Fall 2019 - City As Text: Florence

CAT- UF 9301

Tuesdays 10:30-13:15

Aula Capponi (Villa Colletta)

Class Description

Although the Italian peninsula has been the site of some of the oldest and most significant civilizations in Western history, the modern Italian state is relatively young, having been established only in 1861. Italy’s geographical and cultural complexities have ensured that regional identities throughout the country remain strong, to the extent that many Italians still identify closely with their more immediate social, cultural, and political traditions. Furthermore, Italy is positioned as a gateway of the Mediterranean world, making it both the center (if one views it from the shores of North Africa) and the periphery (if one views it from the countries bordering the North Sea) of Europe. The influence of foreign visitors to a country that welcomes nearly as many tourists each year (over 58 million in 2017) as its entire population (roughly 60 million) also exerts a significant influence on Italian society. In the tradition of the Grand Tour, this course will reference the region’s rich Classical, Medieval, and Renaissance histories, using the rise of modern tourism to frame the shaping of the economics, politics, culture, and social mores of Italy.

Florence in particular represents an exemplary context for studying Italian urban culture, both for its central geographic and political position on the Italian peninsula and for its status as one of the world’s premier sites of cultural heritage. City as Text: Florence will investigate the city from a number of interdisciplinary perspectives that will allow students to develop a nuanced understanding of the local, regional, national, and global forces that bring shape to the character of the city and, more generally, the country. To this end, we will visit a number of sites, such as markets, monuments and street corners in Florence in order to conduct fieldwork that will structure and inform our scholarly work. We will apply direct observation of these areas to examine critically-formed questions of place, space and identity with the ultimate goal of producing an innovative media research project that will locate Florence at the crossroads of local and global social, economic and cultural histories.

Instructor Details

Name: Scott Palmer
Email Address: snp1@nyu.edu
Office Hours: W 2:30-4:30 and by appointment
Villa Colletta Office Location: Ground Floor
Villa Colletta Office Extension: +39 055 5007 281

Desired Outcomes

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

● Understand theoretical conceptions of place.
● Develop an interdisciplinary understanding of the local, regional, national, and global forces that have shaped the character of the city.
● Engage the cultural and social practices of the city through firsthand
• experiences.
• Advance research skills and sharpen ability to analyze and interpret the
  surrounding environment.
• Develop a nuanced understanding of place as a contingent product of historical processes that contain multiple points of view.
• Began to use Italian language to engage in study and experiential learning.

Assessment Components

Class Participation (20%)

Regular participation is crucial to the successful completion of this course and thus active engagement in class discussions is mandatory. Reading assignments should be completed for the day indicated for that particular class session (i.e. if an assignment is scheduled for 9/10, read it before 9/10). Assigned readings form the basis for class discussion, so it is essential that each week’s assigned texts have been read. All group work produced in class should be saved in the course shared folder in Google Drive. Please refer to the NYU Classes course site for more detailed information on assignments for each class session.

Online Analyses (20%)

Online Analysis are short writing assignments (500 words) which will ask students to make connections between course concepts and the experience gained in the field. Each student must complete four analyses during the semester.

“Through the Lens” (30%)

A “Through the Lens” essay (1500 words) is required for this class, using your specific GLS concentration as a conceptual and methodological guide. Students are encouraged to write creatively and to incorporate other forms of media (images, video, music).

Final Project (30%)

The centerpiece of the final project will be a multimedia work (either an audio or VR360 piece) that develops an alternative itinerary (something different and unexpected) for visitors to and residents of Florence. In addition to the multimedia work, the project will consist of the following components: an introductory conference with the instructor; a project proposal (500 words); a 8-10 minute project presentation; and a critical reflective essay of no less than 1000 words, describing the process of producing the project and/or analyzing the concepts presented.

Grading Summary

Participation (20%), Online Analyses (20%), “Through the Lens” (30%), Final Project (30%)
Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

Assessment Expectations

• Grade A: The student’s work demonstrates an understanding of the subject that goes beyond assigned course readings. The student writes essays/exam questions that are an original synthesis of source materials, demonstrating the ability to evaluate source material critically. Written arguments are clear, well-organized and well-presented; oral presentations are concise, incisive and supplemented by appropriate visual materials. The student has distinguished himself/herself throughout the course of the semester for his/her contributions to class discussion.
- **Grade B**: The student’s work shows a clear understanding of assigned readings and materials covered in class. The student writes clear, well-organized and well-presented essays/exam questions; oral presentations are concise, incisive and supplemented by appropriate visual materials. The student is prepared in class and asks relevant questions.

- **Grade C**: The student’s work shows a basic understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. However, written and/or oral work is deficient in one or more of the following areas: clarity, organization or content. The student’s work is generally in need of improvement.

- **Grade D**: The student’s work shows occasional understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. Written and/or oral work is deficient in one of more of the follow areas: clarity, organization or content. The student does not participate in class discussion and has not frequented the instructor’s office hours.

- **Grade F**: The student’s work does not demonstrate understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. Written and/or oral work are either insufficient or are not submitted. The student appears unprepared in class and has not frequented the instructor’s office hours.

**Grading Guidelines**

A=94-100  
A minus=90-93  
B plus=87-89  
B=84-86  
B minus=80-83  
C plus=77-79  
C=74-76  
C minus=70-73  
D plus=67-69  
D=65-66  
F=below 65

**Grading Policy**

Please refer to Assessment Expectations and the policy on late submission of work.

**Academic Accommodations**

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see the [Moses Center](#) for further information.

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class are encouraged to contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at (212) 998-4980 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For more information, see [Study Away and Disability](#).

**Attendance Policy**

Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. **To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade.** Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.
For courses that meet once a week, one unexcused absence will be penalized by a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade. For courses that meet two or more times a week, the same penalty will apply to the number of class times over a single week.

**Excused Absences:**

In case of absence, regardless of the reason, the student is responsible for completing missed assignments, getting 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. The only excused absences are those approved by the Office of Academic Support; they are as follows:

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**Absence Due to Illness**

- If you are sick, please see a doctor. Contact the Office of Student Life for assistance.
- For absences that last for two or more consecutive days, a doctor’s certificate, “certificato medico” is required. The doctor will indicate in writing the number of days of bed rest required. Please note these certificates can only be obtained on the day you see the doctor and cannot be written for you afterwards.
- Absences can ONLY be excused if they are reported WITHIN 48 HRS of your return to class via the online [NYU Florence Absence Form](#).
- OAS will not accept a student email or telephone call regarding an absence due to illness
- OAS will only notify faculty of absences REPORTED on the ABSENCE FORM
- The Office of Student Life, when assisting you in cases of severe or extended illness, will coordinate with the Office of Academic Support to properly record your absences

**Due to Religious Observance**

- Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday
- Information regarding absences due to religious observance must be provided at least SEVEN DAYS PRIOR to the date(s) in question using the online [NYU Florence Absence Form](#).
- Please note that no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retroactively.

**Due to a class conflict with a program sponsored lecture, event, or activity**

- All students are entitled to miss one class period without any penalty to their grade in order to attend a lecture, event or activity that is sponsored by La Pietra Dialogues, Acton Miscellany or the Graduate Lecture series.
- Information regarding absences due to a class conflict must be provided at least SEVEN DAYS PRIOR to the date(s) in question using the online [NYU Florence Absence Form](#).
- Please note that no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retroactively.

Students with questions or needing clarification about this policy are instructed to contact a member of the Office of Academic Support located in Villa Ulivi or to email florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu

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**Late Submission of Work**

- All course work must be submitted on time, in class on the date specified on the syllabus.
- To request an extension on a deadline for an assignment, students must speak to the professor one week prior to the due date
- To receive an incomplete for a course at the end of the semester, two weeks before final exams, both the student and the faculty member must meet with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs to review the request and if granted, they must both sign an Incomplete Contract detailing the terms for completing missing coursework.

**Plagiarism Policy**

PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORM:
The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

In the event of suspected or confirmed cases of plagiarism, the faculty member will consult first with the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs as definitions and procedures vary from school to school.

**Writing Center**

The Writing Center, located in Villa Ulivi, offers you feedback on any type of writing, at any stage in planning or drafting; very rough drafts are welcome. Sign up for a consultation at the Writing Center’s website and submit your working draft or ideas at least six hours in advance to NYU Florence Writing Center. You can drop in for a consultation M-Th, but remember that appointments are given priority. Please also note that the Writing Center does not correct or “fix” your writing but prompts you to think and work. The aim is to create stronger writers in the long term, not necessarily perfect papers in the short term.

**Required Texts**

All assigned course content is available via this syllabus and NYU Classes.

Copies of each textbook are available for consultation and short term loans in the Villa Ulivi Library. Extra copies of some textbooks are also available for semester long loans. For more information on Books and Course Materials go here.

**Supplemental Texts(s)**

Texts that students are not required purchase to are available in the Ulivi Library or available online.

**Internet Research Guidelines**

The careful use of internet resources is encouraged and a list of recommended websites will be given. Failure to cite internet and other non-traditional media sources in your written work constitutes plagiarism.

**Additional Required Equipment**

N/A

**Class Assignments and Topics**

Please refer to the NYU Classes course site for more detailed information on assignments for each class session.

**Observing & Documenting the Bel Paese**

**Session 1: Tuesday, September 3**

*Constructing Italy: Ideas and Images*

Course Introduction and discussion of keywords

**Assigned Content:** Dickie *The Notion of Italy* Anderson *Imagined Communities* Image: *Panorama Italiana* (1861)

**Session 2: Tuesday, September 10**

*Observation & Documentation:* Conducting Fieldwork (Meet Downtown at the Oblate Library. Bring a notebook.)
Florentine History in Three Acts

Session 4: Tuesday, September 24
Florentine Spaces: Il Medioevo
Critical excursion in the historic center of Florence

Assigned Content: Download Hidden Florence app before meeting downtown (bring headphones). Bruni Panegyric to the city of Florence Milner The Florentine Piazza della Signoria as Practiced Place Image: Rosselli Map of Florence

Session 5: Tuesday, October 1
Florentine Spaces: Firenze Capitale & Risanamento

Assigned Content: Adamson Modernizing Florence Roeck Wonderful Light: A city at the dawn of the modern age Fei Florence After 1860 Lasansky Love Affair with Tuscany

Online Analysis #3 Due

Rethinking Travel & Tourism

Session 7: Tuesday, October 15
Consuming Italy: Markets, Harvests, Culture

Assigned Content: Miele & Murdoch The Practical Aesthetics of Traditional Cuisines Portinari Slow Food Manifesto Heltosky Epilogue to Garlic and Oil: Food and Politics in Italy

Online Analysis #4 Due

Session 8: Saturday, October 19
Critical Excursion to Orsigna

Assigned Content: Terzani Orsigna, Last Love
Viewing: Pan di Legno e Vin di Nuvoli

Session 9: Tuesday, October 22
Digital Storytelling & The Final Project

Assigned Content: Percy The Loss of the Creature Bishop Questions of Travel
Viewing: Augie’s Project
“Through the Lens” essay due 10/25

**Fall Break October 28 - November 3**

**Session 10: Tuesday, November 5**
*Italy & Tourism*
**Assigned Content:** Urry *Why Tourism is Important* Hom *Italian Montage* UNTWO *Overtourism?* Hardy *Sinking City*

**Session 11: Tuesday, November 12**
*Florence & Tourism*
**Assigned Content:** Verdicchio *Renaissanceland* Review site: *Firenze Turismo*
Popp *Positive and Negative Urban Tourist Crowding: Florence, Italy*
**Online Analysis #5 Due**

**Session 12: Tuesday, November 19**
*Fieldwork and Production for Alternative Itineraries*

**Session 13: Tuesday, November 26**
*Works-in-Progress Workshop*
**Assigned Content:** Project Proposal Due 11/25

**Session 14: Tuesday, December 3**
*Continue Audio/VR Shooting and Authoring*
Meet with Instructor

**Session 15: Tuesday, December 10**
*Project Presentations*
Final Project Portfolio Due

**Classroom Etiquette**

- Eating is not permitted in the classrooms. Bottled water is permitted.
- Cell phones should be turned off during class time.
- The use of personal laptops and other electronic handheld devices are prohibited in the classroom unless otherwise specified by the professor.
- We recycle! Please dispose of trash in the clearly marked recycle bins located throughout the on campus buildings.

**Required Co-curricular Activities**

- Critical Excursions Downtown (9/10, 9/24)
- Critical Excursion to Orsigna (10/19)
Suggested Co-curricular Activities

Suggested optional co-curricular activities will be announced in class and/or via email by the professor throughout the semester.

Your Instructor

Scott Palmer has been teaching courses on writing and cultural studies at New York University Florence since 2005. His research interests focus on nineteenth-century literature and visual culture, especially the intersection between mobility, race and image-making. Dr. Palmer has both a BA and an MA in English from the University of Oregon as well as an MA in Anglo-American Literary Relations from University College London. He received his PhD in American Literature from Tufts University.