



modernism, colonialism and regionalism

Instructor: Brian McLaren, Associate Professor

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30-3:50 pm

Location: Gould 208J

This course is designed as an advanced introduction to architecture and urbanism in Africa and the Middle East, beginning with the initial European colonization of the mid-19th century and continuing to the present. It is particularly concerned with studying the tension between regional identity and globalization in the contemporary architecture and urbanism of the region in light of the cultural and political legacy of Western colonialism. The central focus of the class will be the ongoing relationship between this region and the West, the intention being to critically examine how modernism and colonialism have profoundly shaped its identity.

This seminar has been structured to emphasize the identification, definition and comparison of colonial and postcolonial states. The course will be conducted as a lecture and participatory seminar meeting twice per week, emphasizing the close reading and informed discussion of reading materials, films, and built projects. By exposing students to architecture and urbanism in Africa and the Middle East, the class will provide the necessary tools to critically analyze contemporary architectural and urban works as culturally situated artifacts.

questions? bmclaren@uw.edu