

V43.9301.001

European Architecture of the Renaissance



Instructor: Jane Zaloga (jz34@nyu.edu); cell phone: 333/30.38.340
Office hours: By appointment

Villa Ulivi
Tues 3-5:45

Description: This course will examine major aspects of European architectural design and theory of the period from 1400-1580. This period, often referred to as the Renaissance, was one of great innovation and ingenuity, in which Brunelleschi solved the problem of the dome of Florence Cathedral, Alberti revived the art of architectural writing, Michelangelo created inventive designs for popes and prelates, and Palladio set the standards for villa design. We will look at the influential works and wide-ranging careers of these and other architects of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, setting the works within their broader historical (i.e. political, religious, intellectual, cultural, etc.) contexts, and paying particular attention to the relationship between architectural practice and its theoretical framework. While the course is structured in a relatively chronological manner, we will also take a broader, topical approach to the material. Topics will include the development of architectural designs, modes of architectural representation, architectural interest in antiquarianism, the proliferation of architectural writing, as well as the relationship between architects and their patrons, issues of function, etc.

Methodology: The course will meet from 3 until 5:45 on Tuesdays. We will meet, as per the course schedule included in this syllabus, either in the classroom or directly on site in the center of Florence, at locations noted on the schedule. The format of the class meetings will include lectures and discussion.

Requirements and Grading:

Class Participation (10%)

Attendance and participation in all class meetings and field trips are required. More than one absence that is not medically excused or that is not necessary for required religious holidays will result in a lowering of your grade. Students who miss class for *any* reason are responsible for completing site visits on their own, and for obtaining class notes, handouts, assignments, and any information about class changes.

NYU in Florence provides you with a museum card, which grants you free, unlimited admission to many of the state museums in Florence. It is required that you bring this card and another form of photo ID for every site visit for this class. Failure to bring the card or other ID or to arrive in a timely manner will require that you arrange for your own admission into the museum or monument. You may have to use this card for your assignments as well.

Analysis Assignments (20%)

Several two-page graphic, written, and/or oral analyses are required. These projects will not be graded on the quality of your graphic representation, but rather on the quality of the thought behind your analyses. Evaluation will take into account style, organization, content, use of sources (where applicable), and originality.

Research Paper (20%)

An 8-page research paper is due on **April 14**. A topic proposal and preliminary bibliography is due on **February 24**.

Examinations: Mid-Term (25%) and Final (25%)

A mid-term and a final examination will be given as noted on the course schedule. Exams may consist of a combination of slide identifications, short answers, multiple choice, and/or essays.

Readings:

The required text is **Peter Murray, *The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance***, available at the Paperback Exchange in Via delle Oche 4r. Additional readings, as noted on the syllabus, are available as library reserves, in JSTOR, and/or in a **course pack [CP]** that can be ordered at COPISTERIA ELETTRA, Via San Gallo 68 R. All readings should be completed before each class so that you may fully participate in discussions.

European Architecture of the Renaissance**Course Calendar:**

- Week 1**
20 Jan Class Lecture: **Introduction and Brunelleschi and the “Genius” of the Architect**
Reading: Murray, Chapter 1
Goy, “The Origins of the City” [CP]
- Week 2**
27 Jan *Site Visit:* **Early ‘400 Florence: San Lorenzo, Cupola** (*meet in front of church of S. Lorenzo*)
Reading: Murray, Chapter 2
Manetti, *Life of Brunelleschi* [CP]
Fanelli, chapters from *Brunelleschi’s Cupola* [CP]
- Week 3**
3 Feb Class Lecture: **Leon Battista Alberti: Theory and Practice** **(Assignment #1 due)**
Reading: Murray, Chapter 3
Alberti, *On the Art of Building in Ten Books* (look through) [library reserve]
Alberti, Introduction to *On the Art of Building* [CP]
Wittkower, “Alberti’s Approach to Antiquity” [CP]
Tavernor, Chapters 6, 7, 8 from *Alberti and the Art of Building* [library reserve]
- 6/7 Feb**
Fri/Sat **REQUIRED 2-day Field Study Trip to MANTUA, VERONA, and VICENZA**
Reading: Murray, Ch. 7 (pp.151-60); Ch. 10 (183-189); Ch. 12 (210-223); Ch. 13
Hollingsworth, “Mantua” from *Patronage in Renaissance Italy* [CP]
Forster and Tuttle, “The Palazzo del Te” [CP]
- Week 4**
10 Feb *Site Visit:* **Quattrocento Palaces** (*meet in front of Palazzo Medici-Riccardi, Via Cavour 1*)
Reading: Murray, Chapter 4 (pp. 63-81)
Goldthwaite, “The Florentine Palace...” [CP]
Kent, “Palaces, Politics, and Society...” [CP]
Friedman, “Palaces and the Street...” [CP]
- Week 5**
17 Feb Class Lecture: **The Architecture of the Courts: Pienza, Urbino, and Milan**
Reading: Murray, Chapter 4 (pp.81-93); Chapter 5
Smith, “*Varietas* and the Design of Pienza” [CP]
Hollingsworth, chapters from *Patronage in Renaissance Italy* [CP]
- Week 6**
24 Feb Class Lecture: **Theorizing the Ideal City and Mid-Term Review** **(PROPOSAL DUE)**
Reading: Excerpts from architectural treatises (to be distributed)
Garin, “The Ideal City” [CP]
Ettlinger, “The Emergence...” [CP]
Ackerman, “Architectural Practice...” [JSTOR]
- Week 7**
3 Mar **MID-TERM EXAM (meet in classroom)**
Reading: review all readings

