

**AUF***The American
University of Florence***SYLLABUS**Rev. 8
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Syllabus revised 2025

Florence University of the Arts (FUA) is an academic institution for study abroad in Florence, Italy. FUA collaborates with The American University of Florence (AUF), an international university offering US-style undergraduate and graduate degrees, in a cooperation to offer study abroad programs with a diverse breadth and depth of academic curriculum.

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SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS / INTERIOR DESIGN, ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHITECTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY**DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY / 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:

- Recognize and identify the defining characteristics, styles, and architectural elements of Italian Renaissance architecture, with a particular focus on Florentine examples.
- Distinguish between architectural styles and approaches employed by major Renaissance architects and artists.
- Describe and analyze key Renaissance buildings, explaining their formal/stylistic/structural features.
- Define and correctly use architectural terminology, including key terms retained in Latin and Greek, to demonstrate familiarity with international architectural vocabulary.
- Explain the function and significance of major architectural and structural components of Renaissance buildings.
- Contextualize architectural works within the cultural, historical, and artistic framework of the Italian Renaissance.
- Critically analyze Renaissance architecture, developing informed interpretations of buildings and architectural projects by major Renaissance figures.
- Apply comparative analysis skills to evaluate similarities and differences among Renaissance architectural works and styles.

3. REQUIREMENTS

There are no prerequisites for this course.

4. METHOD

This course consists of lectures, class discussions, projects, and interaction with the local community. Mediums for instruction used will include, but are not limited to, interactive and hands-on activities which challenge thought processes, integrate relevant academic sources, may include multimedia references, propose creative problem-solving, and other appropriate forms of delivery as deemed appropriate to the course's purpose.

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 course participation and completion. Where applicable additional materials may be provided by the instructor.

FURTHER READINGS

Ash, Ronald, and Adolf M. Birke, editors. *Princes, Patronage, and the Nobility: The Court at the Beginning of the Early Modern Age*. Oxford UP, 1991.

Black, Robert, editor. *Renaissance Thought: A Reader*. Routledge, 2001.

Bouwsma, William J. *The Waning of the Renaissance, 1550–1640*. Yale UP, 2000.

Brown, Alison. *The Renaissance*. 2nd ed., Longman, 1999.

Brown, Patricia Fortini. *Venice and Antiquity: The Venetian Sense of the Past*. Yale UP, 1996.

Bruckner, Gene A. *Renaissance Florence*. U of California P, 1983.

Burckhardt, Jacob. *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy*. Translated by S. G. C. Middlemore, introduction by Peter Burke, Penguin, 1990.

Burke, Peter. *The Italian Renaissance: Culture and Society in Italy*. Princeton UP, 1999.

Cameron, Euan. *The European Reformation*. Oxford UP, 1991.

Celenza, Christopher M. *The Lost Italian Renaissance*. Johns Hopkins UP, 2004.

Cochrane, Eric. *Florence in the Forgotten Centuries, 1527–1800: A History of Florence and the Florentines in the Age of the Grand Dukes*. U of Chicago P, 1973.

Duggan, Christopher. *A Concise History of Italy*. Cambridge UP, 1994.

Findlen, Paula. *Possessing Nature: Museums, Collecting, and Scientific Culture in Early Modern Italy*. U of California P, 1994.

Goldthwaite, Richard. *Wealth and the Demand for Art in Italy, 1300–1600*. Johns Hopkins UP, 1993.

Hay, Denys, and John E. Law. *Italy in the Age of the Renaissance, 1380–1530*. Longman, 1989.

Jardine, Lisa. *Worldly Goods: A New History of the Renaissance*. Macmillan, 1996.

Kent, Dale. *Cosimo de' Medici and the Florentine Renaissance*. Yale UP, 2000.

Kraye, Jill, editor. *The Cambridge Companion to Renaissance Humanism*. Cambridge UP, 1996.

Martines, Lauro. *Fire in the City: Savonarola and the Struggle for the Soul of Renaissance Florence*. Oxford UP, 2006.

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LIBRARY

Course participants may access the campus library. Please consult the library site for resources such as collections, borrowing, scanning and wifi connection, and research:

<https://www.auf-florence.org/Library/the-library/>

6. COURSE MATERIALS

No additional course materials are necessary.

7. 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. If this course requires a fee, the exact amount is communicated prior to enrollment.

8. GRADING AND EVALUATION & ATTENDANCE

10% Attendance

30% Assignments

20% Midterm Assessment

20% Final Paper

20% Final Exam

The above grade breakdown percentages reflect the grading scale standards in the “Grading and Evaluation System” section of the catalog.

Attendance

Class participation is mandatory. Based on the hours defined in the Academic Catalog’s attendance policy, students may miss up to 2 class encounters delivered as lecture hours. A third absence constitutes a course failure.

Please note that absence hours may vary according to the learning methodology, as per the academic catalog policy on credit hours: https://catalog.auf-florence.org/standard_regulation

9. EXAMS / PROJECTS / ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments: This course requires at least 3 assignments as per the course outline in the syllabus. Further details are provided in the course portal.

Midterm Assessment: Based on concepts covered in the first half of the course. Submission and formatting guidelines provided on course site. Submission date/time cannot be changed for any reason.

Final Paper: The paper will develop a theme related to Italian Renaissance architecture, applying concepts acquired throughout course progression. Paper submission and oral presentation formatting guidelines provided on course site.

Final Exam: The final exam is cumulative, and may include a combination of multiple choice, short-answer, and essay questions. Exam date/time cannot be changed for any reason.

10. COURSE OUTLINE

Lesson 1	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Romanesque and Gothic in Tuscany. The heritage of classical antiquity and the rise of Italian Gothic architecture.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identify characteristics of Romanesque & Gothic architecture in Tuscany- Define the influence of classical antiquity on Italian Gothic development- Analyze Orsanmichele as an example of Tuscan Gothic architecture
Visit	Orsanmichele
Readings/ Assignment	Textbook Ch 1 <i>Romanesque and Gothic in Tuscany</i> Assignment 1, due before next lesson.

Lesson 2	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Filippo Brunelleschi and the Creation of ‘the Renaissance Style’ in Architecture The Brunelleschian style: Santo Spirito and San Lorenzo
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Discuss Brunelleschi's role in creating Renaissance architectural style- Distinguish key features of Brunelleschian design principles- Compare the architectural elements of Santo Spirito and San Lorenzo
Readings/ Assignment	Textbook Ch 2 <i>Brunelleschi</i>

Lesson 3	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Leon Battisti Alberti: The Renaissance Man, Humanism, Rimini, Mantua. Renaissance Palace Design: Public and private buildings; Michelozzo Michelozzi; palaces in Pienza, Urbino, Venice and Prato.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe Alberti's contributions to Renaissance architecture and humanism - Categorize characteristics of Renaissance palace design across Italian cities - Evaluate Palazzo Strozzi as an example of Florentine palace architecture
Visit	Palazzo Strozzi
Readings/ Assignment	Textbook Ch 3 <i>Alberti</i> Textbook Ch 4 <i>Palace Design in Florence, Venice and elsewhere</i> Assignment 2, due before next lesson.

Lesson 4	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The Renaissance in Milan. The Sforza family, Filarete, Leonardo da Vinci and Bramante. Final paper/project overview.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examine the Sforza family's patronage/impact on Milanese architecture - Interpret contributions of Filarete, da Vinci, and Bramante to Milan - Compare Milanese Renaissance architecture with Florentine examples
Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Readings/ Assignment	Textbook Ch 5 <i>Milan: Filarete, Leonardo, Bramante</i>

Lesson 5	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The Renaissance in Rome. High Renaissance architecture, Bramante, Julius II.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review the development of High Renaissance architecture in Rome - Assess Bramante's architectural innovations papal patronage under Julius II - Evaluate Rome's role as a center of Renaissance architectural development
Readings/ Assignment	Textbook Ch 6 <i>Bramante in Rome: St. Peter's</i> Midterm Assessment assigned, due before next lesson.

Lesson 6	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Raphael & early Mannerism: Raphael as Bramante's pupil, Giulio Romano, Rome and Mantua. Peruzzi & Antonio San Gallo in Rome: Villa Farnesina, Palazzo Farnese.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand the transition from High Renaissance to Mannerist architecture - Identify characteristics of early Mannerist design - Inspect specific examples of Roman Mannerist architecture
Visit	Palazzo Pandolfini & Palazzo Ugoccioni
Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.

Readings/ Assignment	Textbook Ch 7 <i>Raphael and Giulio Romano</i> Textbook Ch 8 <i>Peruzzi and Antonio da Sangallo the Younger</i>
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Lesson 7	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Michelangelo's Architectural Works in Florence. San Lorenzo, the Medici Chapel and the Biblioteca Laurenziana. Michelangelo's Roman works: St Peter's, the Capitol.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Classify Michelangelo's architectural contributions in Florence and Rome - Explore the innovative design of a Medicean basilica - Examine specific Roman sites such as St. Peter's and the Capitol
Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Visit	Basilica di San Lorenzo
Readings/ Assignment	Textbook Ch 9 <i>Michelangelo</i> Assignment 3, due before next lesson.

Lesson 8	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Sanmicheli and Sansovino in the Venetian State Sanmicheli's work in Verona, Sansovino's works in Venice.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze Sanmicheli's architectural contributions in Verona - Assess Sansovino's impact on Venetian Renaissance architecture - Compare architectural developments in the Venetian territories
Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Reading	Textbook Ch 10 <i>Sanmicheli and Sansovino</i>

Lesson 9	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Mannerist Architecture in Florence. Ammannati, Buontalenti, and Vasari. Palladio in Vicenza. Vasari's and Palladio's writings.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze Mannerist features in works by Ammannati, Buontalenti, and Vasari - Interpret Palladio's architectural principles and works in Vicenza - Appraise the significance of Vasari's and Palladio's architectural writings
Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Visit	Palazzo Pitti (focus on Ammannati's cortile)
Readings/ Assignment	Textbook Ch 12 <i>Florentine Mannerists</i>

Lesson 10	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Rural Retreats: Villas in the Veneto, Tivoli and Frascati. Vignola and Palladio.

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review the development of villa architecture as rural retreats - Identify characteristics of villas designed by Vignola and Palladio - Evaluate the relationship between villa architecture, landscape, and patronage
Visit	Casino Mediceo di San Marco & Palazzo Zuccari
Readings/ Assignment	Textbook Ch 13 <i>Villas: Vignola and Palladio</i> Final paper/project due before next lesson.

Lesson 11	
Meet	In class
Lecture	FINAL EXAM