

Format revised 2020
Syllabus created in 2022

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.

IDEAS – SCHOOL OF INTERIOR DESIGN, ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHITECTURE, AND
SUSTAINABILITY

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES**COURSE TITLE: ARCHITECTURE STUDIO I: FOUNDATIONS OF ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN****COURSE CODE: IDASASI20****3 semester credits****1. DESCRIPTION**

In the field of architectural design, the thought process and the method of expression are equally important. In this course, students will learn to communicate their design ideas through the use of instrumental and freehand drawings. The goal is to provide students with the tools and vocabulary to analyze, interpret, and discuss the built environment from environmental, social, historical, perceptual and technical aspects. Lectures based on the readings and assignments will introduce students to the elements of architecture from aesthetic, structural, functional and historical perspectives. The course will cover the production of orthographic, multiview, isometric, oblique, and perspective drawings. In addition, this class promotes hands-on experience: through the free exploration of the city, students will have the opportunity to create sketches and understand their architectural inclinations. Having acquired the basic vocabulary and practiced the primary elements, students will begin translating architectural ideas into images, and will later be able to apply their knowledge to all branches – e.g., house design, garden design, interior design, urban planning, landscape architecture, set design, and historic preservation.

2. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Improve their understanding of our built environment through visual and sketching exercises.
- Familiarize with the specific language of design and architecture.
- Get the basic tools to work, and possibly specialize, in one architectural branch.
- Understand the specific roles of a professional architect, landscape architect, interior designer, and product designer.
- Be introduced to the technical components and procedural steps of architectural design.
- Increase their knowledge of important architectural elements.
- Analyze residential and commercial buildings and landscape with the eyes of an architect.
- Be aware of the evolution of architecture through time.

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

TEXTBOOKS:

Francis Ching, *Architecture Form, Space and Order* (4th edition), Wiley, 2014.

Francis Ching, *Design Drawing* (2nd edition), Wiley, 2010.

The Textbooks are pre-ordered and available at: Paperback Exchange in Via delle Oche 4r or laFeltrinelli in Via dei Cerretani 40R. Textbooks may also be available for purchase online or in e-book format.

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

(Books listed below are available in the FUA-AUF library)

Ivo Drpic, *Sketching and Rendering Interior Spaces*, Whitney, 1988.

Hazel Conway, Rowan Roenisch, *Understanding Architecture: An Introduction to Architecture and Architectural History*, Routledge, 1994.

VV.AA., *Dictionary of Architecture & Landscape Architecture*. Penguin Reference, 2000.

Francis Ching, *Architectural Graphics* (6th edition) Wiley, 2015.

Francis Ching, *Introduction to Architecture* (1st edition), Wiley, 2012.

Francis Ching, *Building Construction Illustrated*, Wiley, 2020.

Francis Ching, *A Visual Dictionary of Architecture*, Wiley, 1995

Michael O'Rourke, *Architectural Drafting For Beginners: A Primer For The Novice Drafter*, Independently published, 2020.

Andrea Simitch, Val Warke, *The Language of Architecture: 26 Principles Every Architect Should Know*, Rockport Publishers, 2014.

Anthony Di Mari, *Conditional Design: An Introduction to Elemental Architecture*, Laurence King Publishing, 2014.

Edward Allen, *The Architect's Studio Companion* (6th edition), Wiley, 2017

Gilead Duvshani, *The Architectural Studio: The Creative Process of Building an Architecture Project*, Independently Published, 2021

Ryan Duell, *Autodesk Revit. Architecture Essentials*, Hoepli, 2014

LIBRARIES IN FLORENCE

The FUA-AUF 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/

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

- Sketchbook: Blank-paper 8 1/2" x 11", Min. 100 pages.
- Tracing Paper: Blank 8 1/2" x 11" sheets.
- Black Pens: At least one (1) – Fine Point and one (1) Bold Point.
- Graphite Pencils: At least one (1) - 2B Lead, and one (1) - 6B lead.

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% Participation

40% Assignments (4 Sketchbook Assignments)

10% Midterm Exam / Sketchbooks Written Description (if applicable)

30% Final Exam (Test + Portfolio + Final Sketch Presentation)

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

An absence as per the FUA-AUF Academic Catalog is equivalent to 3 academic hours.

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, 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

Throughout the course, students will complete and submit four Assignments. Students may take quality photographs of their sketchbooks to be turned in as part of the Portfolio at the end of the semester. Assignments account for 10% each (40% total).

- **Assignment 1:** Sketch the INTERIOR of an interesting building in your Sketchbook of a Florentine palace by using Tonal Values and Light, Shade and Shadow.
- **Assignment 2:** Sketch the EXTERIOR of an interesting building in your Sketchbook of an historic Florentine residential palace by using Tonal Values and Light, Shade and Shadow (only the façade).
- **Assignment 3:** Sketch an EXTERIOR ELEVATION of an interesting building in your Sketchbook of a modern commercial building by using Tonal Values and Light, Shade and Shadow (e.g., a restaurant, mall, store, museum etc.)
- **Assignment 4:** Sketch a GARDEN DESIGN of an interesting Florentine garden or park building in your Sketchbook by using Tonal Values and Light, Shade and Shadow.

The **Midterm Exam** accounts for 10% of the final course grade. For exam time and date consult the course addendum. **The time and date of the exam cannot be changed for any reason.**

Format: 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.

Depending on the course format, students may alternatively submit a **Written Description** of the two Assignments they completed up to this point. They will describe the objects, the materials and techniques

used to realize them. Students submit a 2-page Word document, double space, Times New Roman or Garamond fronts. The Sketches Written Description still accounts for 10% of the final grade.

The **Final Exam** accounts for 30% of the final course grade. For exam time and date consult the course addendum. **The time and date of the exam cannot be changed for any reason.**

Format: the exam is divided into three sections:

- Part I: 20 Multiple choice questions. Each correct answer is worth 20 points, for a total of 40 points. (40%)
- Part II: Timely Portfolio submission on MyFUA, making sure that you include all Assignments. (10%)
- Part III: Oral Presentation of your Portfolio, making sure that you show your development and that you learned from the instructor's corrections, with a particular focus on final sketch. (50%)

12. LESSONS

Lesson 1	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Foundations of Architecture Design
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to the course syllabus, learning objectives and assignments - Get acquainted with the glossary of architecture - Focus on the primary elements: point and line
Readings/ Assignments	Read: <i>Architecture Form</i> , pp. 1-17. Recommended: <i>Design Drawing</i> , pp. 2-37.

Lesson 2	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Learning to Observe, Experience, and Draw Forms
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete the study of the primary elements: plane and volume - Begin sketching: tonal values, greyscale, hatching, scribble, stippling - Study and apply the use of light, shade and shadow on sketches
Readings/ Assignments	Read: <i>Architecture Form</i> , pp. 18-30. Recommended: <i>Design Drawing</i> , pp. 39-63.

Lesson 3	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The Forms of Our Built Environment (Part 1)
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore the formal structure of any work - Understand how elements are arranged and coordinated - Study and draw different forms, shapes, surfaces, solids
Readings/ Assignments	Read: <i>Design Drawing</i> , pp. 65-79. Recommended: <i>Architecture Form</i> , pp. 33-63. ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE

Lesson 4	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The Forms of Our Built Environment (Part 2)
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on objects' space and depth - Delve deeper into centralized forms, geometry corners, surface articulation - Study and draw tridimensional objects, scale, and proportion
Readings/Assignments	Read: <i>Design Drawing</i> , pp. 81- 115. Recommended: <i>Architecture Form</i> , pp. 64-98.

Lesson 5	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Tracing Our Space (Part 1)
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further explore dimension, scale, light and mass - Practice the unity of opposites, base plane, overhead plane, vertical linear - Understand what positive and negative spaces are
Readings/Assignments	Read: <i>Architecture Form</i> , pp. 99-147. Recommended: The Impossible World of Escher

Lesson 6	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Tracing Our Space (Part 2)
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete the investigation on the volume of space - Further explore planes, openings, light, and view - Be able to define the qualities of architectural space
Readings/Assignments	Read: <i>Architecture Form</i> , pp. 148-194. ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE

Lesson 7	
Meet	In class
Lecture	MIDTERM EXAM / SKETCHES WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

Lesson 8	
	BREAK

Lesson 9	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Organization: How Spaces Relate to Each Other (Part 1)
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define spatial relationships, spatial organizations, and linear organizations - Understand the feature of physical and virtual spaces - Draw centralized and linear organizations
Readings/Assignments	Read: <i>Architecture Form</i> , pp. 195-227. Recommended: What is Internet Architecture?

Lesson 10	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Organization: How Spaces Relate to Each Other (Part 2)
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on radial, cluster and grid organizations - Draw different methods of projection - Explore isometric and shadow
Readings/ Assignments	Read: <i>Architecture Form</i> , pp. 228-250. Recommended: <i>Design Drawing</i> , pp. 119-133.

Lesson 11	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Circulation: Movement Through Space
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study all circulation elements by focusing on approaches and entrances - Explore different configurations of paths - Understand the path-space relationships in sites
Readings/ Assignments	Read: <i>Architecture Form</i> , pp. 251-304. ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE

Lesson 12	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Proportion: The Harmonious Relation to the Whole (Part 1)
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study the relation of one part to another and to the whole - Focus on the golden section, regulating lines, and classical orders - Understand and articulate Renaissance theories
Readings/ Assignments	Read: <i>Architecture Form</i> , pp. 305-329. Recommended: The Golden Ratio in Architecture

Lesson 13	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Proportion: The Harmonious Relation to the Whole (Part 2)
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete the study of objects' proportions - Focus on modular elements, Ken, and Anthropometry - Be able to define visual and human scales
Readings/ Assignments	Read: <i>Architecture Form</i> , pp. 326-348. Recommended: What is Anthropometry?

Lesson 14	
Meet	In class
Lecture	In Conclusion: Principles of Architecture Design
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Get an overview of the ordering principles in architectural composition - Study and practice axis, symmetry, hierarchy, datum, and transformation - Review for the Final Exam
Readings/ Assignments	Read: <i>Architecture Form</i> , pp. 350-422. ASSIGNMENT 4 DUE

Lesson 15	
Meet	In class
Lecture	FINAL EXAM - Final Exam