



## SYLLABUS

# PALAZZI FLORENCE ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FLORENCE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS SAS - SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL RESTORATION AND HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE  
**COURSE TITLE: SECRET GARDENS OF ITALY**  
**COURSE CODE: LAAHFY320; IDRHFY320**

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3 Semester Credits

### **1. DESCRIPTION**

This course spans the history of Italian gardens from the 1200s to the 1700s. The course explores the evolution of the Italian garden landscape starting from the ancient Roman roots and the emergence of herbal gardens in medieval monasteries for medicinal remedies to the flourishing of early Renaissance masterpieces in the great palaces and villas of Italy. The early transformation of the garden from functional to recreational purposes will be examined in religious and humanistic contexts. A second phase of evolution from the recreation to symbols of power will be introduced through the gardens of ruling families and religious figures who combined garden aesthetics with experimentation and horticultural innovation until the late Renaissance. The course will conclude with the waning of the Italian garden in the 18th century, which ceded the domination of Italian gardens to the landscaping practices of France.

### **2. OBJECTIVES**

The aim of this course is for students to acquire a varied knowledge about the historical influences and development of Gardens in Italy. Upon successful completion of this course students will:

- Recognize the Italian garden's main characteristics, styles, elements and development throughout the centuries.
- Describe and discuss the architecture of gardens particularly related to the century explored.
- Develop visual skills to allow them to recognize different styles and periods.
- Become familiar with the language of garden art and architecture, including specific artistic terminology, iconography, and symbolism related to the subject matter of this course.
- Understand the dimension and layout of a garden.

### **3. REQUIREMENTS**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

### **4. METHOD**

This course consists of lectures, class discussions, 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. TEXT BOOK – FURTHER READINGS – RESOURCES**

**TEXT BOOK**

Van der Ree, Smient, and Steenbergen. Italian Villas and Gardens. Prestel.

The text book is mandatory for successful completion of the course.

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

## **FURTHER READINGS**

*(Books listed below are available in the FUA library)*

Attlee, Helena. Italian Gardens: From Petrarch to Russell Page. 2006

Bajard, Sophie. Villas and Gardens of Tuscany. 1996.

Bennett, Sue. Five Centuries of Women & Gardens. 2000

Campbell, Katie. Paradise of Exiles: The Anglo-American Gardens of Florence. 2009

Giannetto, Raffaella Fabiani. Medici Gardens: From Making to Design. 2008

Impelluso, Lucia. Gardens in Art (Guide to Imagery Series)

Jellicoe, Geoffrey (Editor). The Oxford Companion to Gardens. 1991

Johnston, Jill. Niki de Saint Phalle and the Tarot Garden. 2010

Kingsbury, Noel. Vista: The Culture and Politics of Gardens. 2007

Laras, Ann. Gardens of Italy. 2006

Lazzaro, Claudia. Italian Renaissance Garden: From the Conventions of Planting, Design, and Ornament to the Grand Gardens of Sixteenth-Century Central Italy. 1990

Lazzaro, Claudia. The Italian Renaissance garden. 1990

MacDougall, Elisabeth B. (Editor). Medieval Gardens. 1986

Mariella Zoppi. Gardens of Tuscany. 2001

Pozzana, Mariachiara. Gardens of Florence and Tuscany

Ree, Paul Van Der. Italian Villas and Gardens. 1992

Russell, Vivian. Edith Wharton's Italian Gardens. 2006

Shepherd, J.C.. Italian Gardens of the Renaissance (Reprint Series). 1997

Thacker, Christopher. The History of Gardens. 1985

Wharton, Edith. Italian Villas and Their Gardens (Classical America Series in Art and Architecture). 1977

## **LIBRARIES IN FLORENCE**

The FUA 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/](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**

This course includes one or more field learning activities. Refer to course website for additional details.

## **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  
20% Class Participation and Assignments  
25% Midterm Exam  
25% Final Exam  
20% Paper/Project

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 academic policy and reflected in the attendance regulations. Student presence is mandatory and counts toward the final grade.

On the **second absence** the attendance and participation grade will be impacted. Please note that missing certain field learning activities may count for more than one absence.

On the **third absence** the instructor may lower the final grade by one letter grade. (Example: Final grade average of 93% or A will become a B).

**The fourth absence constitutes automatic failure of the course. Students with excessive absences will be asked to withdraw with a W (if before the deadline) or leave the course with a WF.**

### **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 and in-class activities, responsible behavior, and completion of assignments will be assessed. All of the above criteria also applies to site visits.

## **11. EXAMS – PAPERS – PROJECTS**

The **Midterm** exam accounts for 25% of the final course grade. For exam time and date consult the course website. **The time and date of the exam cannot be changed for any reason.**

Format:

- 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.

The final **Paper/Project** accounts for 20% of the course grade.

- Format: topic, length, guidelines, and due date will be provided in the course website.
- Material for research will be available in the FUA Library in Corso Tintori 21.

The **Final** exam accounts for 25% of the final course grade. For exam time and date consult the course website. **The time and date of the exam cannot be changed for any reason.** Format:

- 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.
- The Final Exam is cumulative

## 12. LESSONS

<b>Lesson 1</b>	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Course Introduction and presentation of syllabus.
Objectives	Overview of the garden throughout history – course prospectus Recognize main identifying characteristics of gardens within each century Identify and differentiate between the concepts of “garden,” “historical garden,” “landscape,” “nature,” “restoration,” and “garden art.”
Readings	VAN DER REE. Italian Villas and Gardens. Pp 15-21 THACKER. The History of Gardens p 9-18

<b>Lesson 2</b>	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Ancient gardens
Objectives	Identify common features of the ancient Garden. Indicate development and changes from the garden of Alcinoo to the roman garden. Discuss the Gardens of Pliny, the Pompeian Garden and Hadrian's Villa.
Readings	THACKER The History of Gardens p 18-25 FARRAR Ancient Roman Gardens p 15-26 JELICOE GOODE LANCASTER The Oxford Companion to Gardens p447-449

<b>Lesson 3</b>	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Medieval Gardens
Objectives	Identify symbols, features, plants and examples of medieval gardens. Discuss history of Cloister Gardens and the Garden of Science (Orto Botanico).
Readings	THACKER The History of Gardens p81-86 CALKINS Piero de Crescenzi and the Medieval Garden p171-173

<b>Lesson 4</b>	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The Garden of Science: Visit to Orto Botanico Giardino dei Semplici

Objectives	Recognize features of the features of the Orto Botanico and Giardino dei Semplici first-hand. Draw parallels between content discussed in class and elements, symbols, and plants physically present during the visit.
Visit	Orto Botanico Giardino dei Semplici. Refer to course website for additional details.
Readings	MASSON Italian Gardens p 60-83

<b>Lesson 5</b>	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Giardino Boboli
Objectives	Understand the dimensions and layout of a historical Florentine Garden with special emphasis placed on the difference between the Renaissance, Baroque and Romantic phases of construction
Visit	Boboli Garden. Refer to course website for additional details.
Readings	Van der Ree Italian Villas and Gardens” Boboli chapter

<b>Lesson 6</b>	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Alberti and the Renaissance Gardens
Objectives	Discuss Villa Medici in Fiesole, Villa di Castello, Villa Petraia. Create connections between the Renaissance idea of the garden and the reality of the Renaissance Garden.
Readings	Van Der Ree. “Villa Medici in Fiesole”, Villa di Castello, Villa della Petraia Thacker The History of Gardens pp 95-96

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

<b>Lesson 8</b>	
Break	

<b>Lesson 9</b>	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Villa Petraia Medici Garden
Objectives	Explore a Florentine garden located outside the city center. Identify the influence of the Medici family gardens throughout the history of Florence. Understand the significance of Medici commissions
Visit	Villa Petraia Medici Garden. Refer to course website for additional details.
Readings	Van der Ree Italian Villas and Gardens” chapters about Petraia

<b>Lesson 10</b>	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The 1500 Medici gardens
Objectives	Discuss the influential contributions of the Medici family gardens in the 1500s Identify differences between the Medici Tuscan gardens and the Roman Renaissance gardens

	Discus Renaissance period works from Botticelli to Utens
Readings	Van Der Ree, Emienek, Steenberbn- The Renaissance Garden In Italy: Boboli And Pratolino, Bomarzo, The Villa D'este, The Villa Lante, Casino Farnese In Caprarola

<b>Lesson 11</b>	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Boboli Pratolino, Art and Gardens: from Botticelli to Utens
Objectives	Understand Medici commissions, Tribolo's design and the meaning and function of the Grotto and the Secret Garden. Identify and discuss Renaissance period artwork present in Villa Castello. Recognize the role of the Medici gardens in art
Visit	Villa Castello Medici Garden. Refer to course website for additional details.
Readings	Van der Ree Italian Villas and Gardens” chapters about Castello

<b>Lesson 12</b>	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Villa La Pietra
Objectives	Learn on site about the restoration of a Historical Garden and the difference between an original Renaissance Garden and a Renaissance Revival Garden
Visit	Villa La Pietra. Refer to course website for additional details.
Readings/ Assignments	La Pietra 712 TUR Campbell, Paradises of Exiles: Chap 11 La Pietra

<b>Lesson 13</b>	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Romantic parks and the English in Florence Villa LA Pietra, Gamberaia
Objectives	Explore the English community in Florence and their influence in Florentine gardens at the turn of the century
Readings	Villa La Pietra, a garden of delight, New York University Christopher Thacker, The history of garden, pp 139- 145, pp 147-161, pp 181-197, pp 209 -217 Filippo Pizzoni, A history in Landscape art, pp 85-105, pp 162-181 G, S. Jellicoe - P. Goode - M. Lancaster, The Oxford companion to gardens, “Claremont”, Painshill Mosser Teysot “Ut Pictura Poesis...”

<b>Lesson 14</b>	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Presentations
Objectives	Review course content for exam Demonstrate understanding of subject matter via presentations
Assignments	Prepare for exam

<b>Lesson 15</b>	
Meet	In class
Lecture	FINAL EXAM