City As Text: Florence

Course Number
CAT-UF 9301 F01

Brightspace course site https://brightspace.nyu.edu/d2l/home/200105

Fall 2022

Please contact florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu if you have trouble accessing the Brightspace site.

Syllabus last updated on: 9/1/2022

Lecturer Contact Information
Scott Palmer
Office Hours: W 10AM-11:30AM and by appointment

Units earned
4

Course Details
● Class meeting time: T 10:30AM-1:15PM

● All times are Central European Time (CET). Please note that in Europe, Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, October 30th 2022 and clocks will be set one hour earlier.

● Location: Aula Allori (Villa Sassetti)

● COVID-related details: In the interest of protecting the NYU Florence community, we are closely following CDC and local guidance around COVID-19 and adjusting our recommendations and policies accordingly. Your health and well-being are our top priority.

Course 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.

Course Objectives

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 Brightspace 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). Additional guidelines can be found here.

**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 10-15 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. Additional project guidelines can be found here.

**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.

**Attendance Policy**

Studying 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. 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 expected promptly when class begins. Attendance will be checked at each class meeting. Unexcused absences may be penalized with a two percent deduction on the participation component of the final grade for every week’s worth of classes missed. Four unexcused absences in one course may lead to a Fail in that course.

As soon as it becomes clear that you cannot attend a class, you must inform your professor and/or the Academics team by e-mail florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu immediately (i.e.
before the start of your class). Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, Moses Center accommodations, religious observance or emergencies. For two or more consecutive days of absences due to health reasons, a doctor’s note must be submitted in person or by e-mail to the Academics team.

*Please note that remote attendance will only be considered by the Office of Academic Support if for health reasons you are unable to attend class in person after two consecutive days of absence.*

Regardless of whether an absence is excused or not, it is the student’s responsibility to catch up with the work that was missed by getting notes from a classmate or meeting with your faculty member during office hours.

Exams, tests and quizzes, oral presentations, and/or important deadlines that are missed due to illness always require a doctor’s note as documentation.

For a detailed explanation of the global attendance policy, see the NYU Florence Attendance Policy Flowchart.

The Global Attendance Policy is posted in the Academic Policies tab in Brightspace, on the [NYU Florence Student Portal](#) website, and is posted around campus. After you have read and reviewed the policies, if there is anything that still needs further clarification or raises a question, please reach out to [florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu](mailto:florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu).

**Final exams**

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Should there be a conflict between your final exams, please bring this to the attention of the Academics team. Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave the site before the end of the finals period.

**Late Submission of Work**

Please refer to Academic Policies in Brightspace.

**Required Text(s)**

All readings are available online on the NYU Brightspace course site. Hard copies of some textbooks are available for consultation and semester-long loans in the Villa Ulivi Library. Please email [florence.library@nyu.edu](mailto:florence.library@nyu.edu) to reserve a copy. To request scans from books on reserve please fill out the [Ulivi Library Book Scan Form](#).
Please refer to the Brightspace course site for more detailed information on assignments for each class session.

Observing & Documenting the *Bel Paese*

**Session 1: Tuesday, September 6**  
*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 13**  
*Observation & Documentation: Conducting Fieldwork* (Meet Downtown at the *Oblate Library*. Bring a notebook.)  
**Assigned Content:** Didion *On Keeping A Notebook*  Pereg *The Street, The Town, Space*  Geertz *Thick Description*  Lynch *Image of the City*  Mumford *What is a City*  
**Additional Resources:** *Folklife and Fieldwork: An Introduction to Cultural Documentation* (Library of Congress)  *Oxford Handbook of Oral Histories*  
Online Analysis #1 Due 9/18

**Session 3: Tuesday, September 20**  
*Digital Storytelling: Working with Audio*  
**Assigned Content:** Michel De Certeau *Spatial Stories*  Danella Zyman & Janet Cardiff *Excerpt from The Walk Book*  Janet Cardiff *The Missing Voice* (1999)  Ouditt & Polezzi *Italy as Place and Space*  
Ways of Hearing *Space*

Florentine History in Three Acts

**Session 4: Tuesday, September 27**  
*Florentine Spaces: Il Medioevo*  
Critical excursion in the historic center of Florence (meet in front of the Apple Store in Piazza della Repubblica at 10AM)  
**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*  
Online Analysis #2 Due 10/2

**Session 5: Tuesday, October 4**  
*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*  
**Additional Resources:** *Florence: Capital of the Kingdom of Italy, 1865-1871*  
Online Analysis #3 Due 10/9
Session 6: Tuesday, October 11
Florentine Spaces: Firenze Fascista
Gilmour Fascist Italy  Lasansky Dictators as Tourists  Gino Bartali  McKonnon Villa Triste
Viewing: Hitler visits Florence  Liberation of Florence  Florence, the Consul and Me
Online Analysis #4 Due 10/16

Rethinking Travel & Tourism

Session 7: Tuesday, October 18
Digital Storytelling & The Final Project
Assigned Content: Percy The Loss of the Creature  Bishop Questions of Travel
Viewing: Augie’s Project

Session 8: Tuesday, October 25
The Grand Tour
Assigned Content: Encyclopedia “Travel”  Hom “Codes of Travel: Italy’s Guidebook Tradition”
Goethe “The Pilgrim Strides Out Busily”  “Rome”  Starke “Excerpt from Travels in Europe”  Lassels
“Excerpt from Voyage of Italy”  Campbell “A Journey to Florence”
“Through the Lens” essay due 11/6

Session 9: Tuesday, November 8
Italy & Tourism
Assigned Content: Urry Why Tourism is Important  Hom Italian Montage
Online Analysis #5 Due 11/13

Optional Session: Wednesday, November 9 3:45-4:45PM
Slow Food Production (Terra Firma Firenze with Dr. Olivier de Maret)

Session 10: Tuesday, November 15
Florence & Tourism
Assigned Content: Verdicchio Renaissanceland  D’Eramo The Tourist City  UNESCO Historic Center of Florence  Review site: http://www.firenzeturismo.it/en/

Session 11: Saturday, November 19
Critical Excursion to Orsigna
Assigned Content: Terzani Orsigna, Last Love
Viewing: Pan di Legno e Vin di Nuvoli
Assigned Content: Project Proposal Due 11/20

Session 12: Tuesday, November 22
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
Session 13: Tuesday, November 29

Sustainability & Tourism
UNTWO Overtourism? Hardy Sinking City Dastgerdi and De Luca Resetting Cultural Heritage Policy and Management Practice - Moderating Mass Tourism in Post-Pandemic Times

Online Analysis #6 Due 12/4

Session 14: Monday, December 12 (Make Up Day)

Project Presentations

Session 15: Friday, December 16

Project Presentations
Final Project Portfolio Due 12/19

Your Lecturer
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.

Academic Honesty & Plagiarism
As the University's policy on "Academic Integrity for Students at NYU" states: "At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others." Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.

NYU takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form, and may check your assignments by using TurnItIn or another software designed to detect offenses against academic integrity.

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. It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:
NYU Academic Integrity Policies and Guidelines

NYU Library Guides

Inclusivity Policies and Priorities

NYU’s Office of Global Programs and NYU’s global sites are committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion. In order to nurture a more inclusive global university, NYU affirms the value of sharing differing perspectives and encourages open dialogue through a variety of pedagogical approaches. Our goal is to make all students feel included and welcome in all aspects of academic life, including our syllabi, classrooms, and educational activities/spaces.

Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays

Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent due to religious observance should notify their lecturer and Office of Academic Support in writing via e-mail one week in advance. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Academics Office will schedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays.

Pronouns and Name Pronunciation (Albert and Zoom)

Students, staff, and faculty have the opportunity to add their pronouns, as well as the pronunciation of their names, into Albert. Students can have this information displayed to faculty, advisors, and administrators in Albert, NYU Brightspace, the NYU Home internal directory, as well as other NYU systems. Students can also opt out of having their pronouns viewed by their instructors, in case they feel more comfortable sharing their pronouns outside of the classroom. For more information on how to change this information for your Albert account, please see the Pronouns and Name Pronunciation website.

Students, staff, and faculty are also encouraged, though not required, to list their pronouns, and update their names in the name display for Zoom. For more information on how to make this change, please see the Personalizing Zoom Display Names website.

Moses Accommodations Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented and registered disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Student Accessibility (+1 212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance. Accommodations for this course are managed through NYU Florence.

Bias Response
The New York University Bias Response Line provides a mechanism through which members of our community can share or report experiences and concerns of bias, discrimination, or harassing behavior that may occur within our community.

Experienced administrators in the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) receive and assess reports, and then help facilitate responses, which may include referral to another University school or unit, or investigation if warranted according to the University's existing Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy.

The Bias Response Line is designed to enable the University to provide an open forum that helps to ensure that our community is equitable and inclusive.

To report an incident, you may do so in one of three ways:

- Online using the [Web Form (link)]
- Email: bias.response@nyu.edu
- Phone: 212-998-2277
- Local Telephone: 055 5007277