



# Spring 2020 - Gardens and Landscapes of Tuscany

ARTH-UA9653.G1

Tuesday 11:00am-12:00pm

Le Vedute, Villa La Pietra

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## **Class Description:**

This class will provide the student with an awareness and appreciation of gardens and landscapes of Tuscany from early Roman precedents to the 21st century. The design of the Italian landscape and garden is studied as a means of cultural communication--an expression of a society's values, philosophy and understanding of the environment. Emphasis is placed on historic precedent, sustainable design techniques utilized in Italian gardens and classic Renaissance design concepts. The format includes lectures, class presentations and field trips.

## **Instructor Details:**

Name: Nancy A. Leszczynski

NYUGlobalHome Email Address: nl47@nyu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00am-12:00pm or by appointment

Villa Ulivi Office Location: Office 307

Villa Ulivi Phone Number:+39 055 5007 300

For fieldtrips refer to the email with trip instructions and trip assistant's cell phone number.

## **Desired Outcomes:**

On completion of this course, students should:

- Have improved their ability to think critically and creatively, engage in complex reasoning and express their thoughts clearly through their written work, presentations, and graphic communication.
- Have improved their understanding of Italian history, establish the use of a design vocabulary, and improve their ability to present complex concepts in class presentations.
- Recognize and analyze classic works of Renaissance and Renaissance Revival garden design.
- Apply historic garden design techniques to current environmental challenges.

## **Assessment Components**

Class Participation—5% BONUS

3 Assignments 15%: each composed of: Graphic analysis—8 pages, 2 oral presentations each 5 minutes in length

Midterm Test 25%: (approximately 7 pages in length)

Final Test 25%: (approximately 5 pages in length)

Travel journal 5%: (approximately 35 pages in length)

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

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**Assignments:** The **3 assignments** explore the historic evolution of garden design in Italy.

- Assignment #1 creates a garden design vocabulary--terms such as pergola or limonaia which the student defines graphically and in written format and presents the terms in class.
- Assignment #2 is a design analysis of an Italian Renaissance villa,-- the students chooses a villa located in Italy, preferably one they can visit, and then analyzes the layout, geometry and axes of the villa.
- Assignment #3 is a design of a sustainable garden of student's choice based on a poem, song, work of art, or book passage.

The evaluations of the assignments are based on 1/3 graphic content—the student coordinates images and text in response to the project. 1/3 written content—succinct descriptions of applicable terms, garden analysis, or design assignments. The written version should include references to all sources used, regardless of whether they were also assigned readings from this syllabus or electronic resources. Failure to properly cite your sources constitutes plagiarism (see below); if you are uncertain as to how to properly cite sources, please do not hesitate to see me during office hours or to contact me via email.

1/3 presentation—students are evaluated on their ability to present their ideas in an organized, enthusiastic and succinct manner.

**Exams:** The midterm and final exams are a comprehensive evaluation of lectures, assignments, readings, site visits, and field trips. The exams consist of short answer essays relating to the historic context of the class and two to three longer essays. The essays require responses in well-constructed complete sentences and identifying the patron and architect and historic evolution of the garden. The final is comprehensive, although greater weight is given to material covered in the second half of the course. Both the midterm and the final are carefully timed: if you have a recognized learning disability for which you are entitled to extra time, please speak to someone in the Office of Academic Support immediately to ensure that we can make proper arrangements for testing.

**Journal:** A weekly sketchbook/journal is required drawn from readings, lectures and field trips. The journal is part of the tradition of the Grand Tour sketching or note keeping as a means of understanding the art, architecture and landscape of Italy.

### **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

## **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.academicssupport@nyu.edu](mailto:florence.academicssupport@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 Text(s):

Assigned readings are to be found online, through links available on our course website. A reader available on line and in the Villa Ulivi library. A dictionary that we will create in class of design terms.

## Supplemental Texts(s):

- Ackerman, James, *The Villa*, Princeton, 1990.  
Atlee, Helen, *Italian Gardens*, Toronto, 2006.  
Barlow Roger, Elizabeth, *Landscape Design*, New York, 2001.  
Boults, Elizabeth and Sullivan, Chip, *An Illustrated History of Landscape Design*, New York, 2010.  
Chatfield, Judith, *A Tour of Italian Gardens*, New York, 1988.  
Farrar, Linda, *Ancient Roman Gardens*, London, 1998.  
Francis Mark and Hester, Randolph Jr., *The Meaning of Gardens*, Cambridge Press, 1990  
Graves, Michael, *Images of a Grand Tour*, Princeton, 2005.  
Lazzaro, Claudia, *The Italian Renaissance Garden*, New York, 1990.  
Leszczynski, Nancy, *Planting the Landscape*, New York, 1998.  
Masson, Georgina, *Italian Gardens*, Woodbridge, 2011. (new edition)  
Moore, Charles, Mitchell, William, J., *The Poetics of Gardens*, Cambridge, 1993.  
Origo, Benedetta, Livingston, Morna, Olin, Laurie, Hunt John Dixon, *La Foce*, Philadelphia, 2001.  
Ramsey, Alex, *Italian Gardens*, London, 1989.  
Shepherd and Jellicoe, *Italian Gardens of the Renaissance*, Princeton 1993. (Reprint)  
Sullivan, Chip, *Garden and Climate*, McGraw-Hill, 2002.  
Thacker, Christopher, *History of Gardens*, London, 1985.  
Van der Ree, Smienk, and Steenbergen, *Italian Villas and Gardens*, Netherlands, 1992.  
Wharton, Edith, *Italian Villas and Their Gardens*, New York, 1904.

## Internet Research Guidelines:

The careful use of internet resources is encouraged and a list of recommended websites will be given.

[Bard College Historic landscape site](#)

[The Cultural Landscape Foundation](#) for American sites

Failure to cite internet and other non-traditional media sources in your written work constitutes plagiarism.

## **Class Assignments and Topics:**

### **Session 1 – Feb. 4, 2020**

Course Introduction: The importance of landscape design throughout history and its significance today. Explain course objectives.

Hand out Assignment #1:

Garden Design Dictionary:

1. Graphic design,
2. Written text
3. 3 -5 MIN. PPT presentation

Due: February 18, 2020 - 15% of grade

Reading Assignment: James Ackerman THE VILLA, p.10-34  
Michael Graves IMAGES OF THE GRAND TOUR, p. 5-9.

### **Session 2- Feb. 11, 2019**

Lecture: Ancient Greek and Roman Gardens and Landscapes

Discuss 1<sup>st</sup> assignment

Reading Assignment: Greek and Roman Gardens

Elizabeth Barlow Rogers LANDSCAPE DESIGN, Greek Gardens: 58-63, Roman  
Gardens:83-95

Reading for Assignment #1:

Nancy A. Leszczynski PLANTING THE LANDSCAPE 1-9, 81-106

### **Session 3 – February 18, 2020**

Review Assignment #1

Reading Assignment: Medieval Gardens: Ackerman, 35-62, Barlow Rogers 119-123,  
Leszczynski 14-21

### **Session 4 – February 25, 2020**

Lecture: Medieval and Early Humanist Gardens

Reading Assignment: Ackerman 63-82, Barlow Rogers 125-132

**OPTIONAL: February 26, Wednesday - 12:00 pm - 1 :45 pm - Villa La Pietra (NYU Community-only)**

#### **Villas, Garden, and Nature: a dialogue to discover**

The villa and the garden of Villa La Pietra are parts of a single whole, each reflecting with the other through thematic correspondences and views. A tour and a discussion with both the collection and garden managers will focus on the naturalistic subjects present in the collection and will illustrate the origin of the dialogue in the Renaissance and Neo Renaissance complex of Villa La Pietra. (including light lunch).

**Session 5- March 3, 2020**

Site visit: Palazzo Medici Riccardi – Gozzoli Chapel

Reading Assignment: MEDICI MOVIE Part 1

**Session 6- March 10, 2020**

Lecture: Renaissance Garden in Tuscany

Assignment #2: Villa Analysis:

1. Graphic Analysis
2. PPT Presentation
3. Written Analysis

DUE: APRIL 7, 2020 - 25% OF YOUR GRADE

Reading for Assignment #2: Leszczynski Chapter 3

HAND JOURNALS IN NEXT WEEK – THEY ARE GRADED DURING THE EXAM  
STUDY FOR MIDTERM

**Session 7- March 17, 2020**

MIDTERM

TRAVEL WITH YOUR JOURNALS

**Session 8 – March 24, 2020**

SPRING BREAK

**Session 9 – March 31, 2020**

Lecture: Renaissance Garden 1500-1700

Reminder: Assignment #2 Due April 7<sup>th</sup>

**Session 10 – April 7, 2020**

Review Assignment #2

Work on Journals

**Session 11 – April 14, 2020**

Site Visit Villa Castello and Villa Petraia – Utens Paintings

Reading Assignment: Rogers 385-388, David Ottewill THE EDWARDIAN GARDEN 141,  
159-163, LA CASA E IL CONTADINO, p. 7-14

**Session 12 – April 21, 2020**

Lecture: Renaissance Revival Garden and the Cultural Landscape

Assignment #3 The Garden - Due May 7th

Reading Assignment: Rogers, 186-191

### **Session 13 – April 28, 2020**

Site Visit: Villa Gamberaia

Work on Assignment #3

Field Trip: Chianti May 2

### **Session 14 – May 5, 2020**

Review Assignment #3

Study, turn in journals

### **Session 15 – May 12, 2020**

FINAL EXAM

## **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**

\*SATURDAY, March 7, FIELD TRIP: Fiesole: Roman Theater Villa Medici in Fiesole and Villa Le Balze,

\*SATURDAY, May 2<sup>th</sup>: All day field trip to Chianti region—Villa Geggiano, Castello di Celsa, Villa Cetinale

## **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**

Nancy A. Leszczynski, Landscape Architect, received her MLA from the University of Virginia in 1991. Leszczynski received a Bachelors of Science in Horticulture from Michigan State University in 1978. Ms. Leszczynski teaches courses in art history, including "Gardens and Landscapes of Tuscany" at NYU in Florence. She has also taught at University of California at Berkeley, Florida State University and Special programs in Siena. Her book PLANTING THE LANDSCAPE, 1998 is used as part of the class reader. Ms Leszczynski has lived in the Chianti for 25 years with her husband, Dr. Charles Ewell, Professor of Classical Archeology and their son, Addison. As a landscape architect Leszczynski designs gardens in Italy, Europe, and the United States. She specializes in Botanic Gardens, School gardens and residential landscapes.