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.

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES
COURSE TITLE: ARCHITECTURE STUDIO I: FOUNDATIONS OF ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
COURSE CODE: IDASAS120
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 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):

Francis Ching, *Architecture Form, Space and Order* (4th edition), Wiley, 2014.
Francis Ching, *Design Drawing* (2nd edition), Wiley, 2010.
The textbook is mandatory for course participation and completion. Where applicable additional materials may be provided by the instructor.

FURTHER READINGS

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

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

Some assignments have sketching requirements, for which the following materials are recommended:
- Sketchbook paper: Letter or A4 size
- Tracing paper: Letter or A4 size
- Black Pens: one Fine Point and one Bold Point
- Graphite Pencils: one 2B lead and one 6B lead

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
40% Assignments (4 Sketchbook Assignments)
20% Midterm Assessment
20% Final Exam (Test + Portfolio + Final Sketch Presentation)

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

Assignment: Four required as per the syllabus. See Assignment Book and course site for further details.

- 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 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 Assessment** addresses topics related to the first half of the course. For submission standards and deadline please consult the course site. The time and date of submission cannot be changed for any reason.

The **Final Exam** requires a portfolio submission and an in-class exam. The time and date of the exam cannot be changed for any reason.

- Part I: Timely Portfolio submission, making sure that you include all Assignments. (10%)
- Part II: 20 Multiple choice questions. Each correct answer is worth 20 points, for a total of 40 points. (40%)
- 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%)

10. COURSE OUTLINE

Lesson 1	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Foundations of Architecture Design
Objectives	- Get acquainted with the glossary of architecture - Focus on the primary elements: point and line
Readings/ Assignments	Read: *Architecture Form*, pp. 1-17. Recommended: *Design Drawing*, pp. 2-37.

Lesson 2	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Learning to Observe, Experience, and Draw Forms
Objectives	- 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: *Architecture Form*, pp. 18-30. Recommended: *Design Drawing*, pp. 39-63.

Lesson 3	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The Forms of Our Built Environment
Objectives	- Explore formal structure and how elements are arranged and coordinated - Study and draw different forms, shapes, surfaces, solids - Focus on object space and depth - Delve deeper into centralized forms, geometry corners, surface articulation - Study and draw tridimensional objects, scale, and proportion
Readings/ Assignments	Read: *Design Drawing*, pp. 65-79, 81-115. Recommended: *Architecture Form*, pp. 33-63, 64-98. **ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE**

Lesson 4	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Tracing Our Space (Part 1)
Objectives	- 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: *Architecture Form*, pp. 99-147. Recommended, Escher: https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2015/jun/20/the-impossible-world-of-mc-escher

Lesson 5	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Tracing Our Space (Part 2)
Objectives	- 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: *Architecture Form*, pp. 148-194. **ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE** **MIDTERM ASSESSMENT ASSIGNED, due before next class.**

Lesson 6	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Organization: How Spaces Relate to Each Other (Part 1)
Objectives	- Define spatial relationships, spatial organizations, and linear organizations - Understand the feature of physical and virtual spaces - Draw centralized and linear organizations
Readings/ Assignments	Read: *Architecture Form*, pp. 195-227. Recommended, Internet Architecture: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrG0bS-JuTo

Lesson 7	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Organization: How Spaces Relate to Each Other (Part 2)
Objectives	- Focus on radial, cluster and grid organizations - Draw different methods of projection - Explore isometric and shadow
Readings/ Assignments	Read: *Architecture Form*, pp. 228-250. Recommended: *Design Drawing*, pp. 119-133.

Lesson 8	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Circulation: Movement Through Space
Objectives	- 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: *Architecture Form*, pp. 251-304. **ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE**

Lesson 9	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Proportion: The Harmonious Relation to the Whole
Objectives	- 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 - Focus on modular elements, Ken, and Anthropometry - Be able to define visual and human scales
Readings/ Assignments	Read: *Architecture Form*, pp. 305-326, 327-348. Recommended, Gold Ratio & Anthropometry: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykVBV07fO0I https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYJVfgBeWlw

Lesson 10	
Meet	In class
Lecture	In Conclusion: Principles of Architecture Design
Objectives	- 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: *Architecture Form*, pp. 350-422. **ASSIGNMENT 4 DUE**

Lesson 11	
Meet	In class
Lecture	**FINAL EXAM - Final Exam**