

# **ARCH 325 ARCHITECTURE IN-SITU | Encountering Cultural Heritage Across Turkey's Multi-Layered Cities: The Case of Ankara**

**Course Level:** Undergraduate

**Course Type:** Summer School Elective / Field-Based Intensive Course

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Duration:** 3 weeks (including lectures, field trips, workshops, and presentations)

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course aims to provide students with the theoretical background, analytical tools, and field experience necessary to understand, interpret, and critically engage with the cultural heritage of multi-layered urban settlements. Using Ankara as a case study, the course focuses on the spatial, historical, and cultural complexities of cities that have evolved through overlapping civilizations and changing architectural and urban planning paradigms. Students will conduct on-site investigations to explore both the tangible and intangible aspects of the city, from "Ankyra" in antiquity to modern-day Ankara, while developing interpretive and design-oriented approaches towards cultural heritage.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- To introduce the concept of multi-layered towns and urban stratification.
- To explore the cultural, architectural, and archaeological layers of the selected case: Ankara.
- To develop students' skills in spatial and temporal reading of urban environments and their components.
- To engage students in field-based observation, documentation, and analysis.
- To encourage creative thinking and critical reflection on cultural continuity, transformation, conservation, and design.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Define key concepts related to cultural heritage and multi-layered urban contexts
- Identify, assess, and interpret architectural and urban traces of different historical periods through field observation
- Communicate findings through different modes of representation, including but not limited to sketches, analytical drawings, creative mapping, and critical writing
- Propose context-sensitive ideas for the interpretation, presentation, conservation, or adaptive reuse of multi-layered heritage

## **COURSE FORMAT:**

On-site fieldwork, lectures, seminars, group work, and studio-based discussions.

## **COURSE CONDUCT:**

The course aims to progress through the phases of learning, analyzing, and later, transposing. While the first week introduces the students to the context and the concept, the knowledge on the topic is deepened through seminars, site visits, debates, and short presentations.

By the second week, the students are to reflect on their own perception of the topic and the physical sites that they have been exposed to, and present their analyses.

As the discussions deepen during the last week of the course, each student group will hold a presentation focusing on their ideas for methods of continuity and adaptivity for a specific site they have chosen to study. The media where one's ideas will be presented are not limited to a single method or outcome, and can be decided through reflective discussions.

## **COURSE CONTENT & TENTATIVE WEEKLY SCHEDULE:**

### **Week 1 | Introducing the Theoretical Framework and Exploring the Context**

#### **Day 1 | Lecture: Introducing the Concepts | Cultural Heritage and Multi-Layered Towns**

**Lecture:** Introducing the Context | From Ankyra to Ankara: Historical Evolution of a Multi-layered City from Antiquity to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

#### **Day 2 | Exploring the cultural heritage in the multi-layered city of Ankara**

Discovering and documenting architectural and spatial traces of different periods and their relation with the current multi-layered urban context in the city center of Ankara through site visits and field exercises.

**Prehistoric and Ancient Layers** | Phrygian, Roman, and Byzantine remains (Tumuli, Roman Baths, Roman Theater, Column of Julian, Temple of Augustus, Ankara Castle)

**Turkish-Islamic Layers** | Seljukid and Ahi monuments (Sultan Alaaddin Mosque, Ahi Şerafettin (Arslanhane) Mosque-component of the serial UNESCO World Heritage Site of "Wooden Hypostyle Mosques of Medieval Anatolia")

Ottoman tissue with residential and monumental components (Hacı Bayram Mosque - UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List, Khans Region, Ankara Castle, traditional residential quarters in Ulus.)

#### **Day 3 | Exploring the cultural heritage in the multi-layered city of Ankara (cont.)**

**Republican Modernism and Contemporary Urban Layers** | Republican public buildings, residential tissue, parks, squares, and boulevards (Railway Station, Ulus Square, 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly Building, Ulus İşhanı, Anafartalar Çarşısı, Bank Buildings, Atatürk Boulevard - UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List, Güven Park, Kızılay Square, Ministries, Saraçoğlu Quarter, AOÇ Atatürk Forest Farm, Anıtkabir)

**Day 4 | Exploring the cultural heritage in the multi-layered city of Ankara (cont.)**

Walkthrough a Modern Cultural Landscape | METU Campus as a modern heritage place with natural and archaeological sites

**Day 5 | Exploring the cultural heritage in the nearby territory of Ankara**

Visit to the Gordion | UNESCO World Heritage Site

**Week 2 | Assessment, Interpretation, and Presentation of the architectural and urban traces of the historical layers in the contemporary city**

**Day 1 | Lecture:** Modes of Representation of Multi-layered Contexts

**Day 2 | Workshop:** Representing architectural and urban components of the historical layers in the multi-layered city of Ankara

**Day 3 | Reflective discussions and critiques:** Representing architectural and urban components of the historical layers in the multi-layered city of Ankara

**Lecture:** Archaeological Heritage in Urban Settings

**Day 4 | Reflective discussions and critiques:** Representing architectural and urban components of the historical layers in the multi-layered city of Ankara (cont.)

**Lecture:** Conservation and Adaptive Re-use of Historic Buildings and Urban Landscapes

**Day 5 | Reflective discussions and critiques:** Representing architectural and urban components of the historical layers in the multi-layered city of Ankara (cont.)

**Lecture:** Challenges and Opportunities in Conservation of Modern Period Buildings and Tissues

**Week 3 | Reimagining the Multi-layered Cultural Heritage of Ankara and Creative Ideas for its Future**

**Day 1 | Lecture:** Approaches to multi-layered contexts: Case examples from multi-layered cities in different geographies

**Day 2 | Workshop:** Proposals on Reimagining heritage connections across layers through interpretation and design in the multi-layered city of Ankara

**Day 3 | Reflective discussions and critiques:** Proposals on Reimagining heritage connections across layers through interpretation and design

**Day 4 | Reflective discussions and critiques:** Proposals on Reimagining heritage connections across layers through interpretation and design (cont.)

**Day 5 | Presentation and Exhibition of the projects:** Reflections on the Multi-layered Heritage of Ankara

**ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:**

- Participation in lectures and fieldwork (20%)
- Field exercise portfolio (20%)
- Workshop portfolio (20%)
- Group proposal/presentation (30%)