Art History 285
Modern Architecture
Neo-Classicism to the Modern
Professor Wharton
What is “classic,” as in *Casablanca* is a classic?

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*: Of the first class, of the highest rank or importance; approved as a model; standard, leading.

What is “Classical” (noun)?

It is a particular period.

What is “Neo Classicism” or “classicizing”?

OED: The *principles* derived from classical works of literature or art; modeled after classical forms or rendered in a classical style.
For reference:
Sketch of Western Architectural Chronology

Modernity

Late-Modern, Post-Modern, Post Human, Anthropocene: 1960s-present

Modern: 18\textsuperscript{th} c.-1960s

Early Modernity

Baroque: 17\textsuperscript{th}-18\textsuperscript{th} c.

Renaissance: 15\textsuperscript{th}-17\textsuperscript{th} c.

Middle Ages

Medieval

Gothic: 12\textsuperscript{th}-15\textsuperscript{th} c.

Romanesque: 11\textsuperscript{th}- 12\textsuperscript{th} c.

Early Christian: 2\textsuperscript{nd}-4\textsuperscript{th} c. C.E.

Classical

Roman: 1\textsuperscript{st} c. B.C.E. - 5\textsuperscript{th} c. C.E.)

Hellenistic: 3\textsuperscript{rd} -1\textsuperscript{st} c. B.C.E.

Greek: 6\textsuperscript{th}-3\textsuperscript{rd} c. B.C.E.

What features make it so recognizable as Classical?

Form or geometry: rectilinear clarity, simplicity
Materials: stone; marble; trabeation or post and lintel.
Ornament: orders; sculpture subordinate to structure
Site: dominant but complementary to the landscape
Function: religious

post bears the load of the lintel (passive)
dangers: compression, sheer
Orders:
  - Doric
  - Ionic
  - Corinthian
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Baroque: 17th-18th c.
Mannerist: later 16th c.
Renaissance: 15th-17th c.

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Medieval

Gothic: 12th-15th c.
Romanesque: 11th-12th c.
Early Christian: 2nd-4th c. C.E.

Classical

Roman: 1st c. B.C.E. - 5th c. C.E.)
Hellenistic: 3rd-1st c. B.C.E.
Greek: 6th-3rd c. B.C.E.
Rome, Pantheon, 118-128 C.E.

What are the features that make it recognizably Roman?

Geometry: *curvilinear* clarity, richly articulated
Materials: core – concrete (pozzolana and form work); facing brick, stone and marble
Structure: arcuated; arches and vaults.
Ornament: orders; sculpture subordinate to structure, derived from the Greek
Site: dominates the landscape through control
Function: religious and secular
Roman construction: brick used as form work for a core of concrete made up of rubble aggregate and semi-liquid matrix dependent on pozzolana (a silicious volcanic ash) for its strength and water resistance.
post bears the load of the lintel (passive)
dangers: compression, sheer

arch and vault: thrust and load (active)
Spatial control: bilateral symmetry and axiality
**Crude summary:**

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near Vincenza, Veneto, Villa Rotunda, Andrea Palladio, begun 1567

*Four Books of Architecture* (1570)
Charlottesville, VA, Thomas Jefferson, University of Virginia, begun 1822.
Durham, NC, Trumbauer and Abele, Duke University, Women’s Campus, completed 1927.
Piazza d’Italia, New Orleans, Charles Moore, 1978; Caesar’s Palace, Las Vegas, 2004