

C.S.U. International Program in Florence

Fall Semester 2015/16

ART 406 - FLORENTINE ARCHITECTURE

Prof. Marco Cianchi mcianchi1@gmail.com

Class time: Monday 8.30-11.15

Office hours: Monday 11.30-13.30 by appointment

Course Description

This course provides an account of the urban history of Florence and the stylistic development of its architectural typologies. The discussion of Florence's architecture includes churches, houses, government palaces. All introduced and compared with the help of slides in the classroom then analyzed on site in order to offer the unvaluable experience of the actual monuments.

Tentative schedule

Legenda: (C)=meet in the classroom ; (S)=meet on site (underlined); *=fee

NOVEMBER

- 2 Introduction to the course. History, urban development, architecture of Florence (C)
- 9 Baptistry, Tower Houses, Cathedral, S.M. Novella* (S)
- 16 NO CLASS TODAY- CSU ROME FIELD TRIP**
- 23 The career of Filippo Brunelleschi (C)
- 30 Brunelleschi's architecture I: Ospedale degli Innocenti , Rotonda degli Angeli, San Lorenzo* (S)

DECEMBER

- 7 Brunelleschi's architecture II: Santa Croce-Cappella de' Pazzi*, Santo Spirito (S)
- 14 MID-TERM EXAM (10AM)

JANUARY

- 4 NO CLASS TODAY. Make-up on Jan. 22 (details to be announced)**
- 11 Leon Battista Alberti. The house of the Florentine merchant & his villas (C)
- 18 Town Palaces: Medici, Strozzi, Rucellai & Cappella del Santo Sepolcro* (S)
- 22 FRIDAY (replaces Jan. 4 class): Medici Chapels, Laurentian Library*(S) TBA**
- 25 Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo (C)

FEBRUARY

- 1 Final Exam Review
- 8 -11 FINAL EXAM –exact day and time to be announced**

Bibliography

Text book

Peter Murray, *The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance*, Thames & Hudson (last enlarged ed. 1981, reprinted several times; easy to find used).

Supplementary readings

H.A. Millon, V. Magnago Lampugnani (ed.), *The Renaissance from Brunelleschi to Michelangelo*, exh. cat., Venezia 1994, Bompiani Editore.

Of the above catalogue see in particular, in the suggested order:

1. J. Ackerman, *The Regions of Italian Renaissance Architecture*, p. 319.
 2. A. Bruschi, *Religious Architecture in Renaissance Italy from Brunelleschi to Michelangelo*, p. 123.
 3. C.L. Frommel, *Living "all' antica": Palaces and Villas from Brunelleschi to Bramante*, p. 183.
 4. H. Gunther, *The Renaissance of Architecture*, p. 259.
 5. N. Adams, L. Nussdorfer, *The Italian City 1400-1600*, p. 205.
 6. O.M. Ungers, *Ordo, fondo et mensura: the Criteria of Architecture*, p. 307.
- See also Part Two, the Works, p. 425.

Other instruments and readings

N. Pevsner, J. Fleming, H. Honour, *A Dictionary of Architecture*, London 1966.

J. Summerson, *The Classical Language of Architecture*, London 1963 (for the **midterm** see its **glossary**).

R. Wittkower, *Architectural Principles in the Age of Humanism*, N.Y. 1971.

Reference books

J. Ackerman, *Palladio*.

J. Ackerman, *The Architecture of Michelangelo*.

E. Battisti, *Brunelleschi. The complete work*.

F. Borsi, *L. B. Alberti. The complete work*.

A. Bruschi, *Bramante. The complete work*.

G. Fanelli, *Firenze architettura e città (2 voll. text+plates)*

J. Gadol, *Leon Battista Alberti: universal man...*

R. Goldwaith, *The building of Renaissance Florence*.

Heydenreich, Lotz, *Architecture in Italy 1400-1600*.

C. Pedretti, *Leonardo Architect*.

Vitruvius, *The Ten Books of Architecture*.

J. White, *Art and Architecture in Italy 1250-1400*.

Exams

MID TERM

Part I. Identify and comment 3 slides in fifteen minutes (Weight 20%).

For each slide write: name, place, date of the work; name of the architect; a short comment.

Part II. Explain five architectural names or terms in fifteen minutes (Weight 20%).

Among those in the studied chapters of your text book and in the glossary of J. Summerson, *The Classical Language of Architecture*, London 1963.

FINAL

Part I. Identify ten slides in ten minutes (Weight 30%).

Comprehensive test, with emphasis on the second half of the course. Same system as for the midterm. Comment not required.

Part II. Discuss 2 topics in one hour (Weight 30%)

Typical questions: describe a work; compare works or architects; list works by one or more architects; list works as part of a series; explain one of the class leading themes; report important names or dates; comment monuments we have visited together.

Chapters and/or pages in P. Murray, *The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance*, to study for the final exam (for the mid-term exam study 1. and 2.)

Introduction, pp. 7-13

1. Romanesque and Gothic in Tuscany, pp. 15-30
2. Brunelleschi, pp. 31-50
3. Alberti, pp. 51- 62
4. Palace Design in Florence..., pp. 63-83 (including Pienza); pp. 88-93 (Urbino, Palazzo Ducale); pp. 102-104 (S.M. delle Carceri)
5. Milan: Filarete, Leonardo, Bramante, pp. 105-120 (all chapter)
6. Bramante in Rome: St. Peter's, pp. 121- 142 (all chapter)
7. Raphael and Giulio Romano, pp. 151-157 (only Palazzo Te)
9. Michelangelo, pp. 171-182 (all chapter)
12. Florentine Mannerists: Palladio, pp. 207-217 (including Teatro Olimpico, Vicenza; not included Palladio churches)
13. Villas, p. 224; pp. 229-236 (Medici and Palladio villas)

Course fees

Text book, 20 Euro (or less if second-hand).

Admission fees: Santa Maria Novella (5Euro); Basilica di San Lorenzo (4,5Euro); Santa Croce & Cappella Pazzi (4Euro); Cappella del Santo Sepolcro (3Euro); Laurentian Library (free or exhibition fee ??).

“3-Hour” Attendance Policy

“3 – Hour” Attendance Policy 2015-2016 (for classes that meet once a week for 3 hours)

Attendance to all CSU courses is mandatory. One unexcused absence is allowed during the semester but more than one unexcused absence will lower your grade as follows (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or emergencies): **TWO** unexcused absences, lowers by 1.5 letter grades (i.e., B to C-); **THREE** unexcused absences, lowers by 3 letter grades (i.e., A to D). More than **THREE unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.**

In order not to disrupt the class, punctuality is required. Students are expected to be in class at the beginning of the class hour; any delay exceeding ten minutes will be considered an absence.

Dates of mid-term and final exams **can not** be changed for individual travel plans or personal needs. Students should take note of the dates and hours of the midterm and final exams and plan their trips after the last exam. It is important to inform friends and relatives about these exam dates so that no tickets are purchased for you that will interfere with these exam dates. Missing the midterm or the final exam will mean failure of the course.

During the academic year photocopies and other material may be distributed in class by the instructors. Students who were not in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies.

Optional class policies:

Use of the computer in class is restricted to oral presentations, unless previously approved by the professor.

Eating is NOT allowed in class.

Cellular phones must be **turned off** or placed on **silent mode** during class.