



Culture of the City

Course Number

ANTH-UA 9088 F01

ITAL-UA 9403 F01

SCA-UA 9620 F01

Instruction Mode:

In-person

Brightspace course site<https://brightspace.nyu.edu/d2l/home/161098>**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.academicssupport@nyu.edu if you have trouble accessing the Brightspace site.

Syllabus last updated on: 31 January 2022

Lecturer Contact Information

TBA

Prerequisites There are not official NYU prerequisites for this class

Units earned

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Course Details

- Tuesday from 1:30pm to 4:15pm
- 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

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 “seer”, 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.

Course Objectives

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

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, 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 either **Urban spaces and dwellers under stress OR Modern Florence. Project (individual project 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 theme.**
- **- Oral Presentation 15 minute length: 15%** (on a class reading, or a topic or a city, to be agreed with instructor)
- **-Final Test: 25%**

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

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.academicssupport@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](#).



Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)

[Enter supplemental readings that cover your entire course - e.g. reference works, standard works - that are available either in our NYU Brightspace or electronically via Bobst Library. Texts that refer to a particular topic may be better placed under the individual session dealing with that topic, marked as supplemental reading.]

Session 1 – February 1st

Introduction to the course- Roman Florence

Session 2- February 8th

Medieval City states

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

Session 3-FRIDAY February 11th

Medieval Squares and medieval Florence

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

Session 4 - February 15th

Ideal Cities, the Quattrocento debate and Renaissance Florence

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

-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 5- Febraury 22nd

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,

Session 6- March 1st

The modern city reviewed.

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

Michel De Certeau, Walking in the city , in Graham Ward, ed., *The Certeau Reader*, Oxford, Blackwell, pp. 97-150

review for midterm test

Session 7 March 8th,

Midterm test



SPRING BREAK - March 14th - March 20th

Session 8 March 29th

City, diseases and control in Historical Perspective

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

Session 9 March 30 REMOTE Hours TBC

Genoa, Ferrara and other Italian cities

Readings TBC

Session 10 April 5th

Site visit Florence TBC

P.zza ss. Annunziata and medieval Florence.

Meeting point :Piazza Ss Annunziata

Session 11 April 12th

Site visit TBC

City centre, S Lorenzo, Giubbe rosse.
meeting in front of San Lorenzo square
readings and handout TBA

- Session 12 April 19th

Site visit TBC

- Flood of Florence

Meeting in Piazza Ciampi or Santa Croce TBC

13 April 26

Florence modernization and nationalization

Fei, Gobbi Sica, Sica, Florence : *an outline of urban history*, pp. 127-152

readings to be updated

Session 14 - May 3



Term project due Friday May 10th, 11 pm

Session 15 - May 10th

Final Test
Modalities TBC

Your Lecturer

Davide Lombardo, Ph.D., Lecturer at NYU Florence, 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). In 2020 and 2021 was Visiting Assistant Professor Faculty Fellow at NYU Shanghai.

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 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:

[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 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 \(link\)](#)
- Email: bias.response@nyu.edu
- Phone: 212-998-2277
- Local Telephone: 055 5007277