



AUF

*The American
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SYLLABUS

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Academic Affairs

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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.

FUA study abroad programs may include AUF offerings, which are US-aligned in terms of higher education standards as per the university's institutional structure. Common courses offered by FUA and AUF have been jointly selected by both institutions as eligible for mutual recognition and delivery. As such, equal academic standards, credibility, and outcomes are vetted by the Academic Offices of the institutions for all courses and syllabi offered in the study abroad program.

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

DEPARTMENT ART HISTORY / ARCHITECTURAL RESTORATION AND HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE

COURSE TITLE: SECRET GARDENS OF ITALY

COURSE CODE: LAAHFY320 / IDRFHY320

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, 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):

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.
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

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

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

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 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 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 at the University 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

Lesson 1	
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

Lesson 2	
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

Lesson 3	
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

Lesson 4	
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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

Lesson 5	
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

Lesson 6	
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

Lesson 7	
Meet	In class
Lecture	MIDTERM EXAM

Lesson 8	
ACADEMIC BREAK	

Lesson 9	
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

Lesson 10	
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

Lesson 11	
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

Lesson 12	
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

Lesson 12	
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

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

Lesson 15	
Meet	In class
Lecture	FINAL EXAM