



FALL 2019 - Culture of the City -Italian Urban Life
SCA-UA 9620 F01 / ITAL-UA 9403 F01
Monday 9am-11 45am
Pisa Classroom

Class Description:

There are not official NYU prerequisites for this class

This course explores urban experience in Italy from two distinct perspectives, the historical and the theoretical.

We will start with a historical overview of the evolution of the urban environment in Italy. This overview will extend from ancient and Roman times to the (re-)birth of towns by the year 1000, when various towns identified themselves around their piazzas, churches, streets, and within their walls, to the evolution of Italian towns in modern times, the changes in size and organization, the emergence of new spaces and new functions, and the emergence of new institutions such as Cafes, Museums, Train Station. The focus of these first lectures will be on the city of Florence.

The second dimension of the course, which will be articulated at two levels, will reflect upon the way in which we conceptualise, represent and construct discourses about cities in modern times. Firstly, we will make an exploration of some texts, concepts that have contributed to shaping our way to understand modern cities. We will also explore the various possible positioning of the self towards the city, the “seerer”, the “*Flaneur*” the Stroller”, and we will investigate how the bodies of these subjects is then constituted. Secondly, we’ll go through some discourses and representations of the city: maps, views, panoramas points, travel literature, tourist guides and narrative literature (e.g. detective novel) will provide with quite different ways to tell of (and relate to) the experience of the Italian and specifically Florentine urban environment.

Instructor Details:

Name: Davide Lombardo, Ph.D, Lecturer

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Office Hours: Mondays 11 45-12 45

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Desired Outcomes:

On completion of this course, students should:

- Have improved their ability to think critically, engage in complex reasoning and express their thoughts clearly through their written work
- Have improved their understanding of the methodologies of cultural and metropolitan studies
- Have mastered a basic understanding of how to research questions in cultural and metropolitan studies
- Recognize works by the principal protagonists of the Italian Urban Studies and understand why they are significant for Cultural and Metropolitan Studies

Assessment Components

Attendance, attention and active contribution are strongly requested and will count for a substantial part of the final grade. Students are required to read the literature indicated in the bibliography for each class and to give a class presentation during the course. Handouts and topics taught in class will be included in the tests. A midterm exam and a final test will provide with about 50% of the final grade.

- **-Participation: 10%**
- **-Midterm Exam: 25%**
- **- Term Project, 25%** This semester's theme for project is Florence / Matera heritage and modernity. Project (individual or in groups will consist of a PPT (powerpoint) presentation, or a video (expected length around 3 minutes) focusing on chosen features, a space, an episode or a historical, or contemporary character. An advanced (quasi final) work in progress version of the project will be presented in class on December 2nd. Final version of the project to be handed in on Friday December 6th at 11pm, via email or via drive.
- **-Oral Presentation 15 minute length: 15%** (on a class reading, can be substituted with a written paper 3 pages long)
- **-Final Test: 25%**

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

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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: [Please use this standard text]

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 Text(s):

All text for the course are provided via 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. More information on [Books and Course Materials](#).

Supplemental Texts(s):

Texts that students are not required to purchase are in NYU-FL Library or available on line

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:

Session 1 - September 2nd

Introduction to the course- Roman Florence

Session 2- September 9th

Medieval City states

Benevolo, *The European City*, Oxford, Blackwell, 1995, ch. 1 and 2, pp.1-74.

Session 3-September 16th

Medieval Squares and Modern cities Florence and the modern age. XIX and XX century

-Camillo Sitte: *The Art of Building Cities*, New York, 1945, Ch 1-6, pp1-39

-Kevin Lynch, *The image of the city*, Cambridge (USA), The MIT Press, 1960, Ch. 3, The image of the city and its elements, pp.46-90

Session 4 - September 23rd

Site visit Florence P.zza ss. Annunziata and the Museo dell'Opificio delle Pietre Dure.

Meeting point : P.zza SS. Annunziata. At 9

Session 5- September 30th

Site visit to city centre, S Lorenzo, Giubbe rosse.

- **October 7th no class**

Session 6 - October 14th

Ideal Cities, the Quattrocento debate,

G. Argan, *The Renaissance City*, Braziller, 1969

Richard Sennett, *Flesh and Stone*, New York and London, Norton, 1994 ch. 7, Fear of Touching pp. 212-251

Session 7 - October 21st

Midterm test

FALL BREAK - *****

Session 8- November 4th

NO class (students can collect their midterm test, during class time, details TBA)

Session 9 – November 11th

- Florence 2010 an assessment, towards a modern city.

Meeting point train station, at 9 am.

Firenze 2010, Institutional document from the Florence town council, English version.

Session 10 – November 18th

Contemporary city renewal: the role of events

Nicholas Dines, Contested claims to public space : The re-imagining of Naples and the case of Piazza Plebiscito, in Rober Lumjley and John Food, eds, *Italian cityscapes*, Exeter, Exeter U.P. 2004, pp. 114-126

Dianne Tod: Barcelona, the Making of a cultural city, in Malcolm Miles, Tim Hall, eds. *The city cultures reader*, Routledge,

FIELD TRIP NOVEMBER 22nd-24th FRIDAY-SUNDAY MATERA (Session 11-12)

handout TBA

Readings: Carlo Levi, Christ stopped at Eboli, ch 2 and ch 10.

Rota, Matera : The History of a Town, Ch 7, The contemporary town 154-245

Session 13 - November 25th

De-briefing Matera

The modern city reviewed

Georg Simmel, The metropolis and mental life in Neil Leach, ed., Rethinking Architecture, pp 65-79

Session 14 – December 2nd

, Term project presentations,

Term project final deadline Friday December 6th, 11 pm

Session 15 – December 9th

Final Test

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 23rd P.zza ss. Annunziata and the Museo dell'Opificio delle Pietre Dure.

September 30th Site visit to city centre, S Lorenzo, Giubbe rosse.

November 11th, Modern transportation, train and tramway

November 22nd-24th friday-sunday, Filed Trip to Matera

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

Davide Lombardo, Ph.D., holds a doctorate in History and Civilization from the European University Institute (Italy), his researches focus on European Urban Culture from the 18th to the 20th century. Holds an Italian Degree on Modern Italian history and a French Degree on Modern French history. Has studied extensively at Edinburgh, York (UK), Grenoble (France), Pisa and Florence (Italy), New Haven and Los Angeles (USA).