

Format revised 2025
Syllabus reviewed in 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.

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 FASHION AND ACCESSORY STUDIES AND TECHNOLOGY**DEPARTMENT OF FASHION DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY****COURSE TITLE: APPAREL DESIGN****COURSE CODE: FTFDAD320****3 semester credits****1. DESCRIPTION**

This course offers a solid foundation in the fundamentals of basic construction, draping techniques, alterations and fitting techniques for apparel. The emphasis of the course is on the importance of proper fit and craftsmanship. Students develop and construct design concepts in muslin and soft fabric on the dress form.

2. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Recognize different types of construction and use them on a garment
- Understand multi-featured patterns and alter them for new creations
- Make a garment for the final project using the sewing and cutting techniques learned during the course
- Present a basic portfolio that will display the sampling of work done
- Understand the process to make a properly fitted garment

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.

An asset of the program is the opportunity to showcase student work at FLY, the non-profit retail store of FAST, alongside professional emerging designers based in Italy. All works produced by students will be featured with garment specifications, photographed, and published for promotion on school websites. Garments will undergo a selection process for in-store and classroom placement. Furthermore, FAST experiential learning and internship students will then utilize these items to create window displays and other special installations throughout the season. For this reason, it is not possible for students to take projects, garments, accessories, and the like home upon course completion. In the event that a garment is sold, all profits will go toward scholarship funds for future FAST students.

5. TEXTBOOK – FURTHER READINGS – RESOURCES

TEXTBOOK (Copy available at the university library):

- Cole, Julie. *Professional Sewing Techniques for Designers*, Bloomsbury, 2014
- Jones, Sue Jenkyn. *Fashion Design*. Lawrence King Publishing, London, 2005

The textbook is mandatory for course participation and completion. Where applicable additional materials may be provided by the instructor.

FURTHER READINGS

- Aldrich, W. *Metric Pattern Cutting for Women's Wear*, Blackwell Publishing, 2008
- Riegelman, Nancy. *9 Heads: A Guide to Drawing Fashion*, 9 Heads Media, 2012

LIBRARY

Course participants may access the campus library. Please consult the posted schedules for official opening times. Texts may be consulted on-site, and scanning/internet services available.

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

10% Participation

20% Assignments and Prototypes

15% Midterm Assessment

25% Final Project

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.fua.it/standard_regulation

9. EXAMS / PROJECTS / ASSIGNMENTS

Midterm Assessment: The midterm assessment accounts for 15% of the final course grade. It consists of a submission due on Lesson 6. For further details consult the course portal.

Final Exam: The final exam accounts for 20% of the final course grade. Format: the final exam is divided in two parts:

- Part I: Practical Demonstration
- Part II: Open answers questions. Students will have to answer with concise explanations, main ideas, key words, names, etc.

The final exam is cumulative.

Final Project: The final project accounts for 25% of the final course grade. It will consist of creating a personal finished garment project, from the initial inspiration, its pattern and construction of it. The final project will be presented with a final rendering of finished product.

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

10. COURSE OUTLINE

Lesson 1	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Introduction to the course; introduction to the class syllabus. Mono thematic overview of Western and European Fashion 1940's to 1970's. Overview of basic sewing and garment construction techniques.
Objectives	Be able to identify and analyze key stylistic features, silhouettes, and cultural influences of Western and European fashion from the 1940s to the 1970s. Be able to recognize and apply fundamental sewing and garment construction techniques, including basic stitches, seam types, and pattern manipulation.
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Fashion Design, pp. 18-24 (Context and Timeline of Fashion) Assignment #1 assigned, due by next class meet: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further details on the course portal

Lesson 2	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Finalize in class with individual instructor assistance, the final garment idea. Those students who have already taken pattern making and draping classes will be encouraged to use their own models or to create new ones, while for those who do not have this confidence the patterns will be provided in collaboration with the instructor. Open Class discussion: each student will present the final project sketches.
Objectives	Refine the final garment idea. Create original patterns and models for their final project or adapt provided patterns to fit design vision.
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Fashion Design, pp. 24-34 (Use and Language of Fashion) Read: Fashion Design, pp. 24-34 (The Project) 9 Heads, (garments and accessories templates to work on the Final Project sketching).

Lesson 3	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Analysis of the sketches in order to understand what techniques and construction are required; this will offer the chance to explore the various approaches involved in apparel design sewing techniques and constructions.
Objectives	Be able to analyze a given sketch to identify and determine the specific techniques and construction methods required. Explore and differentiate between various apparel design sewing techniques and construction approaches
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Fashion Design, pp. 170-176 (Inspiration, Personal Creativity and Style) Assignment #2 assigned, due by next class meet:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further details on the course portal
--	--

Lesson 4	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Patterns and canvas prototypes.
Objectives	Understand how to import a creative concept onto a three-dimensional project, through the properly fitted prototypes.
Readings/Assignments	Read: Fashion Design, pp. 139-155 (Pattern making and Draping). FINAL PROJECT OVERVIEW.

Lesson 5	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Students start working on the construction involved in assembling the prototypes, with individual guidance of the instructor.
Objectives	How to read the pattern, how to place it on canvas and how to cut fabric accordingly. Sewing and constructions techniques are involved.
Readings/Assignments	Read: Fashion Design, pp. 156-161 (Cutting, Sewing and Tailoring). MIDTERM ASSESSMENT ASSIGNED, due prior to next class meet.

Lesson 6	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Garment construction and fabrics.
Objectives	Learn how to construct garments and how to piece them together by deepening the understanding of how each fabric performs.
Readings/Assignments	Read: Professional Sewing Techniques for Designers, pp. 28-32 (Seams).

Lesson 7	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Fitting phase.
Objectives	Learn how to obtain the right fitting in consistence with initial idea by correcting any eventual mistake on the basic pattern. Be able to replicate a professional "designer look" by skillfully fitting garments on a mannequin or model and making the necessary pattern alterations to achieve the desired volumes and finishings.
Readings/Assignments	Read: Fashion Design, pp. 163-165 (Fit and garment Presentation) Read: Professional Sewing Techniques for Designers, pp. 202-215 (Eye for GoodFit). Assignment #3 assigned, due by next lesson: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further details on the course portal

Lesson 8	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Canvas prototype.
Objectives	Be able to accurately cut the final project fabric and apply appropriate sewing and construction techniques discussed in class. Be able to both work independently on projects and actively participate in the learning process of the peers.
Readings/Assignments	Read: Professional Sewing Techniques for Designers, pp. 23-26 (Patterns).

	Professional Sewing Techniques for Designers, pp. 32-44 (Layout and Cutting Fabric).
--	--

Lesson 9	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Evaluation of fabric prototype with professor, discussing alterations and corrections that may need to be made.
Objectives	Evaluate fabric prototypes by identifying and discussing necessary alterations and corrections to improve the design and construction of the final garment.
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Professional Sewing Techniques for Designers, pp. 215-220 (Fitting Alterations). FINAL PROJECT DUE

Lesson 10	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Final exam review. Guidelines on the evaluation parameters for visual and verbal communication skills in presenting the final project. Garments must be pressed and well styled on mannequins. Presentation of Final Project
Objectives	Review what is expected by the students in terms of visual and oral presentation skill, in order to deliver a professional work that translates into a successful exam grade. Develop communication skills and present your final project to your instructor and peers.
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Fashion Design, pp. 177-182 (Presentation, Critique and Assessment). Final Project Presentation

Lesson 11 Final Exam	
Meet	In class
Lecture	FINAL EXAM