



SAS – SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
SQUOLA – CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN STUDIES

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS, LIFE STUDIES AND HUMAN SCIENCES, GLOBAL STUDIES, ITALIAN STUDIES AND LINGUISTICS
DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY, HISTORY, SOCIOLOGY, URBAN STUDIES, ANTHROPOLOGY, ITALIAN CULTURAL STUDIES
COURSE TITLE: ART AND COMMUNITY: SECRET FLORENCE WALKS
COURSE CODE: LAAHAC242, LAHSAC242, LSSOAC242, GSUSAC242, GSANAC242, ISISAC242
3 semester credits

1. DESCRIPTION

This one-week intensive course explores the secret facets of Florence from an artistic, historical, and social perspective through thematic walks, visits, and dining activities. Embracing the city as an unrestricted classroom, the course unveils artworks, parks, streets, and spaces such as workshops and laboratories that keep the earliest Florentine traditions alive. These traditions include carpentry, music, marble carving, papermaking, and gastronomy. Furthermore, walks and visits will investigate the changing aspects of the city from an architectural and socio-ethnic point of view. Course sessions start in the city center and transition to the areas beyond the ancient walls. This progression allows students to visualize, assess, and comprehend hidden spatial narratives of Florence from the well-known to less-frequented areas. As a result, students discover the significance of the city in its entirety, explore the relationship between the Florentine community and the arts, and develop a new way of “city-gazing” that generates knowledge through walking.

2. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Identify a variety of hidden artworks and narratives in the city.
- Understand key secret stories about Florentine spaces and objects.
- Retrace the history of Florence through traditional workshops.
- Recognize the new architectural and socio-ethnic developments in Florence.
- Engage in a binary analysis of past and present local configurations of the city.

3. REQUIREMENTS

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Students cannot enroll in this course if they have taken LAAHAC240 Art and Community: Secret Florence Walks.

4. METHOD

The classroom approach of this course is based on experiencing the city of Florence as the academic space for learning and engagement. Classes are not held in a traditional, frontal-style setting; each lesson is carefully mapped for curricular content and featured locations: lectures, observations, exercises, analysis, and reflections on presented topics are held in relevant sites that are accounted for in the academic planning, syllabus, and related course material. Coursework and submissions will be regularly

assessed on the MyFUA platform through daily assignments in addition to exams, papers, and projects. Learning through the on-site classroom approach fosters a deeper understanding of the cultural environment of Florence and how it is related to the subject of study represented by the course, and allows the overall experience to contribute to the students' academic and personal enrichment.

5. TEXTBOOK – FURTHER READINGS – RESOURCES

TEXTBOOK:

- DK Eyewitness. *Florence and Tuscany (Travel Guide)*. DK Eyewitness Travel, 2021. (Pre-Departure Book, pp. 1-151)
- Rinaldi, Niccolò. *Secret Florence*. Jonglez Publishing, 2019.

The Textbooks are pre-ordered and available at: Paperback Exchange in Via delle Oche 4r or laFeltrinelli Via dei Cerretani 40R. Textbooks may also be available for purchase online or in e-book format.

The textbook is mandatory for successful completion of the course.

Where applicable, additional materials, handouts and/or notes will be provided by the instructor.

FURTHER READINGS AND RESOURCES

- Berretti, Laura. *Hand Decorated Paper Catalogue*. Available at: https://www.marbledarts.com/images/pdf/MARBLED_ARTS_Papers.pdf
- *Rodolfo Siviero: The 007 of Italian Art*. Available at: <https://news.italy-museum.com/the-007-of-italian-art/>

LIBRARIES IN FLORENCE

The FUA-AUF library is located in Corso Tintori 21. Please consult the posted schedules for official opening times. Also note that the library is for consultation only and it is not possible to borrow materials. The library is equipped with a scanner and internet access so that you may save or email a digital copy of the pages needed.

Students may also utilize additional libraries and research centers within the local community:

BIBLIOTECA PALAGIO DI PARTE GUELFA

Located in Piazzetta di Parte Guelfa between Piazza della Repubblica and Ponte Vecchio. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:

http://www.biblioteche.comune.fi.it/biblioteca_palagio_di_parte_guelfa/

BIBLIOTECA DELLE OBLATE

Located in via dell'Oriuolo 26. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:

www.bibliotecadelleoblate.it

THE HAROLD ACTON LIBRARY AT THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FLORENCE

Located in Lungarno Guicciardini 9. Please consult the library website for hours of operation. This library requires a fee-based student membership. For information: www.britishinstitute.it/en

6. FIELD LEARNING

Please consult your Official Registration for any mandatory field learning dates. Field Learning Activities cited in Official Registrations are an integral part of the course and also include an assignment that counts towards your final grade, details will be provided on the first day of class.

7. COURSE MATERIALS

Headphones (any kind) are necessary for the successful completion of the course.

8. COURSE FEES

Course fees cover course-related field learning activities, visits, and support the instructor's teaching methodologies. Book costs are not included in the course fee. The exact amount will be communicated by the instructor on the first day of class.

9. EVALUATION – GRADING SYSTEM

10% Attendance

10% Pre-Departure Essay

10% Pre-Departure Call and Assessment

20% Participation and Assignments

25% Final Visual Project

25% Final Exam

A = 93-100 %, A- = 90-92%, B+= 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B-=80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C=73-76%, C- =70-72%, D = 60-69%, F= 0-59%, W = Official Withdrawal, W/F = Failure to withdraw by the designated date.

10. ATTENDANCE – PARTICIPATION

Academic integrity and mutual respect between instructor and student are central to the FUA-AUF academic policy and reflected in the attendance regulations. Student presence is mandatory and counts toward the final grade.

Absences are based on academic hours: 1 absence equals 3 lecture hours.

Two absences: 6 lecture hours, attendance and participation grade will be impacted.

Three absences: 9 lecture hours, the final grade may be lowered by one letter grade.

Four absences: 12 lecture hours, constitutes automatic failure of the course regardless of when absences are incurred.

Please note:

- The above hours refer to lecture hours. Please note that the contact / credit hour policy in the academic catalog includes additional distribution ratios according to delivery category.

Ex: 1 absence equals 6 FL/SL/Lab hours or 9 EL hours.

- Hours may be distributed in different formats according to the academic course schedules.

LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY DEPARTURE

Arriving late or departing early from class is not acceptable. Two late arrivals or early departures or a combination will result in an unexcused absence. Travel is not an exceptional circumstance.

TRAVEL (OR DELAYS DUE TO TRAVEL) IS NEVER AN EXCUSE FOR ABSENCE FROM CLASS.

It is always the student's responsibility to know how many absences he or she has in a course. If in doubt, speak with your instructor!

Participation: Satisfactory participation will be the result of contributing to class discussions by putting forth insightful and constructive questions, comments and observations. Overall effort, cooperation during group work, proper care of work space and tools, responsible behavior, and completion of assignments will be assessed. All of the above criteria also apply to Field Learning and site visits.

11. EXAMS – PAPERS – PROJECTS

The **Pre-departure essay** is worth 10% of the final course grade. This is an 800-words essay incorporating a secret from your native or current city/region. The essay needs to be supported by photos and sources, and it seeks to encourage students to reflect upon the significance of lesser known stories, narrative, and places.

The **Pre-departure call and assessment** is worth 10% of the final course grade. During the call, an overview of the course will be provided to students, and a first discussion on the course's content will occur. Additionally, an assessment of the pre-departure book will occur. Students should read the book from page 1-151 (focus on Florence) and formulate critical ideas concerning its content.

The **Final Visual Project** accounts for 25% of the final course grade. This is a portfolio containing at least 10 photos or personal sketches, and circa 1000 words, where you will be analyzing the secret facets of any neighborhood outside of the city center.

These include: Campo di Marte, Gavinana, Le Cure, Careggi, Novoli, Galluzzo, Soffiano, Arcetri, San Niccolò.

You may also go to a surrounding *comune*: Impruneta, Fiesole, Bagno a Ripoli, Pratolino, Lastra a Signa, Borgo San Lorenzo.

Ask the instructor for help if you would like to know more areas. Use Google Maps to track your route (by foot, bicycle, tram, bus) and incorporate the screenshot/image of your route in the Project.

Additionally, you will need to:

- Find a compelling title.
- Focus on a specific narrative or concept, e.g. sculpture, architecture, religion, sociology, gastronomy, music etc.
- Refer to photographs or sketches in your discussion, i.e. create a dialogue between written and visual components.

It is important for you to go here in safe conditions, which means:

- Day time is more preferable. Rides past 10 pm are not recommended.
- Check times of public transportations in advance if you are using them.
- Wear a helmet if you are going by bicycle.

The **Final Exam** accounts for 25% of the final course grade. The content of the exam will be based on the walks, visits, discussions, and textbook pages.

The exam will be uploaded on the course website MyFua and are to be completed by the student at home under exam conditions. This means that:

- The exam must be taken completely alone. Showing it or discussing it with anybody is forbidden, including (but not limited to) the other students in the course in current or previous years.
- You may use any publicly available material you want, including books, the internet, etc. However, you are NOT allowed to submit questions to internet discussion groups.
- Use your own words. If you find a solution of a question in a book or online, cite it in your submission and do not copy it as-is. Make changes which demonstrate you understand what you are writing. Plagiarism will be severely penalized.
- You may take as much time as you need to complete the exam. You may start the exam and return to it at a later stage. Note, you will no longer have access to the exam once the deadline

has passed.

The solved exam must be uploaded on MyFua before the deadline. Late submission will be penalized; technical problems will not be accepted as an excuse for late submissions. It is your responsibility to make sure that your computer and internet connection work properly and that the solved exam is uploaded on time.

The exam contains 10 open-ended questions, each worth 10 points, for a total of 100 points.

12. LESSONS

Day 1

- Students arrive in Florence.
- Orientation and presentation of the course content.
- Check-in procedures.

Day 2

Meeting Point: Via San Gallo 45r

Itinerary:

- SS. Annunziata, focus on the uncountable bees, the Innocenti wheel, and the open window in Palazzo Grifoni.
- Museo Casa di Dante (outside), focus on Dante's hidden face.
- Via de' Cerchi, focus on Braccio Fiorentino and the formation of the expression "avere il braccino corto".
- Palazzo Vecchio (outside), focus on Michelangelo's hidden face (L'importuno).
- Corridoio Vasariano, focus on its story as a perfect hidden passage.
- Vicolo del Panico, focus on the rivalry of Cerchi and Donati family.

Lunch: focus on the typical lunch of the Florentine worker, with emphasis on rituals, traditions, and typical flavors.

- Via Micheli, focus on the UniFi.
- Via dei Pilastri, focus on the expression Sali e Tabacchi.
- Via de' Macci, focus on Teatro del Sale.
- Santa Croce, focus on flood markers and calcio storico fiorentino.
- Corso dei Tintori, focus on wine gates.
- Ponte alle Grazie, focus on Uomo Comune and CLET.
- Via dell'Olmo, CLET Studio.
- Museo Casa Rodolfo Siviero (outside), the 007 of the arts.

Lecture: Secrets of Florence: Walk to discover hidden artworks, stories, and spaces of the city center.

Objectives:

- Identify secret artworks and stories within the ancient gates.
- Identify the bearings of the narratives for the community.
- Develop a new detail-oriented gaze to look at the city.
- Identify secret artworks and stories within the ancient gates.
- Recognize the impacts of ancient traditions such as salt-selling, calcio storico, wine gates on today's reality.
- Gain knowledge on the critique to the strictness of signage through the case study of CLET.
- Understand the role of Rodolfo Siviero in recovering artworks stolen by the Nazis.
- Further develop a new detail-oriented gaze to look at the city.

Selected Readings from *Secret Florence* by Niccolò Rinaldi:

Bothering Michelangelo pp. 22-23, *Antico Vicolo del Panico or dello Scandalo*, pp. 45-46, *The First Certified Portrait of Dante*, pp. 46-47, *The Bees on the Equestrian Monument of Ferdinando I*, pp. 178-179, *The Baby Hatch*, pp. 180-181, *The Open Window in Palazzo Grifoni*, p. 182. *Wine Bars in the Street*, pp. 138-139, *Flood Markers*, p. 190, *Marking for a "Florentine Football" Pitch*, pp. 204-205.

*Pages may change according to edition.

Further Readings: *Rodolfo Siviero: The 007 of Italian Art.*

Day 3

Meeting Point: Via San Gallo 45r

Itinerary:

- Via San Gallo, Libri Liberi.
- Piazza San Lorenzo, Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana (outside).
- Via dei Fossi, Todo Modo.
- Via del Parione, Riccardo Luci Marbled Paper (*workshop*).

Lunch: Dine is a literary café, exploring the cohesion of sociality, culture, and gastronomy.

- Piazza della Repubblica, focus on ancient literary cafés like Giubbe Rosse and new one like La Feltrinelli Red.
- Borgo San Frediano, La Cité.
- Conventino Caffè Letterario *or* Libreria Brac *or* Le Murate Caffè Letterario (according to availability).

Lecture:

- Books and Literature: Archiving history and the rise of alternative libraries.
- The significance of literary cafés: mixing literature, art, sociality, and gastronomy.

Objectives:

- Recognize the role of alternative libraries.
- Gain knowledge on the significance of literature in the Florentine context.
- Identify the role of the patronage of the Medici for the production of literature and art.
- Understand the polyhedral role of literary cafés as social and cultural spaces.
- Recognize new literary cafés as extension of the past tradition of cultural institution, such as Gabinetto Vieusseux.
- Explore literary cafés in relation to urban regeneration.

Selected Readings from *Secret Florence* by Niccolò Rinaldi: *Library Archive*, pp. 64-65, *Casa Guidi*, pp. 226-227, *Cimitero Allori*, p. 282 + 3 secrets of choice.

Further Readings: Berretti, *Hand Decorated Paper Catalogue*.

Assignment 1: Visit an additional literary library and submit a report of the experience with 3 photos you took. To be submitted 1 week after course ends.

Day 4

Meeting Point: Via San Gallo 45r

Itinerary:

- Via Ricasoli, Conservatorio Luigi Cherubini, focus on Luigi Cherubini and the role of the conservatory.
- Piazza del Duomo, focus on the piece *Nuper Rosarum Flores*, composed for the inauguration of the Cathedral in 1432.
- Via de' Benci, Palazzo Bardi, focus on Camerata dei Bardi, and the first opera, *Euridice* by Jacopo Peri. Further focus on the creation of the piano by Bartolomeo Cristofori.
- Via de' Bardi, focus on Litfiba (where they had their rehearsal space).
- Via Santo Spirito 39, focus on Odoardo Spadaro (plate) and the significance of *canzone popolare*.
- Piazza dell'Olio, focus on Mozart (plate) and his relationship with Italy.
- Via de' Ginori, Ceccherini Strumenti Musicali.

Lunch: Dine in a space related to music and theatre so as to understand the significance of the latter for the Italian culture, with specific emphasis attributed to the social ties stimulated.

- Via Verdi, Filistrucchi, focus on stage clothes.
- Piazza Strozzi, Cinema Odeon, focus on conversion from theatre to cinema and the relationship between these two arts.

Lectures:

- Music of Florence: Walking and listening, the music of the city, from the Renaissance to Contemporary Florence. *For this class, you must bring a phone with data and headphones.*
- Theatres of Florence: The theatre as one of the most long-lasting traditions of the city.

Objectives:

- Identify the main historical events related to or celebrated through music in Florence.
- Recognize memorialization techniques to preserve ancient music.
- Understand the role of ancient music, *canzone popolare*, and contemporary music to support Florence and its events.
- Identify the significance of the theatre in Florence, and Italy at large.
- Acquire knowledge of the main theatrical representations of the city.
- Become familiar with the architectural structure of the theatre, and the so-called *teatro all'italiana* in particular.

Selected Readings from *Secret Florence* by Niccolò Rinaldi: *Accademia Bartolomeo Cristofori*, p. 242 and 2 additional secrets of choice.

Assignment 2: Go to any concert in the city and submit a report of the experience with 3 photos you took. To be submitted 1 week after course ends.

Concert halls or clubs with active seasons: Teatro della Pergola, Teatro Verdi, Teatro Niccolini, Nuovo Teatro dell'Opera, Jazz Club, Paszkowski Café, Combo Social Club, NOF, Glue.
Surf through TicketOne or to the following link for additional concerts:
<https://www.gogofirenze.it/eventi/musica-e-concerti.html>

Day 5

Meeting Point: Via San Gallo 45r

Itinerary:

- Via Nazionale, Tabernacolo delle Fonticine, focus on *terracotta policroma*.
- Via S. Egidio, Sbigoli Terrecotte, focus on terracotta.
- Via dello Studio, Città del Sole.

Lunch: Focus on the materials used in an ancient Trattoria. Explore the materials used in the space (stone, wood, clay) and these materials as conveyers of gastronomical quality, e.g. cooking with *forno a legna*, storing in clay vases, using stone mortars and so on.

- Via Cavour, Palazzo Medici Riccardi, focus on Cosimo I de' Medici as the patron of Benvenuto Cellini.
- Piazza della Signoria, Loggia de' Lanzi, focus on the bronze sculpture *Perseus with the Head of Medusa* (and the secret head behind it).
- Piazza San Firenze, focus on the dialogue of clay and marble.
- Piazza di S. Pier Maggiore, focus on Loggiato in pietra serena and the materials used in the square.
- Borgo Pinti, Chiesa di Santa Maria Maddalena de' Pazzi, built in pietra serena, yellow marble, and wood.

Lecture: Art and Artisanship: the heritage of materials, past techniques, and contemporary attitudes.

- Clay and Wood.
- Marble, Bronze, and Stone.

Objectives:

- Identify the main role of terracotta in the Florentine context.
- Gain knowledge on the technique of *terracotta policroma* and its examples in the city.
- Understand the role of restoration in Florence.
- Identify main techniques to work and restyle wood.
- Identify the role of Carrara marble in Italy, with a focus on Tuscany.
- Gain knowledge on the main stones and materials used to create art and architecture in Renaissance Florence.
- Identify the significance of contemporary art galleries in both preserving ancient traditions as well as developing new gazes and approaches.

Selected Readings from *Secret Florence* by Niccolò Rinaldi: *Self-Portrait by Benvenuto Cellini*, pp. 26-29, and 5 additional secrets of choice.

Day 6

Meeting Point: Via San Gallo 45r

Itinerary:

- Via San Gallo, BigBox, focus on Brazilian, Columbian, and Mexican products.
- Via Ghibellina, Antica Spezieria Erboristeria San Simone, focus on the process by which spices reached Florence, and how they were implemented in local gastronomy.
- Via del Giglio, ViviMarket, the larger ethnic food market in the city center.
- Mercato Centrale.

Lunch: focus on fusion food mixing foreign techniques and local products.

- Via Micheli, Chiesa Evangelica Valdese.
- Piazzale Donatello, Cimitero degli Inglesi.
- Borgo Allegri, Moschea Masjid Al-Taqwa.

Lectures:

- Spice and Ethnic Food: Different cultures brought different recipes, and at times these amalgamated with the local traditions.
- Different Religions: Walking in the sacred spaces of non-Catholic community members.

Objectives:

- Identify the role of spices in the development of Florence.
- Gain knowledge on the main communities who migrated to Florence in various historical stages.
- Recognize the new tendencies of fusion in gastronomy.
- Gain knowledge on the main sacred spaces of non-Catholic individuals in Florence.
- Understand the significance of providing accessible sacred spaces to all citizens.

Selected Readings from *Secret Florence* by Niccolò Rinaldi: *Museo di Simbologia Massonica*, pp. 238-241, *Historic Jewish Cemetery*, p. 243, *Mausoleum of the Maharajah of Kohlapur*, pp. 258-260.

Assignment 3: Go to any ethnic restaurant in Florence and submit a report on the experience, with 3 photos you took. To be submitted 1 week after course ends.

Day 7

Meeting Point: Via San Gallo 45r

Itinerary:

- Piazza Indipendenza, focus on annexation of Granducato di Toscana to Regno di Sardegna.
- Giardino della Fortezza, made by Giuseppe Poggi, focus on the architect.
- Via XX Settembre, the city outside the gates.
- Ponte Rosso.
- Via Bolognese.
- Orti del Parnaso, view of Florence as a new open city.

- Piazza Libertà, the gate as a landmark within viali di circonvallazione.
- Piazza Savonarola, focus on the role of the square for the community.

Lunch: The secrets of a true Italian Gastronomia / Alimentari: homecooked meals out of the home.

- Via Masaccio, focus on the shops and on Esselunga, a classic residential supermarket.
- Viale Don Minzoni, focus on Liceo Statale and Scuola dell'Infanzia Pascoli.
- Piazza delle Cure, focus on the role of the square for the community.
- Stop at Gelateria Cavini, enjoying la dolce vita.

Lecture:

- The Open City: Focus on the impacts of Piano Poggi.
- The Residential City: Where and how Florentine individuals live outside of the city center.

Objectives:

- Identify the crucial work of architect Giuseppe Poggi in enlarging the city.
- Recognize the changes triggered by Piano Poggi.
- Develop an understanding of Florentine life outside of the ancient gates.
- Gain knowledge on the life of community members outside of the city center.
- Identify the key shops offered in a trafficked residential street.
- Recognize the role of the square as a place to create social ties.

Selected Readings from *Secret Florence* by Niccolò Rinaldi: “Outskirts of Florence”, pp. 258-283.

Final Visual Project: Due 2 weeks after course ends.