Arts and Cultures Towards the Crossroads

Course Number
ACC-UF 9102 F03

Instruction Mode:
In-person

Brightspace course site
https://brightspace.nyu.edu/d2l/home/164442

Spring 2022

If you are enrolled in this course 100% remotely and are not a Study Away student for NYU Florence, please make sure that you’ve completed the online academic orientation via Brightspace so you are aware of site specific support structure, policies and procedures. Please contact florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu if you have trouble accessing the Brightspace site.

Syllabus last updated on: 25 January 2022

Lecturer Contact Information
Elisa Biagini
after class and by appointment

Prerequisites
Arts and Cultures across Antiquities

Units earned
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Course Details

- Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00pm to 1:15pm
- All times are Central European Time (CET) Please note that there is a gap in when Daylight Savings Time (DST) begins in Europe and the U.S. In the U.S., DST begins on Sunday, 13 March 2022 when clocks will be set 1 hour forward. In Europe, DST begins Sunday, 27 March 2022.

- Location: Rooms will be posted in Albert before your first class.

- Remote Participants: Your instructor will provide you with the Zoom link via NYU Brightspace.
COVID-related details: In the interest of protecting the NYU Florence community, we are closely following CDC guidance around COVID-19 and adjusting our recommendations and policies accordingly. Your health and well-being is our top priority.

Course Description:

The course addresses literature, architecture, visual arts and music as expression of human creativity, exploration of the real and the possible, memory of human history, quest for beauty and the divine from the 700s to the 1600s. The lectures, the class debates, and assignments aim at presenting the subtle correspondences between historical reality, ideas, emotions and artistic expression within one cultural paradigm and in an intercultural dialogue. The discourse on the technical aspects of artistic creations and the circulation of motives and symbols will be tightly interwoven with topics like the nexus between the ideals of human excellence, moral values and the divine, the approach to love, life and death, gender and religious difference. In practical terms, the course aims to develop your critical, analytical, and interpretive skills through attentive reading of texts and viewing of art works, combined with open, engaged, and interactive discussion. Our Tuscan location gives us the advantage of being able to study many of these works and traditions at exceptional sites.

Course Objectives:

On completion of this course, students are expected to:

- Engage in complex reasoning making good use of their critical capacities and express their thoughts clearly through their written work.
- Master a basic understanding of how to research literature and visual arts, identifying patterns, ideas, styles.
- Recognize works belonging to the cultural paradigms discussed in class and understand why they are significant, addressing their ethical, mnemonic, inquisitive, metaphysical and aesthetic dimensions.
- Grasp the complexity of the historically documented and analytically identifiable interrelatedness of various cultures, the circulation of motives, symbols, ideas.
- Develop compare-contrast abilities.
- Refine their sense of beauty by resourcefully applying theoretical knowledge to the works of art under study and interpreting their own aesthetic experiences outside class.

Assessment Components

- Attendance and Participation: 20%
- 2 Essays (1 art history + 1 literature; 4 pages each): 20%
- Midterm Exam: 25%
- Oral Presentation (Power Point slide show): 10%
- Final Exam: 25%

(EXAMS:
- art history questions + the analysis of a work of art
- an articulated answer regarding one or more aspects of a literary text)

You are expected to attend class in person or remote synchronously. Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.

Attendance Policy
In order to keep each other safe, if you are not feeling well, we encourage you to remain in your residence and, if possible, attend class remotely. Please make sure to inform your professor in advance so that they can turn on Zoom. Remote attendance is counted as regular attendance. You will not be marked absent.

For a detailed explanation of the global attendance policy, see the NYU Florence Present vs. Absent Flowchart.

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

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.

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 to reserve a copy. To request scans from books on reserve please fill out the Ulivi Library Book Scan Form.
Class Assignments and Topics:

Session 1 –

Jan 27
Introduction to the course: topics and methodology.

Session 2

Feb 1
Byzantine civilization
READING: Benton-Diyanni Ch. 7 (Byzantine and Islamic civilizations) pp. 271-273

Feb 3
Islamic civilization + discussion about 1001 Nights and Rumi

Session 3

Feb 8
The early Middle Ages
READING: Tang poets (Li Bai, Du Fu and Bai Juyi)

Feb 10
Chinese civilization + discussion about Tang poets
READING: Ch. 9 (Early Chinese and Japanese civilizations) pp.311-313+ Basho

Session 4

Feb 15
Japanese civilization + discussion about The Tale of Genji and Basho
READING: ch. 11 (The Early Middle Ages and the Romanesque) pp. 358-361

Feb 17
Romanesque culture + discussion about Song of Roland and Marie de France
READING: ch. 12 (The Gothic and late Middle Ages) pp. 395-396

Session 5 –
Feb 22
Gothic culture + discussion about St Francis

READING: ch. 12 (The Gothic and late Middle Ages) pp. 397-399
Feb 24
Intro to Dante + discussion Inferno 1

*Make up class: Feb 25, 9:45am Santa Maria Novella (meet in front of the church)

Session 6-
March 1
Dante- oral presentations (details in class): Inferno 5-26-33
March 3
Dante- oral presentations: Inferno 34+Purgatorio 1+ Paradiso 1

Session 7-
March 8
Art essay due
Midterm review
March 10
MIDTERM
READING: Boccaccio pp. 84-103+286-290 (Day 5-Story 5)

Session 8-
Spring Break
Session 9 –
March 22
Intro to Boccaccio +discussion
READING: Ch.12 (the Gothic and the late Middle Ages) pp.441-447+ PETRARCA (Sonnets XII-XIV-XXX)

March 24
Discussion about Petrarca and Christine de Pizan

Session 10 –
March 29
Early Renaissance in Italy
READING: Ch 13 (The Renaissance and Mannerism) p. 52+58
March 31
Renaissance and Mannerism in Italy + discussion about Michelangelo’s and Colonna’s poetry

Session 11 –
April 5
Explorations
April 7
Renaissance in northern Europe
READING: Shakespeare’s sonnets

Session 12 –
April 12
Intro to Shakespeare: theater and poetry
April 14

Shakespeare Oral Presentation (details in class): Hamlet

**Session 13 –**

April 19

Shakespeare Oral Presentation: Tempest

April 21

NO CLASS

**Session 14 –**

April 26

Baroque art

READING: ch. 15 (The Baroque Age) pp. 196-203

April 28

Baroque literature: discussion about Milton, Donne and Bradstreet

READING: ch 15 (The Baroque Age) pp. 194-196+ Don Quixote pp. 117-124

**Session 15 –**

May 3

More Baroque literature: discussion about Moliere and Cervantes

May 5

Final Review

**Session 16 –**

May 10

Literature essay due
Reading day

May 12

Final exam

**Required Co-Curricular Activities**
Santa Maria Novella
Bargello museum

**Your Lecturer**

Elisa Biagini lives in Florence, Italy, after having taught and studied in the US for several years (Ph.D. Rutgers University). She has published eight poetry collections, most recently *Filamenti* (Einaudi 2020). Her poems have been translated into many languages, and she has published editions of her poetry in Spain, France and the US ("The guest in the wood", Chelsea editions, 2013 - “2014 Best Translated Book Award”; “The plant of dreaming”, Xenos books, 2017; “Close to the Teeth”, Autumn hill books, 2021). A translator from English (of Alicia Ostriker, Sharon Olds, Lucille Clifton amongst others), she has published an anthology of contemporary American poetry, *Nuovi Poeti Americans* (Einaudi, 2006) and she has been invited to the most important international poetry festivals. She teaches Creative Writing-Poetry, Travel Writing, Literature and Art History: [www.elisabiagini.it](http://www.elisabiagini.it)

**Academic Honesty & Plagiarism**

As the University's policy on "[Academic Integrity for Students at NYU](http://example.com)" 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 offences 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:
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 email 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](#)
- Email: bias.response@nyu.edu
- Phone: 212-998-2277
- Local Telephone: 055 5007277