Class Description:

As a prerequisite, students must have basic knowledge of digital photography and the course P&I 1 (Digital). A DSLR or a mirrorless camera is required.

City, territory, and architecture have been, from the beginning of photography, privileged objects for its practice. Photography has become a tool to strengthen the understanding of architecture, to highlight aesthetic and design ideas and to critically interpret the space.

This class focuses on architectural photography and the photography of urban space, both in relation to their historical roots and contemporary practice. Florence offers a perfect environment to develop one’s artistic talent while learning the art of photography and discovering the secrets of one of the most fascinating cities in the world.

Assignments are designed to help explore options for technical control as well as visual experimentation and individual style. Keeping in mind the inseparability of photographic technique and expression, students are expected to articulate their particular choices in relation to the overall conceptual approach of the projects. Critiques of assignments are important to the progress of each individual in the class, to help verbalize visual concepts, and to learn to see actively. The final exam consists of the presentation of a portfolio of photographs and an artist’s statement.

Students are expected to work on their projects to develop an aesthetic and coherent photographic language and a personal approach to the photographic medium in a different environment. An emphasis is also placed on refining craft in relation to ideas, and to research on an individual basis since it is crucial in developing an artistic practice.

The course includes lectures, shooting sessions, discussions, and critiques of the photographs. Make sure you always refer to the syllabus or ask your professor if in doubt, as there might be some exceptions or changes throughout the semester.

Labs: all computers on campus are equipped with Adobe Photoshop. You also have access to the Digital Lab and the Darkroom Lab at Fondazione Studio Marangoni in Via San Zanobi 32R, Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Please note that access to FSM’s Labs is granted upon availability. To ensure your space/time slot make a reservation via email with Elisa Perretti (elisa.perretti@gmail.com) FSM tech assistant and cc your instructor Alessandra Capodacqua (ac95@nyu.edu). Always make sure you receive a confirmation email before coming to FSM, as access could be declined due to previous reservations made by other classes/students.

Classroom Location: Fondazione Studio Marangoni is located in downtown Florence - San Lorenzo area, three blocks away from Piazza San Marco, where the #25 bus stops. FSM has two locations: fsmgallery in Via San Zanobi 19R (classroom and library), and FSM in Via San Zanobi 32R (digital lab). Remember that Florence has a singular address system with two number sequences running side by side. Residences have a number in black or blue, while businesses have numbers in red. The R in "San Zanobi 19R" and "San Zanobi 32R" stands for red.
FSM's library is located in Via San Zanobi 19R. It is entirely dedicated to photography, with over 4,000 books. It is open Monday to Saturday from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. 70% of the books are in English, and NYU students are encouraged to make use of it.

Instructor Details:
Name: Alessandra Capodacqua
NYUGlobal Home Email Address: ac95@nyu.edu  capodacqua@nyu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 5:30-6:30 pm or by appointment
Villa Ulivi Office Location: N/A
Villa Ulivi Phone Number: +39 055 5007 300

Desired Outcomes:
[Modified by the instructor]
On completion of this course, students should:

- Have improved their ability to express their ideas clearly through their pictures and related written work.
- Have improved their understanding of the opportunities to independently produce photographs in a broad range of styles.
- Have developed a sensitivity to the importance of light and composition in creating a photograph.
- Recognize works by the principal protagonists of the history of architectural photography as well as for the work of contemporary architectural photographers.
- Have worked towards a cohesive body of work to be shown in the final exhibition and final critique.

Assessment Components
[Modified by the instructor]

- Attendance, Participation, Discussions and Oral Presentations: 20%
- Photo Assignments: 30%
- Mid-term | Written assignment: 15%
- Final Exam: 35%

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

Course grades are based on active class participation, assignments, essays, quantity and quality of energy and imagination invested in each assignment, execution of photographic theory in practice, oral presentation and final review. Students are expected to attend all classes; absences will affect course grade. Tardiness to class is not tolerated as it disrupts the class in session.

Photographs and essays must be uploaded to the correct Google Drive folder before 8:00 am of the date indicated on the syllabus. Submissions received after 8:00 am are treated as late. Handwritten papers are not accepted.

Students are responsible for weekly readings, videos, tutorials, and resource material indicated in the bibliography for each class. Throughout the semester there will be a set time for discussion on readings and videos.

Assessment Expectations:
[Modified by the instructor]

Grade A/A-: The student’s photographic work demonstrates an excellent understanding of the subject matter. The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers structured arguments in her/his work. The student writes comprehensive essays/exam questions and her/his work shows strong evidence of critical thought. The student has distinguished himself/herself throughout the course of the
semester for coming to class and reviews on time and prepared, for her/his contributions to class discussion, and for asking questions and commenting on peers' work.

**Grade B+/B:** The student’s work shows a clear understanding of the assignments and materials covered in class. The candidate has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

**Grade B-/C+/C:** The student’s work shows a basic understanding of the subject treated in the assignments and covered in class. The work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

**Grade C-/D+/D:** The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research. The student does not participate in class discussion.

**Grade F:** The student’s work does not demonstrate understanding of the subject treated in assignments and subjects covered in class. There is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

**Criteria for evaluating photographs and assignments:**

- **Images are filed on time and as instructed** - Properly named. Filed by deadline. In the correct folder. The required number of images.
- **Images are technically proficient** - Images are properly exposed. The subject is clearly focused. Images are properly sized, and color corrected (as needed).
- **Images fulfill assignment requirements** - Images clearly illustrate the assignment. Images are carefully composed. Images complement each other.
- **Effort and creativity** - The images are creative, well-executed and compelling. Student contributes to reviews and group discussions.

**Grading Guidelines**

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**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:**

**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 the academic program.
- 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.

**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 and Videos:

*Architecture Photography Tips*

*The architect & the photographer* (radio recording).


*Video interview with Brian Matiash, Architectural Photographer*

*Gerry O’Leary Architectural Photographer*


*Julius Shulman - A film about the greatest architectural photographer*

*Tutorials on LinkedIn Learning (Lynda.com):*

Jan Kabili - *Enhancing an Urban Landscape Photo with Lightroom and Photoshop* (1h 24m).


Richard Klein - *Enhancing Exterior Architectural Photos* (2h 20m).

Richard Klein - *Insights on Architectural Photography* (45m).


Ben Long - *Foundations of Photography: Black and White* (3h 3m).
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. More information on Books and Course Materials.

**Supplemental Texts:**


**Websites for videos on architectural photography:**

[Jersey Segal Photography – Creative Architecture Photography](#) (watch all videos).

**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:**

- DSLR or mirrorless camera with manually adjustable aperture and speed.
- Memory cards (SD, miniSD, Compact Flash, etc).
- Cord to connect camera to computer or card reader.
- Laptop (possibly equipped with Photoshop or similar software).
- External hard drive (preferably) or flash drive (at least 16GB) or any Cloud account to backup work.

**Class Assignments and Topics:**

**Session 1 – September 3**

Introduction to the course and the syllabus: course requirements and objectives, texts, materials, resources [LinkedIn Learning (Lynda.com)]. Google Drive course folder and how to file assignments. Visit to FSM facilities. Q&A.

**Introductory assignment due September 10. This assignment is NOT graded:**

- **Research work:** 5 photographs that are relevant to you as a representation of the landmarks of the architecture of Florence before arriving. It is allowed to use images from the internet; it is mandatory to cite all sources;
- **Shooting and writing:** 5 photographs and a 300-word essay that describe your new neighbourhood in terms of architecture and architectural details; **focus exclusively on the street you live in**.

Photographs and essay must be uploaded to the Google Drive folder “Photography of Architecture FA19>Assignments>Introductory Assignment” by September 10 before 8:00 am. **Downsize your images to jpg format before uploading.**

**Session 2 – September 10**

Review of Introductory Assignment.

Lecture: The Alinari Brothers.
Assignment #1: Photographing Florence, work inspired by the Alinari’s photographs. 10 photographs must be uploaded to the Google Drive folder “Photography of Architecture FA19>Assignments>Assignment #1” by September 17 before 8:00 am. Downsize your images to jpg format before uploading.

Readings and Videos Session 2:
Maria Antonella Pelizzari, *Photography and Italy*, Chapter 1, pages 10-30.

Architecture Photography Tips

Session 3 – September 17 – Class held on NYU Florence Campus as indicated in the Class Assignments
Critique and work evaluation for Assignment #1.
Lecture: Architectural photography, composing the image. Perspective, point of view and vanishing point, composition.
Lecture: Modern and Contemporary Architecture in Florence.
Assignment #2 on Modern and Contemporary Architecture in Florence: this is a double assignment. More details given during class.
1. The Santa Maria Novella Train station and its surroundings. Shooting session during class time on September 24 - Session 4.
2. The new Tram Lines T1-T2: how they have modified the city and its surroundings. Shooting session on September 29 - Session 5. This is a mandatory site visit.

Each assignment is composed of 6 photographs (total 12). Both assignments must be uploaded to the Google Drive folder “Photography of Architecture FA19>Assignments>Assignment #2” by October 1 before 8:00 am.

Readings and Videos Session 3:
Adrian Schulz, *Architectural Photography: Composition, Capture, and Digital Image Processing*, Chapter 2 - Paragraphs 2.3-2.5 - 16 pages.
Maria Antonella Pelizzari, *Photography and Italy*, Chapter 3, pages 45-63.
Gerry O'Leary Architectural Photographer

Session 4 – September 24
Shooting session for Assignment #2 at the SMN Train Station and its surroundings. Meet in front of the pharmacy of the SMN Train Station (under the green cross) at 2:30 pm. Be on time! This class ends at 5:00 pm.

Readings and Videos Session 4:
Richard Klein - *Insights on Architectural Photography* (45m) on LinkedIn Learning (Lynda.com).

Session 5 - September 29
Mandatory site visit: shooting session to document the Tram Lines T1-T2. Meet in front of the pharmacy of the SMN Train Station (under the green cross) at 9:30 am. Be on time! This class ends at 2:00 pm.
**Session 6 – October 1**

Critique and work evaluation for Assignment #2.

Lecture: Italian architectural photographers.

**Assignment #3:** Natural landscape and man-made landscape: this assignment includes photographs of parks in Florence - Boboli and Cascine - and abroad. 10 photographs must be uploaded to the Google Drive folder “Photography of Architecture FA19>Assignments>Assignment #3” by October 8 before 8:00 am.

**Readings and Videos Session 6:**


Video interview with Brian Matiash, Architectural Photographer.

**Session 7 – October 8**

Critique and work evaluation for Assignment #3.

**Assignment on Villa La Pietra:** The Villa, its interiors and the gardens. Shooting session on October 15 during class time.

**Readings Session 7:**


**Session 8 – October 15**

Shooting session on campus at Villa La Pietra. Meet in front of the main entrance of Villa La Pietra at 2:30 pm. Be on time! 10 photographs (5 indoor and 5 outdoor) must be uploaded to the Google Drive folder “Photography of Architecture FA19>Assignments>Assignment on VLP” by October 22 before 8:00 am.

**REMINDER** for **Mid-term**: written assignment. A 1200-word research paper on one of the photographers mentioned in the assigned book chapter in *Peripheral visions* by Maria Antonella Pelizzari. Details given during class. Papers must be uploaded to the Google Drive folder “Photography of Architecture FA19>Assignments>Mid-term” by October 22 before 8:00 am.

**Readings Session 8:**

**Mid-term reading:** Maria Antonella Pelizzari, *Peripheral visions* - pdf - 13 pages.

**Session 9 – October 22**

Critique and work evaluation for Assignment on VLP.

**Mid-term:** submission of written assignment. A 1200-word research paper, accompanied by photographs, on one of the photographers mentioned in the assigned book chapter in *Peripheral visions* by Maria Antonella Pelizzari. Papers must be uploaded to the Google Drive folder “Photography of Architecture FA19>Assignments>Mid-term” by TODAY before 8:00 am.

**Readings and Videos Session 9:**


Julius Shulman - *A film about the greatest architectural photographer*

**Session 10 – November 5**

General review of work done during the semester. Bring a selection of your best 20 photographs from all previous assignments. Discussion about photographs and how to create a cohesive body of work.

**Readings and Videos Session 10:**
Adrian Schulz, *Architectural Photography: Composition, Capture, and Digital Image Processing*, Chapter 4 - Paragraphs 4.3-4.4-4.5-4.6 - 48 pages.

*The architect & the photographer* (radio recording).

**Session 11 – November 12 – Class held at FSM Digital Lab**

Lecture: Contemporary architectural photographers.

Session on Photoshop problem-solving. Bring photographs you need advice about (RAW files, not JPGs).

**Readings Session 11:**

- Maria Antonella Pelizzari, *Photography and Italy*, Chapter 8, pages 150-169.
- Graham Clarke, *The Photograph*, Chapter 4, pages 55-73, and Chapter 5, pages 75-99.

**Session 12 – November 19**

Lecture: Gabriele Basilico, his work and approach.

**Assignment for the Final Exam:** research on two different topics. On November 26 each student will have 5 minutes to present the two topics in class. Each topic (project) has to include at least 3 photographs and a 100-word text, and has to be uploaded to the Google Drive folder “Photography of Architecture FA19>Assignments>Two Topics for Final” by November 26 before 8:00 am.

**Session 13 – November 26 – Class held on NYU Florence Campus as indicated in the Class Assignments**

Presentation of research on two different topics for the Final Exam. No project change allowed after today.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR THE FINAL EXAM:** 70% of the portfolio must be composed of new and/or unused photographs shot during the semester. 30% of photographs presented during previous assignments are allowed.

**Class continues** with the lecture at 6:00 pm: *The Acton Photograph Archive Digitization Project - Villa La Pietra*. For this event students must individually RSVP at lapietra.reply@nyu.edu.

**Session 14 – December 3 – Class held at FSM Digital Lab**

Final portfolio preparation. Individual reviews of work done. Upload photographs to the Google Drive folder “Photography of Architecture FA19>Assignments>Temporary folder for Final Exam”.

Digital post-production or shooting session to complete final project.

December 4 time TBC - Villa Sassetti - Farewell party.

**Session 15 – December 10**

The Final Exam consists of a final portfolio presentation composed of 10 to 15 photographs and a 500-word artist statement. For more information on how to write an artist statement, read the online article [How to Write an Artist Statement and Why It’s So Important](#).

Photographs and statement must be uploaded to the Google Drive folder “Photography of Architecture FA19>Assignments>Final Exam” by TODAY before 8:00 am.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR THE FINAL EXAM:** 70% of the portfolio must be composed of new and/or unused photographs shot during the semester. 30% of photographs presented during previous assignments are allowed.
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! So keep it green! Please dispose of trash in the clearly marked recycle bins located throughout the on campus buildings.

Required Co-curricular Activities

**September 29** - Mandatory site visit: shooting session to document the Tram Lines T1-T2. Meet in front of the pharmacy of the SMN Train Station (under the green cross) at 9:30 am. Be on time! This class ends at 2:00 pm.

**November 26** - *The Acton Photograph Archive Digitization Project* - Villa La Pietra. For this event students must individually RSVP at lapietra.reply@nyu.edu.

Suggested Co-curricular Activities

**September 24** - *Forced labour* - Talk with photographers Stefania Prandi and Lina Pallotta.

**September 30** - *Growing up Black in Salvini’s Italy and being able to laugh about it. A Conversation with rapper Tommy Kuti.*

**December 10** - *The Outsiders: Refugees in Europe since 1492.*

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

Your Instructor

**Alessandra Capodacqua**, born in Naples, lives and works in Florence.

A graduate in *European Languages and Literatures*, Alessandra is a photographer, an educator and a curator of exhibitions. As an artist, she works with a variety of devices, from pinhole, toy, digital cameras, to mobile. She constantly expands her artistic development by experimenting with new digital technologies and alternative printing processes.

She teaches photography in Italian and in English for national and international schools and colleges.

As a curator, Alessandra has developed exhibitions of photography and has participated to the creation of festivals of photography in Italy and abroad. Her most recent assignment is to curate and promote a private collection of photography that includes the works of more than 70 Italian women photographers and artists.

She is regularly invited for portfolio reviews: her task is to help photographers organize and expand their artistic production; she also gives photographers feedback for improving their career. Her area of interest ranges from landscape photography, to self-portraiture, documentary and street photography, visual storytelling. She often acts as juror for International Photo Awards and Prizes and is a regular contributor to the [LensCulture](https://www.lensculture.com) website.

Her photographs are shown nationally and internationally. Her works are in private and public collections, including the *Galleria degli Uffizi* in Florence and the *Maison Européenne de la Photographie* in Paris.

[Alessandra Capodacqua](mailto:alessandra.capodacqua@nyu.edu)