Course description
This course introduces to the many villas surrounding the city of Florence. It aims at illustrating their origins and history from the Middle-Age to the twentieth century and at giving a broadest understanding of the Florentine villa as a unique phenomenon involving many disciplines, such as architecture, history, economy, social history, history of art, and landscape art.

Requirements
This course is run through a limited number of class meetings and many site visits. Please note that these latter require the energy to walk on the hills of Florence in the morning.

Attendance is mandatory: more than two unexcused absences will affect your grade. If you intend to observe a religious holiday, you must notify the professor at the beginning of the semester. As the class frequently takes place on site, students are invited to make sure that they know exactly where each class is meeting. Site visits are closely timed, therefore no exceptions will be made for later arrivals.

During site visits, students must listen carefully to the professor, gather around her, and keep staying nearby all the time. Students are also strongly suggested to bring their own cameras and sketchbooks and to take notes and pictures. After each site visit a worksheet on the villa in question will be distributed: this must be filled in at home and returned at the next class. Returning worksheets late will affect the grade. Worksheets will be checked and considered as “participation”; they will help in the final evaluation process.

During class meetings students are expected to participate in discussions and to demonstrate that they made the assigned readings.

Required readings

Readings from other sources will be available for students in a course packet in the villa Ulivi library.

Assigned readings must be read for the day in which they appear in the syllabus: they are not intended for the next class.

Exams
For the midterm exam students are required to do research in the North-Western area of the city of Florence (between Florence and Sesto Fiorentino) and to compare old and modern maps of that area (maps can be purchased at Copisteria Giusti 22, via Giusti 22). Students will be asked to write a paper of at least 10 pages including sketches and photos. Please note that this paper is an academic writing, therefore notes and bibliography are expected and required.

The final exam will consist of a multiple choice quiz (100 questions) on the topics illustrated during the semester.

Grade breakdown
| Attendance: | 15% |
| Participation: | 15% |
| Midterm paper: | 30% |
| Final quiz: | 40% |

Contacts and Office hours
E-mail: ggs4@nyu.edu
Office hours: Tuesday 13-15 by appointment
Sept. 7 – in class – Introduction
What is a Villa? Modern and ancient villas. The ideology of country life in the Florentine culture and society.

Sept. 14 – Site visit – Villa La Pietra: a British Interpretation of a Renaissance Villa
(Meeting point: classroom)
Readings:
- Textbook: appendix pp. 204-207

Sept. 21 – Site Visit – Museo “Firenze com’era” (via dell’Oriolo 24):
(Meeting point: in front of the Museum, 9 a.m.)
Economy and territory: The city and the villas. The Florentine landscape. Cartography.
Readings:
- Textbook: chapter 1 and chapter 2

Sept. 28 – Site Visit – area from Quarto to Sesto + villa Corsini
(Meeting point: private bus in front of gas station, via Bolognese, 9 a.m.)
Readings:
- Textbook: pp. 119-191

Oct. 1 – Friday Academic Field Trip – Villa Medici at Poggio a Caiano and Villa Medici at Artimino. A New Typology for Ducal Retreats
(Meeting point: private bus in front of the gas station via Bolognese, 9 a.m.)
Readings:
- Textbook: pp. 55-61, Appendix pp. 196-197

Oct. 5 – in class – The Typology of the Villa
Readings:
- Textbook: Chapter 3
- Van der Ree; Smiensk; Steenbergen. Italian Villas and Gardens. Amsterdam: Prestel, 1992. pp. 10-34, 61-70

Oct. 12 – Site Visit – Villa Medici at Castello: the Glorification of the Ducal Family
(Meeting point: private bus in front of the gas station via Bolognese 9 a.m.)
Readings:
- Textbook: pp. 74-80, 171-72
Oct. 19 – Site visit – Boboli Garden: Nature and Art within the Walls
(Meeting point: in front of the entrance of Palazzo Pitti, Piazza Pitti at 9 a.m.)

MID-TERM PAPER DUE
Readings:
- Textbook: pp. 63-94
- Van der Ree; Smiensk; Steenbergen. *Italian Villas and Gardens*. pp. 36-41

FALL BREAK OCT. 25-29

Nov. 2 – Site Visit – Villa Petraia: from the Dukes to the King
(Meeting point: private bus in front of the Gas station via Bolognese, 9 a.m.)
Readings:
- Textbook: pp. 168-169
- Van der Ree, etc. *Italian Villas and Gardens* pp. 71-74

Nov. 9 – Site visit – Villa Guicciardini Corsi Salviati at Sesto Fiorentino: The Revisited Baroque
(Meeting point: private bus in front of gas station, via Bolognese, 9 a.m.)
Readings:
- Textbook: pp. 198-201

Nov. 16 – Site visit – Villa Paolina: A Rare Conversion into Neo-classical Style
(Meeting point: private bus in front of gas station, via Bolognese, 9 a.m.)
Readings:
- Textbook: pp. 185-186

Nov. 23 – Site visit – Villa Gamberaia. A Great Effect on a Small Scale
(Meeting point: private bus in front of gas station via Bolognese 9 a.m.)
Readings:
- Textbook: pp. 202-203
- Van der Ree; Smiensk; Steenbergen. *Italian Villas and Gardens*. pp. 54-58

Nov. 30 – Site visit – Villa Stibbert: An Example of a Romantic Pastiche
(Meeting point: in front of the gate of the villa, via di Montughi, 9 a.m.)
Readings:
- Textbook: Chapter 5

Dec. 2 – Site visit – Villa Le Balze in Fiesole: The Refuge of a Modern Philosopher
(Meeting point: piazza Mino in Fiesole, bus n. 7, 9 a.m.)
Readings:
- Textbook, pp.208-209

Dec. 14 – FINAL EXAMS