



Format revised 2023
Syllabus revised in 2022

SAS – SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

SCHOOLS OF LIBERAL ARTS; INTERIOR DESIGN, ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHITECTURE & SUSTAINABILITY

DEPARTMENTS OF ART HISTORY; ARCHITECTURAL RESTORATION AND HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE

COURSE TITLE: ART AND ARCHITECTURE IN FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

COURSE CODES: LAAHAA355; IDRHAA355

3 semester credits

1. DESCRIPTION

This course explores the principal architects and artists, monuments, and themes from the 1300s up to the 1500s in Italian art and architecture. Course topics include lectures and are supported by site visits in the city of Florence. A key emphasis will be on Renaissance architecture in Florence, and architectural developments in other Italian towns will also be analyzed. Special topics will include architectural theory, Medici and papal patronage, urban planning, and church and palace design. Architects such as Brunelleschi, Michelozzo, Alberti, and Michelangelo will provide important points of reflection and study while visiting a curated selection of Renaissance buildings and urban spaces in Florence.

2. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course students will:

- Consolidate their existing art competence and skills, and expand the language of art and architecture, including specific artistic terminology, iconography and symbolism related to the subject matter of the course.
- Have gained a broad historical knowledge of Florence and Italy from the 1200s to the late 1500s, and will have become especially familiar with specific Medieval and Renaissance masterpieces of art and architecture.
- Have gained an understanding of the historical developments in visual arts and urban studies, with a special focus on Florence and Tuscany. Become familiar with different techniques, practical problems in executing pieces of art and major achievements of Florentine Medieval and Renaissance architecture.
- Be able to describe and discuss, in written and oral forms, works of art particularly related to the artists and movements explored in the course. Have strengthened visual skills and be able to identify different architectural styles and periods.
- Develop a solid point of view, supported by academic readings and on-site visits, on the impact of Florentine and Tuscan art on Italy and the world.
- Become aware and critically reflect on day-to-day problems of conservation, restoration, and display of the rich cultural heritage of Florence.

3. REQUIREMENTS

Successful completion of one lower-level History, Art History, History of Architecture course, or equivalent, is required 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):

- Goy, Richard J. *Florence: A Walking Guide to Its Architecture*, Yale University Press, 2015.

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

- Goy, Richard J. *Florence: The City and Its Architecture*, Phaidon, 2006.
- Hartt, Frederick. *History of the Italian Art: Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture*, Prentice Hall, 2011.
- Levey, Michael. *Florence: A Portrait*, Harvard University Press, 1998.
- Paoletti, John T. *Art in Renaissance Italy*, Pearson Prentice Hall, 2012.
- Trachtenberg, Marvin. *Dominion of the Eye: Urbanism, Art, and Power in Early Modern Florence*, Cambridge University Press, 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/

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

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% Class Participation, Home Assignments, and Readings

10% Response Papers

20% Midterm Exam

20% Final Paper

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

Home Assignments

Home assignments aim at documenting your knowledge and understanding on specific aspects relating to the course topic. After each lecture, a question may be posted on the course website relating to the lecture. Students are expected to write a short, thoughtful response. Responses must be posted before the

start of the next lecture. All posts are time stamped: late postings (after 9 am) will not be accepted. Be creative: in addition to your short text, you can also post pictures and videos.

Reading and Quizzes

Reading of the textbook is mandatory for successful completion of the course, further reading is highly recommended. Regular reading quizzes have been designed to ensure that you are completing the reading and engaging in active learning and critical thinking about course concepts outside of class. They are also designed to help you prepare for the final exam in manageable increments. Quizzes may be open-note, which means you may use your notes to assist you in taking the quiz. Notes must be originals (not photocopied) and in your own handwriting. Quizzes will NOT be open book.

Response Papers

You are required to submit three 500-word response papers by Lesson 4, Lesson 10, and Lesson 14. Your papers must be centered on your previous autonomous visits to Florentine places. They should contain your comments and observations and include quotations and/or citations from scholarly books, journals, or articles. The most interesting papers may be selected for publication on *Blending Magazine*.

Final Papers

You are required to submit your Final Paper by Lesson 15. Your Final Paper will be centered on one Florentine church, museum, bridge, garden or palace that is not covered in this course. You will have the opportunity to delve deeper into one Florentine site of your interest in consultation with the instructor, who will help you orient your research. This course will give you the tools to best understand the cultural and historical background of the selected site. The Final Paper should be an 8-10-page research paper. Please type your work using Times New Roman 12-point font, double-space the text, and leave a one-inch margin on all sides. Make sure your paper conforms to academic standards in terms of style and register. Your paper must include quotations from scholarly books, journals, or articles. It must be properly referenced and must include a bibliography. Evaluation will be based on the following criteria: Pertinence & Coverage; Analysis & Understanding; Organization & Structure; Language & Accuracy; References & Bibliography.

Exams

The Midterm exam will take place on Lesson 7 while the Final Exam will take place on week 15. Note, **the date and time of the exams cannot be changed for any reason**, so please organize your personal activities accordingly.

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

- Part I: 10 Multiple choice questions. Each correct answer is worth 2 points, for a total of 20 points.
- Part II: 10 short-answer questions. Each correct and complete answer (concise explanations, main ideas, key words, names, etc.) is worth 5 points, for a total 50 points.
- Part III: two essay questions; each correct and complete answer is worth 15 points (based on content, vocabulary, detail, etc.) for a total of 30 points.

12. LESSONS

Lesson 1	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Course overview, content, structure, assessment and expectations. <i>The origins of the city</i> Introduction to the history and history of art of the city of Florence from its foundation in Roman times to the early 1100s.
Objectives	Explore the evolution of art in Florence Identify significant historical milestones that shaped Florence Gain an understanding of Florence origins Familiarize with the early medieval history of Florence
Visit	Santi Apostoli (outside) and Santo Stefano al Ponte Suggested homework: go visit the inside of Santi Apostoli (opening times: Tuesday-Friday 16:00-19:00)
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Textbook, pp.1-29. Read: Goy R. <i>Florence: The City and Its Architecture</i> . Phaidon, 2002, pp.7-21. Read: Srgo, "Invisible City: Roman Florentia," in <i>The Florentine</i> , 2009. Available online.

Lesson 2	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<i>The Maturing Medieval City</i> First monumental buildings: Baptistry of San Giovanni and San Miniato al Monte. City administration, <i>quartieri</i> and <i>sestieri</i> . The Arno and its bridges.
Objectives	Trace the evolution of artistic styles and techniques demonstrated in the construction of these monumental buildings Understand the historical importance of the Baptistry and the cultural context in which it was constructed Understand the role of the Arno river in the development of Florence
Visit	San Salvatore al Vescovo
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Textbook, pp. 41-45, 300-307. Read: Goy R. <i>Florence: The City and Its Architecture</i> . Phaidon, 2002, pp. 22-36. Assignment: The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.

Lesson 3	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<i>The Trecento: Crises and Triumphs</i> The 1304 fire, the Guelfi vrs Ghibellines, Neri vrs Bianchi, the famine. The gold florin, the rise of the bourgeoisie, and the common people. Most significant urban interventions.
Objectives	Gain knowledge of the 1304 fire in Florence Understand the political dynamics and consequences of the Guelfi vs. Ghibellines conflict in Florence during the Trecento Learn about the Guelfi Bianchi and Guelfi Neri conflict Explore the role of the Gold Florin as an international currency Identify and analyze the most significant urban interventions in Florence during the Trecento
Visit	Palagio di Parte Guelfa
Readings/ Assignments	Assignment: The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class. Read: Goy R. <i>Florence: The City and Its Architecture</i> . Phaidon, 2002, pp. 37-47.

	Read: Contrada, "In a Dark Wood: Palagio di Parte Guelfa," in <i>The Florentine</i> , 2019. Available online.
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Lesson 4	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<i>The Spiritual Heart of the City</i> The Baptistery of San Giovanni, the Campanile, Santa Reparata and the New Cathedral.
Objectives	Understand the historical context of the Baptistery, tracing its origins and evolution over time Explore the liturgical and religious significance of the Baptistery Examine the artistical features of the Campanile di Giotto
Visit	Loggia della Misericordia e del Bigallo & Museo del Bigallo
Readings/Assignments	Assignment: First 500-word Response Paper due. The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class. Read: Goy R. <i>Florence: The City and Its Architecture</i> . Phaidon, 2002, pp. 88-121. Read: Textbook, pp.46-59.

Lesson 5	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<i>The Dominicans, the Franciscans and Their Churches</i> From Romanesque to early Renaissance churches: Brunelleschi, Michelozzo and Alberti.
Objectives	Understand the social role of the Dominican and Franciscan orders Trace the evolution of architectural styles from Romanesque to Early Renaissance Examine the architectural contributions of Brunelleschi, Michelozzo and Alberti to the city of Florence
Readings/Assignments	Assignment: The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class. Suggested visit: visit the Badia Fiorentina. Opening time: Monday only 15:00-18:00. Read: Goy R. <i>Florence: The City and Its Architecture</i> . Phaidon, 2002, pp.186-238.

Lesson 6	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<i>Architecture of Domestic Spaces</i> Building typologies – From the noble and the merchant's palazzo, to the more modest Florentine house. Explore how merchant and aristocratic families lived, household and daily-life objects.
Objectives	Identify the architectural features of different houses in Florence Understand the family dynamics of merchant and aristocratic families in the city of Florence Analyze household objects in merchant and aristocratic houses
Readings/Assignments	Assignment: The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class. Read: Textbook, pp. 231-236. Read: Goy R. <i>Florence: The City and Its Architecture</i> . Phaidon, 2002, pp. 248-267.

Lesson 7	
Meet	In class
Lecture	MIDTERM EXAM

Lesson 8	
NA	ACADEMIC BREAK

Lesson 9	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<i>The Defense of the City</i> The city's walls, doors, and fortified towers: Porta San Niccolò, Fortezza da Basso and Fortezza Belvedere.
Objectives	Understand the evolution of the city walls in the city of Florence Analyze the architectural features of the fortified structures of the city Explore the military functionality of Fortezza da Basso
Visit	Walk in San Niccolò neighborhood (walls, tower, city gate, fortino di San Miniato)
Readings/ Assignments	Assignment: The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class. Read: Goy R. <i>Florence: The City and Its Architecture</i> . Phaidon, 2002, pp. 172-175.

Lesson 10	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<i>The governments of Florence</i> The political axis – From Piazza della Signoria to Palazzo Pitti. Florentine political power structure, key buildings and their function.
Objectives	Gain an understanding of the historical development of political structures and forms of governance in Florence Understand the historical and political significance of Piazza della Signoria as the focal point of Florentine political life Understand the role of civic institutions and guilds in Florentine politics
Readings/ Assignments	Assignment: Second 500-word Response Paper due. The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class. Read: Textbook, pp. 81-106. Read: Goy R. <i>Florence: The City and Its Architecture</i> . Phaidon, 2002, pp. 122-148.

Lesson 11	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<i>The Men Who Built the City</i> Florentine masons' workshops and building guilds. Brunelleschi and Alberti – New perception of design processes and the role of the architect.
Objectives	Gain an understanding of Florentine workshops and building guilds Understand the idea of the architect as an artisan Analyze Brunelleschi's and Alberti's architectural principles and innovations in architectural design
Readings/ Assignments	Read: The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class. Read: Goy R. <i>Florence: The City and Its Architecture</i> . Phaidon, 2002, pp. 162-171.

Lesson 12	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<i>The Social Networks</i> City hospitals and Florence charitable network. Trade, commerce, and markets.

Objectives	
Visit	Ospedale di Santa Maria Nuova
Readings/ Assignments	Assignment: The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class. Read: Goy R. <i>Florence: The City and Its Architecture</i> . Phaidon, 2002, pp.176-185.

Lesson 13	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<i>Cosimo I: Duchy and Grand Duchy</i> The image of the city in the Cinquecento The city's urban development by hand of Bartolomeo Ammanati and Giorgio Vasari.
Objectives	Gain an historical awareness of the city hospitals in Florence Analyze the impact of charitable initiatives on the city life Explore the dynamics of markets in Florence and their role in fostering the social activity
Visit	Cappella di San Luca (Convento e Basilica della Santissima Annunziata)
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Goy R. <i>Florence: The City and Its Architecture</i> . Phaidon, 2002, pp.63-74. Assignment: The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.

Lesson 14	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Mannerist architecture and the invention of the renaissance garden. Rural escape and villeggiatura – From rural farmhouse to villa.
Objectives	Identify the key features of Mannerist architecture Trace the evolution of the Renaissance garden and their link with the Mannerist culture Explore the concept of rural escape during the Renaissance
Visit	Boboli's garden
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Textbook, 283-291. Read: Goy R. <i>Florence: The City and Its Architecture</i> . Phaidon, 2002, pp. 267-274. Submit Final Paper

Lesson 15	
Meet	In class
Lecture	FINAL EXAM