NEW YORK UNIVERSITY FLORENCE

Prof. Mauro Mussolin
European Architecture of the Renaissance

COURSE ID: ARTH-UA9301001

Fall 2011; Mon. 10.30 am – 1.15 pm
Office hours: after class or by appointment
Sept. 5, 2011

Course Outline

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course aims at providing a broad panorama to European Architecture of the Renaissance from the 14th to the 17th. The objective of the course is to investigate the complexity and specificity of architectural theory and practice with particular attention to specific didactic tools for research and analysis. Renaissance architecture is considered in rapport with both its Classical and Medieval roots. Context, function and materials are therefore considered as equal in importance to matters of style, and are the basis for class discussion. The course is also focused on the study of building typologies (the city, the piazza, the palazzo, the church, the villa, etc.) and architectural personalities (Filippo Brunelleschi, Leon Battista Alberti, Giuliano da Sangallo, Michelangelo Buonarroti, Donato Bramante, Raffaello Sanzio, Andrea Palladio, etc.). Special emphasis will be given to the architectural works of Michelangelo.

TEACHING METHODS
Weekly meetings are composed of a series of classes with visual presentations, supplemented from time to time with seminars and discussions on specific case-studies. A visit to Vicenza will provide further opportunities to expand our knowledge of the architecture of the period.

REQUIRED READINGS are assigned in relation to each class and MUST BE READ IN ADVANCE of the lecture for which they are assigned.

MIDTERM TEST and FINAL EXAM are based on material considered in class and/or required readings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
READING-REVIEWS: in order to stimulate seminar discussion students are asked to discuss each week in class the topics related to the Required readings listed in the syllabus. Week by week, these readings will be assigned to an individual student or to a team of students to lead a discussion regarding these texts at some point during the class for which they are assigned; depending on the number of students enrolled in the course, you may be assigned more than one discussion to lead before the end of the course. During class discussion, we will attempt to address any questions you may have regarding the week’s reading. The quality of the discussion that you or your team lead will be considered as a significant component of your class participation grade.

WEEKLY SITE VISITS: Before each class meeting students are asked to visit an assigned Weekly site visit on their own to increase understanding of the matter at hand.

JOURNAL: Students are asked to produce a journal with more visual images and more visual description (i.e. drawings, sketches, outlines) than verbal description, attempting to be as accurate as possible. Journal will be collected twice by the course’s instructor. Describe the work in your own words, attempting to make as accurate use as possible of the relevant vocabulary. Consider such issues as function, context, scale, materials and visibility.

MIDTERM TEST will be based on material considered in class and/or required readings and/or assignments.

FINAL GROUP PRESENTATION: In the first class following the end of the drop/add period, topics will be assigned for the Group Presentations. Groups will generally be composed of two students. Each group will collaborate on researching and writing a presentation that will last approximately 30 minutes. All groups should arrange to meet with me well in advance of their presentations to discuss sources.

TERM PAPERS: Term papers will be the final written version of the topic presented in your group presentation. All members of the group will present the same paper and will receive the same grade for their work. The term paper provides an opportunity to make corrections or adjustments to your presentation material in relation to the class discussion that will follow these. The term paper should be a well-organized essay in defence of a thesis statement, approximately 6-10, double-spaced, typewritten pages in length. The written version should include references to all sources used, whether assigned readings from this syllabus or sources identified by you independently. Failure to properly cite your sources constitutes plagiarism (see below); if you are uncertain as to how to properly cite sources, please do not hesitate to see me during office hours or to contact me via email.

GRADE CRITERIA
Credit for the course will be given only if all requirements are completed. Reading reviews 20%; Weekly site visits: 20%; Journal 20%; Midterm test 20%; Final presentation/Term paper 20%.

An outstanding collection of REQUIREMENTS will also be considered as significant extra-credit work.

ANY FORM OF PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL RESULT AUTOMATICALLY IN THE GRADE OF F.
CLASS PARTICIPATION
Active participation is expected both in class and on site visits. Lateness will lower your grade.

LAPTOP COMPUTERS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN CLASS

ATTENDANCE
Attendance at classes, site-visits, one-day excursions and over-night fieldtrips is mandatory. Multiple absences will negatively impact upon your course grade. Please read your syllabi carefully to understand how absences will affect your grade in each of your courses.

ABSENCES
In case of absence, regardless of the reason, the student is responsible for getting missed assignments and notes and making up missed work in a timely manner based upon a schedule that is mutually agreed upon between the faculty member and the student. Absences for reasons other than those specified above will negatively affect your course grade.

ILLNESS
If you are sick and see a doctor, please obtain a note from your doctor stating when your illness began and if you are required to have bed rest for a certain number of days. Absences for short term illness without a doctor’s note count as regular absences. However in cases of severe and extended illness, the Office of Academic Support can review the medical certificates provided by a licensed physician and determine if these absences should be considered excused.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE
Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty or effect to their grade. Students must notify their professor and the Office of Academic Support via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose.

CLASS CONFLICT WITH A PROGRAM SPONSORED LECTURE, EVENT, OR ACTIVITY
All students are entitled to miss one class period without any penalty or effect to their grade in order to attend a lecture, event or activity that is sponsored by NYU Florence, La Pietra Dialogues, Acton Miscellany or the Graduate Lecture series. Students must notify their professor and the Office of Academic Support via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose.

COMMUNICATION VIA e-mail: mussolin@nyu.edu
Queries will not be answered in less than 36-48 hours. E-mail replies will only be provided from Tuesday to Thursday (before 5:00 pm).

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS
Students will receive a comprehensive bibliography during the course. Supplementary material to complement class work will be given in class in order to improve comprehension as well as to provide stimulus for class discussion.

N.B.
During site-visits and fieldtrips students are kindly advised not to carry bulky backpacks or troublesome objects. In churches, students are kindly advised not to wear shorts, sleeveless shirts, mini-skirts or baseball caps or flip-flops. Photography, with or without flash, is in general forbidden in museums and churches.

NYU in Florence provides each student with an *Amici degli Uffizi* membership card. This card grants free unlimited admission to the following State Museums in Florence: Uffizi, Accademia, Pitti, Palatina, Galleria d’Arte Moderna, Costume, Boboli Gardens, San Marco, Bargello, Cappelle Medicee, Cenacolo di Andrea del Sarto a San Salvi, Villa Medicea di Castello, Villa Medicea di Poggio a Caiano, and Villa Medicea della Petraia. **STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BRING THE AMICI DEGLI UFFIZI MEMBERSHIP CARD TO EVERY SITE VISIT OF THIS COURSE**
If students fail to bring their card on the day of a class visit or they lose their card, they will be required to pay for their own admission to the museum. If the card is stolen, please see Jennifer Dronsfield in the Office of Academic Support in Villa Ulivi immediately.
*Amici degli Uffizi* membership cards are non-transferable and are personalized for each individual student. The card can only be used by the student whose name appears on the back of the card. Museums will ask to see a second ID as proof of identification.
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Weekly syllabus

The European city from the Antiquity to the Medieval time

week 1
Sept. 5, Mon., class
The Classical language of architecture and the Antique
Cities: Etruscan Fiesole and Roman Florence
Buildings: Parthenon, Coliseum, Pantheon
Practical remarks: Shortcuts for urban analysis
journal: The religious center (Baptistery, Duomo, Campanile)

week 2
Sept. 12, Mon., class
The survival of architectural forms from Classical to Medieval
Cities: Rome and the Early-Christian, Constantinople and the Byzantine
Buildings: San Vitale in Ravenna, San Marco in Venice, Baptisteries and Cathedrals in Tuscany
Practical remarks: design, convention, style
journal: The political center (Palazzo Vecchio, Loggia dei Lanzi)
required: ZUCCONI 23-107

week 3
Sept. 19, Mon., class
Medieval architecture: Romanesque and Gothic aesthetics, techniques, style
Cities: Pisa, Lucca, Siena
Buildings: Santa Maria Novella, Santa Croce
Practical remarks: architectural types; longitudinal and central plans
journal: the devotional centers (Orsanmichele, Santissima Annunziata)
required: SUMMERSON 6-139

1400-1500: Renaissance architecture in Italy

week 4
Sept. 26, Mon., class
The Renaissance: historiographical idea and stylistic ideal
Cities: Rimini, Urbino, Mantua
Architects: Filippo Brunelleschi, Leon Battista Alberti, Giuliano da Sangallo
Buildings: Florentine Quattrocento buildings
Practical remarks: the basilica
required: JESTAZ 12-128
journal: early and late-medieval basilicas (San Miniato al Monte, Santi Apostoli, Santa Maria Novella, Santa Croce)

week 5
Oct. 3, Mon.
No class

1500-1560: Bramante, Michelangelo and Raphael in Rome and Florence

week 6
Oct. 10, Mon., class
Renaissance Rome and the patronage in architecture
Cities: Rome
Architects: Bramante, Michelangelo, Raphael
Buildings: Saint Peter’s, Roman churches and palaces
Practical remarks: the palace
journal: Brunelleschian basilicas (San Lorenzo, Santo Spirito)
required: BRUSCHI

week 7
Oct. 17, Mon., class
Michelangelo as an architect in Florence and Rome
Cities: Florence
Building: San Lorenzo, Capitoline Hill, Farnese Palace, St Peter’s
Practical remarks: the piazza
journal: Florentine Palazzi (Palazzo Medici, Palazzo Strozzi, Palazzo Ugliccioni)
required: ADAMS/NUSSDORFER, ACKERMAN

Oct. 21, Fri., site visit
Vasari’s Exhibition at the Uffizi (Make up for Oct. 3)

week 8 (Journals: due)
Oct. 24, Mon., class
Midterm test and discussion
week 9
Oct. 31-Nov. 6
Fall break

week 10
Nov. 7, Mon., site visit
Michelangelo’s legacy in architecture
Architects: Giorgio Vasari, Bartolomeo Ammannati, Bernardo Buontalenti
Buildings: Palazzo Pitti, Palazzo Grifoni
Cities: Florence, Arezzo, Siena
Practical remarks: the library
journal: a designed piazza (Santissima Annunziata)
required: HOPKINS 5-75

circa 1540-1580: Andrea Palladio and the Venetians

week 11
Nov. 14, Mon., class
Paper architecture: the age of the architectural treatises
Architects: Sebastiano Serlio, Jacopo Barozzi da Vignola, Andrea Palladio, Vincenzo Scamozzi
Cities: Venice, Bologna, Genoa
Practical remarks: the villa
journal: the library (Dominican library in San Marco, Laurentian Library in San Lorenzo)
required: HOPKINS 76-137

Renaissance architecture in Europe and the Mediterranean

week 12
Nov. 21, Mon., class
Palladio and the Palladianism
Architects: Jacopo Sansovino, Andrea Palladio, Michele Sanmicheli
Buildings: Churches and palaces in Venice, Vicenza, Verona
Cities: Venezia, Vicenza, Verona
Practical remarks: the royal palace
journal: the villa (Villa Medicea di Poggio a Caiano)
required: HOPKINS 138-209

week 13
Nov. 28, Mon., class
Renaissance architecture and nationalism
Architects: Mimar Sinan, Pierre Lescot, Inigo Jones
Buildings: El Escorial, Fontainebleau, Louvre
Cities: Istanbul
journal: the ducal residence (Palazzo Pitti, Boboli Gardens, Vasari Corridor)

Dic. 2, Fri., day-trip
Vicenza

Students presentations

week 14
Dic. 5, Mon., class
Student presentations

week 15
(Journals: due)
Dic. 12, Mon., class
Student presentations
Required readings

**Texts to be purchased at Paperback Exchange, Via delle Oche 4-red, Florence, [http://www.papex.it](http://www.papex.it)**

**HOPKINS**


**MACADAM**


**OXFORD DICT.**


**PENGUIN DICT.**


**SUMMERSON**


**Text to be given by the Instructor in pdf**

**JESTAZ**


**ZUCCONI**


**Essays be photocopied from the Course Reader at Villa Ulivi Library**

**BRUSCHI**


**ADAMS/NUSSDORFER**


**ACKERMAN**

Specialized Studies

**Ancient and Renaissance Treatises**


**General Architectural texts available at Villa Ulivi Library**


