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The American  
University of Florence**SYLLABUS**Rev. 7  
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**SAS – SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

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**SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS****DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY****SCHOOL OF INTERIOR DESIGN, ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHITECTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY****ARCHITECTURAL RESTORATION AND HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE****COURSE TITLE: ITALIAN RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE****COURSE CODE: LAAHAR340 IDRHAR340****3 Semester Credits****1. DESCRIPTION**

This course explores the principal architects, monuments and themes of fifteenth and sixteenth century Italian architecture. Class time is divided equally between slide lectures and on-site visits in the city of Florence. Emphasis will be on Renaissance architecture in Florence, but will also include architectural developments in Rome, Urbino, Mantua, Verona and Vicenza. Special topics will include: architectural theory, Medici and papal patronage, urban planning, and church and palace design. Attention will be given to architects: Brunelleschi, Alberti, Michelozzo, Giuliano Sangallo, Bramante, Antonio Sangallo the Younger, Michelangelo, Giulio Romano, Giorgio Vasari and Palladio. Visits to key Renaissance buildings and urban spaces in Florence are included.

**2. OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Be able to identify architectural styles featuring Florence history and current appearance.
- Gain knowledge about different historical periods and contexts occurred in Florence and Italy between the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> century.
- Become familiar with the concept of Renaissance artist and how they fostered the harmony among arts and sciences.
- Learn about Renaissance architecture and its main protagonists and centers.
- Become familiar with the concepts of High Renaissance and Mannerism.
- Learn about the close connection between art and politics during the Renaissance age.

**3. REQUIREMENTS**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

**4. METHOD**

This course consists of lectures, class discussions, projects, and site visits within the local community. Mediums for instruction used will include, but are not limited to, interactive and hands-on activities which challenge thought processes, academic texts and studies, videos, slides, guided problem solving, and experiential and/or field learning activities where applicable.

**5. TEXTBOOK – FURTHER READINGS – RESOURCES**

TEXTBOOK (Copy available at the university library):

- Peter Murray, *The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance*. Thames & Hudson, 1997.

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**

Murray, Peter. *The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance*, Thames & Hudson, 1997.

### **LIBRARIES IN FLORENCE**

Please consult the posted schedules for official opening times of the university library. 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/](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](http://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](http://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**

No additional course materials are necessary.

### **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% Participation

10% Assignments

20% Midterm Exam

20% Final Project

30% 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 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 the student's responsibility to know how many absences are incurred. 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 Midterm Exam accounts for 20 of the Final Exams accounts for the 30% of the Final Grade. **The date and time of the exams cannot be changed for any reason.** The content of exams will be based on covered topics, discussions and readings assigned during classes.

Format (for both exams): the exam is divided into two sections:

- Part I: 35 Multiple choice questions. Each correct answer is worth 2 points, for a total of 70 points.
- Part II: two essay questions; each correct and complete answer is worth 15 points (based on content, vocabulary, detail, etc.) for a total of 30 points.

The **Assignments** account for the 10% of the Final Grade. These are both exploratory and reflection assignments related to the course content. Students are assessed based on their accuracy, punctuality and formatting skills.

The **Final Project** accounts for the 20% of the Final Grade. Students will be divided into groups and present an insight on one place in Florence, analysing its architectural elements and continuity. Students will be assessed based on their accuracy, punctuality, researching and formatting skills.

## 12. LESSONS

<b>Lesson 1</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	Romanesque Remains in the City of Florence.
<b>Objectives</b>	Gain knowledge about Tuscan Romanesque style and its remains in the city of Florence. Identify the main characteristics featuring the Romanesque style. Gain knowledge about the historical context of establishment of the Romanesque architecture.
<b>Visit</b>	Santi Apostoli, Piazza del Limbo; Chiesa di Santa Maria Maggiore, Piazza di Santa Maria Maggiore; Battistero di San Giovanni, Piazza San Giovanni
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Read: Peter Murray, <i>The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance</i> , selected readings from Chapter 1

<b>Lesson 2</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	Gothic Architecture in Florence.
<b>Objectives</b>	Gain knowledge about the Gothic concept and its meaning. Be able to identify the Gothic style and how it differs from Romanesque architecture. Identify main differences between Italian and European Gothic style. Identify main buildings in Florence featured by Gothic elements.
<b>Visit</b>	Bargello, Via del Proconsolo; Palazzo Vecchio, Piazza della Signoria; Chiesa di Orsanmichele, Via dell'Arte della Lana.
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Read: Murray, <i>The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance</i> , pp. 7-30

<b>Lesson 3</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	Filippo Brunelleschi and the Creation of 'the Renaissance Style' in Architecture.
<b>Objectives</b>	Gain an understanding of renaissance art and culture characteristics. Gain knowledge about the Baptistery Northern door contest occurred in 1401. Identify the main Brunelleschian artworks still admirable in the city of Florence.
<b>Visit</b>	Piazza Brunelleschi; Porta Nord del Battistero, Piazza San Giovanni; Basilica di Santo Spirito, Piazza Santo Spirito.
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Read: Peter Murray, <i>The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance</i> , pp. 31-50 Assignment: Visit an additional Brunelleschian artwork and provide a presentation including your own pictures.

<b>Lesson 4</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	Leon Battisti Alberti: the 'Renaissance Man'. Alberti and Humanism, Alberti in Rimini and Mantua.
<b>Objectives</b>	Gain knowledge of the 'Renaissance artist'. Be able to identify the unique interaction between sciences art arts in renaissance art. Gain knowledge about humanism and its theoretical basis.
<b>Visit</b>	Palazzo Rucellai, Via della Vigna Nuova; Chiesa di Santa Maria Novella, Piazza Santa Maria Novella.
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Read: Peter Murray, <i>The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance</i> , pp. 51-62

<b>Lesson 5</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	Renaissance Palace Design. Public and private buildings, Michelozzo Michelozzi, palaces in Pienza, Urbino, Venice and Prato.
<b>Objectives</b>	Gain knowledge about historical private buildings in Florence. Gain knowledge of important Florentine families ruling over the city. Understand the deep relationship between art and patrons and how public works had political relevance.
<b>Visit</b>	Palazzo Medici Riccardi, Via Cavour; Palazzo Strozzi, Piazza degli Strozzi.
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Read: Peter Murray, <i>The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance</i> , pp. 63-104

<b>Lesson 6</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	The Renaissance in Milan: The Sforza family, Filarete, Leonardo da Vinci and Bramante.
<b>Objectives</b>	Gain knowledge about renaissance in Milan and its protagonists. Identify different centers where renaissance spread out after Florence. Gain an understanding about Italian Signorias.
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Read: Peter Murray, <i>The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance</i> , pp. 105-120

<b>Lesson 7</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	MIDTERM EXAM

<b>Lesson 8</b>	
<b>NA</b>	ACADEMIC BREAK

<b>Lesson 9</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	The Renaissance in Rome: High Renaissance architecture, Bramante, Julius II.
<b>Objectives</b>	Gain knowledge about Roman Renaissance and its unique characteristics. Gain knowledge about the Papal State and its political authority. Get familiar with the concept of High Renaissance and its main proponents.
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Read: Peter Murray, <i>The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance</i> , pp. 121-142 Assignment: Write a reflection about causes leading to the development of the High Renaissance and its most recognizable features (350/400 words).

<b>Lesson 10</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	Raphael and the Beginning of Mannerism: Raphael as Bramante's pupil, Giulio Romano, Rome and Mantua.
<b>Objectives</b>	Gain knowledge about Raphael activity in Rome. Gain an understanding of the influence the aforementioned artists had on their successors. Become familiar with the concept of Mannerism. Be able to identify main artists fostering this new artistic wave.
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Read: Peter Murray, <i>The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance</i> , pp. 143-160

<b>Lesson 11</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	Villas and Palaces in Rome: Peruzzi and Antonio San Gallo, Villa Farnesina, Palazzo Farnese.
<b>Objectives</b>	Get to know the Italian architectural garden features. Learn about some historical villas in Roman countryside. Learn about the Farnese family and its properties in the Roman urban fabric and countryside.
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Read: Peter Murray, <i>The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance</i> , pp. 161-170

<b>Lesson 12</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	Michelangelo's Architectural Works in Florence: San Lorenzo, the Medici Chapel and the Biblioteca Laurenziana. Michelangelo's Roman works: St Peter's, the Capitol.
<b>Objectives</b>	Learn about Michelangelo and his architectural works in Florence. Gain knowledge about Medicean legacy in the city of Florence and their properties. Learn about the Biblioteca Laurenziana. Become aware of Michelangelo's activity in Rome.
<b>Visit</b>	Basilica di San Lorenzo, Piazza di San Lorenzo.
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Read: Peter Murray, <i>The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance</i> , pp. 171-182 Assignment: Visit an additional Michelangelo's artwork and provide a presentation including a comparison between his activity in Florence and in Rome.

<b>Lesson 13</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	Mannerist Architecture in Florence: Ammannati, Buontalenti, and Vasari. Palladio in Vicenza. Vasari's and Palladio's writings.
<b>Objectives</b>	Recognize main architectural elements featuring mannerist buildings. Learn about Giorgio Vasari and its activity as art historian. Gain knowledge about the political context during which Mannerism spread out.
<b>Visit</b>	Palazzo Pitti, Piazza de' Pitti.
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Read: Peter Murray, <i>The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance</i> , pp. 207-223

<b>Lesson 14</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	Rural Retreats: Villas in the Veneto, Tivoli and Frascati. Vignola and Palladio.
<b>Objectives</b>	Be able to identify the difference between rural and urban villas. Gain knowledge about the importance of naturalistic elements in rural mannerist villas.
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Submit Final Project. Read: Peter Murray, <i>The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance</i> , pp. 224-236

<b>Lesson 15</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class

<b>Lecture</b>	FINAL EXAM
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