. Some found the amount of reading a bit overwhelming.

ARC 132H1S Contemporary Architecture

Instructor(s): M. Salman

Enr: 365		Resp: 113				Retake: 78%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	3	4	10	25	35	16	4	4.5
Explains	5	5	11	24	29	19	4	4.4
Communicates	2	2	12	25	29	21	5	4.6
Teaching	8	2	8	27	28	20	4	4.5
Workload	0	0	0	60	26	9	2	4.5
Difficulty	0	0	4	65	18	9	1	4.4
Learn Exp	1	4	7	39	30	14	1	4.4

Students found it difficult to understand the lecturer at times. They also seemed to think that the course could use some more organization (i.e. assignments and lecture slides). Some students found the visual aids she used in class very helpful.

Overall, students felt that this course covered interesting subject material.

ARC 231H1S Architectural Design I

Instructor(s): C. Marcopoulos

Enr: 24		Resp: 18				Retake: 22%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	16	33	22	16	11	0	0	2.7
Explains	0	16	27	38	16	0	0	3.6
Communicates	0	5	0	29	23	29	11	5.1
Teaching	11	0	33	44	11	0	0	3.4
Workload	0	0	0	11	33	33	22	5.7
Difficulty	0	0	0	38	27	16	16	5.1
Learn Exp	0	38	7	30	23	0	0	3.4

Marcopoulos was described as enthusiastic and interested in the course material.   However, he frustrated students by not communicating objectives of the course and assignment requirements clearly and he frequently altered the syllabus and deadlines on very short notice. Overall, the instructor was described as highly disorganized and unable to provide clear and effective direction in the course.

The course was described as interesting and beneficial in concept, but poorly organized and poorly planned. The workload was heavy and hard to balance with other courses because of the changing deadlines. Little instruction was given in the basics of design, computer software, and craft, which was at odds with the high expectations in these areas.

ARC 221H1F Architectural Representation I

Instructor(s): L. Stiff

Enr: 28		Resp: 24				Retake: 86%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	4	25	50	16	4	4.9
Explains	0	0	12	29	37	20	0	4.7
Communicates	0	4	0	20	37	37	0	5.0
Teaching	0	4	0	16	37	33	8	5.2
Workload	0	0	0	13	4	27	54	6.2
Difficulty	0	0	4	17	21	43	13	5.4
Learn Exp	0	0	0	26	21	36	15	5.4

Overall, an enjoyable and useful course. However, some students did find it challenging and a lot of work, and wished there was more direction given on the techniques of drawing.

Instructor(s): M. Denegri

Enr: 25		Resp: 21				Retake: 89%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	15	25	50	10	5.6
Explains	0	0	0	15	24	40	20	5.7
Communicates	0	0	4	4	23	42	23	5.8
Teaching	0	0	0	4	28	47	19	5.8
Workload	0	0	0	5	35	45	15	5.7
Difficulty	0	0	5	42	26	21	5	4.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	42	42	14	5.7

Denegri was regarded by students as an insightful instructor, despite her penchant for ambiguity when it came to discussing the requirements for the assigned projects. Students would have liked more individual interaction with her as well.

Many found the projects to be quite difficult, at least on a practical level, in terms of learning the required representational techniques. Although students were taught very basic drafting skills in tutorials, many would have appreciated further instruction in this method during class time.

ARC 235H1S Architectural Criticism

Instructor(s): A. Payne

Enr: 49   Resp: 20   Retake: 68%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	10	25	20	40	5	5.1
Explains	0	0	10	25	15	30	20	5.2
Communicates	0	0	0	10	15	40	35	6.0
Teaching	0	0	5	10	25	40	20	5.6
Workload	0	0	5	45	25	10	15	4.8
Difficulty	0	0	5	15	40	20	20	5.3
Learn Exp	0	7	7	23	30	23	7	4.8

Payne was a very knowledgeable instructor and available for addressing students' questions. However, some students found it would have been helpful if he was a bit more organized.

Students found the course load was higher compared to other courses of the same level. The weekly required readings were very dense and difficult to understand. Some students suggested that a weekly tutorial would have been very helpful. Also, it would have been beneficial for students if the assignments were returned sooner and with more detailed comments.

ARC 236H1S Design and Cultural Transformation

Instructor(s): A. Bobbette

Enr: 57   Resp: 21   Retake: 75%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	4	0	14	47	19	14	5.2
Explains	4	0	0	9	28	42	14	5.4
Communicates	4	0	0	0	9	57	28	6.0
Teaching	0	4	0	9	9	47	28	5.8
Workload	0	0	0	52	28	19	0	4.7
Difficulty	0	0	0	28	28	28	14	5.3
Learn Exp	0	11	5	11	33	27	11	4.9

Students found the instructor to be enthusiastic. He presented and explained the concepts and lecture material well. Bobbette challenged the students to think outside the box and was easy to talk to.

Even though the course material was much appreciated in its own right, it was found to be not directly associated with architecture. The course material had a large philosophical and psychological base. The amount of reading material was a bit overwhelming.

ARC 313H1F Architectural Design II

Instructor(s): S. Sorli

Enr: 24   Resp: 12   Retake: 81%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	8	0	16	41	33	0	4.9
Explains	0	0	8	16	41	25	8	5.1
Communicates	0	0	0	16	41	25	16	5.4
Teaching	0	0	9	9	54	27	0	5.0
Workload	0	0	0	0	16	8	75	6.6
Difficulty	0	0	0	8	8	66	16	5.9
Learn Exp	0	0	0	22	44	11	22	5.3

The workload was very demanding and intense, and students wished for more time to complete the projects.

Sorli was a good instructor who was enthusiastic and very helpful.

ARC 314H1S Architectural Design III

Instructor(s): M. Denegri

Enr: 24   Resp: 14   Retake: 78%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	7	28	42	21	5.8
Explains	0	0	0	0	57	21	21	5.6
Communicates	0	0	0	0	35	42	21	5.9
Teaching	0	0	0	0	28	35	35	6.1
Workload	0	0	0	0	0	35	64	6.6
Difficulty	0	0	0	14	42	28	14	5.4

| Learn Exp | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 58 | 16 | 5.7 |

The TAs were available and very helpful. The students required more time for some highly intensive projects.

Instructor(s): D. Sinclair

Enr: 24   Resp: 18   Retake: 81%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	5	27	22	38	5	5.2
Explains	0	0	0	33	16	27	22	5.4
Communicates	0	0	0	5	22	38	33	6.0
Teaching	0	0	0	16	38	33	11	5.4
Workload	0	0	0	0	5	29	64	6.6
Difficulty	0	0	0	11	11	41	35	6.0
Learn Exp	0	0	14	14	28	28	14	5.1

Sinclair was a knowledgeable instructor and taught the course with enthusiasm. However, students found that visiting him in his office off campus for office hours was inconvenient.

Students generally enjoyed the course and had a meaningful learning experience. However, it would have been beneficial for students if more instructions were given or prior preparations were provided for certain parts of the assignments.

ARC 321H1F Architectural Representation II

Instructor(s): A. Chaouni

Enr: 26   Resp: 12   Retake: 50%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	27	36	18	9	9	4.4
Explains	0	8	25	33	8	25	0	4.2
Communicates	8	0	33	8	25	25	0	4.2
Teaching	0	8	41	0	25	25	0	4.2
Workload	0	0	0	8	16	8	66	6.3
Difficulty	0	0	0	0	16	33	50	6.3
Learn Exp	0	10	20	10	20	30	10	4.7

Although students recognized Chaouni to be a good architect, some students thought she was "intimidating" at times. They also felt that her critiques were lacking in constructive criticism.

The workload was very high.

ARC 333H1S Urban Design History, Theory Criticism

Instructor(s): C. Moukheiber

Enr: 44   Resp: 26   Retake: 95%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	46	46	7	5.6
Explains	0	0	0	3	26	50	19	5.8
Communicates	0	0	0	0	30	38	30	6.0
Teaching	0	0	0	3	46	26	23	5.7
Workload	0	0	0	88	3	3	3	4.2
Difficulty	0	0	11	65	19	3	0	4.2
Learn Exp	0	0	0	28	33	28	9	5.2

Moukheiber was found to be a very engaging and enthusiastic lecturer. She presented the course material articulately with relevant examples. She was very flexible in terms of office hours and was easy to talk to.

The course material was highly appreciated by students. The lecture slides were always clear and thorough. The weekly synopses posed a valuable and much appreciated goal for the students. More clear instructions for the assignments was something that would have been helpful.

ARC 335H1F History/Theory of Urban Landscape Architecture Design I

Instructor(s): I. Elias

Enr: 37   Resp: 29   Retake: 80%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	6	31	31	31	0	4.9
Explains	0	0	3	17	34	37	6	5.3
Communicates	0	0	0	17	34	34	13	5.4

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Teaching	0	0	3	14	42	39	0	5.2
Workload	0	0	14	71	10	3	0	4.0
Difficulty	0	0	17	71	10	0	0	3.9
Learn Exp	0	0	8	45	33	8	4	4.5

Students had generally positive remarks for Elias, although some would have liked her office hours to be held on campus, instead of at her personal office.

As a survey course, most students found the lecture material interesting for its variety and breadth. Almost all students, however, were displeased with the marking scheme, as the final exam (worth 50%) seemed unreasonable. Many suggested either having a midterm, or placing more weight on the assignments. Some remarked that a midterm would have served as useful preparation for the final exam.

ARC 338H1S Mies van der Rohe

Instructor(s): J.B. Mays

Enr: 32   Resp: 21   Retake: 75%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	14	28	42	14	5.6
Explains	0	0	4	9	33	33	19	5.5
Communicates	0	0	0	14	14	28	42	6.0
Teaching	0	0	0	10	25	40	25	5.8
Workload	0	0	0	66	19	9	4	4.5
Difficulty	0	0	4	61	28	0	4	4.4
Learn Exp	0	5	0	36	21	21	15	5.0

The students found the class discussions with the instructor wonderful. More explanations for each assignment was required. All assignments only revolved around one topic and students would have liked more variety, particularly on the final paper.

ARC 341H1S Building Technology-Ecology I

Instructor(s): M. Lio

Enr: 44   Resp: 32   Retake: 41%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	3	6	46	31	12	5.4
Explains	0	0	0	15	28	37	18	5.6
Communicates	0	0	3	12	15	31	37	5.9
Teaching	0	0	0	19	41	32	6	5.3
Workload	0	0	0	43	31	15	9	4.9
Difficulty	0	3	0	19	35	29	12	5.3
Learn Exp	0	0	12	24	40	24	0	4.8

Lio was described as a good and highly enthusiastic and knowledgeable instructor. However, he failed to make proper emphasis in the large amount of material covered, leaving students unprepared for the final exam. The course material was not posted online promptly and grading was inappropriately hard, often with tasks designed to trick students into wrong answers. Better communication of the instructor and TAs was desired.

The course was described as inappropriately hard and dense for students, with a large breadth of material, but little in-depth exploration. The content was largely theoretical and a hands-on component of the course was wished for. The workload was high, and it was suggested that an introductory course at lower levels be offered.

ARC 431H1F Historical Perspectives on Topics in Architecture

Instructor(s): R. Levit

Enr: 9   Resp: 8   Retake: 87%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	12	62	25	0	5.1
Explains	0	0	0	12	21	62	12	5.8
Communicates	0	0	0	12	0	50	37	6.1
Teaching	0	0	0	25	25	37	12	5.4
Workload	0	0	0	37	25	37	0	5.0
Difficulty	0	0	0	12	25	37	25	5.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	50	16	33	5.8