

SYLLABUS

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schedule

Monday: 4.00pm-9.00pm

Wednesday: 9am-1pm; 4.00pm-9.00pm

breakdown of the Architecture units/grades

ARC 402 - Design: 5 units

ARC 404 - Project: 2 units

ARC 405B - Lecture: 1 unit

course objective

The ARCHITECTURE LAB fosters an interdisciplinary approach to research in architecture and aims at promoting critical thinking on the disciplines and activities that shape our environment.

A combination of informative lectures by the instructors, fieldtrips and personal research and readings will support the development of studio projects that will exhibit a creative approach, conceptual precision and aesthetic sophistication.

course description

The Spring Semester for the ARCHITECTURE LAB at CSU Florence takes advantage of the students' design experiences in the Fall Semester, when they dealt with the urban structure of the city of Florence, its stratifications, its history, its urban complexity. The students will be led to further ripen their point of view and their abilities, and will therefore be asked to develop a much larger design assignment which involves an urban area located close to Florence international airport: a quite contradictory and complex context to work in.

Theme for the spring studio project is: a mixed-use development in viale Belfiore, in Florence. The students will be asked to develop their project in small groups (3 students per group). They will conclude their assignment in early May.

Lectures by the professors and by invited guests, as well as readings on various themes related to the project topics, will be addressed to generate a common cultural ground and reinforce the multidisciplinary

approach of this course. Also, a lecture series organized by Kent State University and one organized by Syracuse University in Florence will greatly enrich the students' knowledge on the debate in contemporary architecture.

Image: HOT SEASON'S PIX

Image, the company run by Marco Brizzi and Paola Giaconia (www.image-web.org) is exceptionally opening up its architecture video ARCHIVE, unparalleled repository of its kind, to liven up a special evening devoted to some hot topics in contemporary architecture.

assignments

In the Spring Semester students will work on the area of viale Belfiore in Florence.

events (OPTIONAL, BUT STRONGLY RECOMMENDED)

Kent State University's spring lecture series will have the following calendar: Carlos Arroyo (Carlos Arroyo Arquitectos, Spain: www.carlosarroyo.net) on Tuesday March 18; Stefano Pujatti (ElasticoSPA, Italy: www.elasticofarm.com) on Tuesday April 1; Manuel Aires Mateus (Aires Mateus Arquitectos, Portugal: www.airesmateus.com) on Tuesday April 8.

attendance policy

Class meets on Mondays, 4.00-9.00pm, and on Wednesdays, 9am-1 pm and 4.00-9.00pm. Attendance to all CSU architecture courses is mandatory. Two unexcused absences are allowed during the semester but more than two unexcused absences will lower your grade as follows (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or emergencies): **3** unexcused absences, lowers one letter grade; **4** unexcused absences, lowers two letter grades; **5** unexcused absences, lowers 3 letter grades. **More than five 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 30 minutes will be considered an absence.

Dates of mid-term and final crits **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 crits and plan their trips after the last crit. It is important to inform friends and relatives about these crit dates so that no tickets are purchased for you that will interfere with these crit dates. Missing the midterm or the final crit 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.

grading policy

Evaluation is based on daily work in studio, presentations, and quality and completeness of assignments.

Grades are given by the instructors.

Grade breakdown is as follows:

- 80% grade: studio project evaluation
- 20% grade: submitted portfolio (due Wed May 28)

calendar

Feb 24	Monday	CSU Florence, aula magna: introduction to viale Belfiore project Students to set up groups and to start site analysis	
Feb 26	Wednesday am	desk crits	MB
	Wednesday pm	desk crits	PG
Mar 3	Monday	desk crits	AM
Mar 5	Wednesday am	lecture by Marco Brizzi (aula magna)	MB
	Wednesday pm	Cities on the Move. Between Representation and Observation. desk crits	PG
Mar 10	Monday	desk crits	AM
Mar 12	Wednesday am	desk crits	MB
	Wednesday pm	desk crits	PG
Mar 17	Monday	No class (S. Italy field trip)	
Mar 18	Tuesday	<i>STRONGLY RECOMMENDED: Kent State University: lecture by Carlos Arroyo (Carlos Arroyo Arquitectos, Spain: www.carlosarroyo.net) - 7:00-8:00pm Kent State University, vicolo dei Cerchi 1 (1 min walk from Palazzo Vecchio)</i>	
Mar 19	Wednesday am	desk crits	MB
	Wednesday pm	desk crits	PG
Mar 24	Monday	desk crits	AM
Mar 26	Wednesday am	desk crits	MB
	Wednesday pm	CSU Florence, aula magna: lecture by Angelo Sampieri (4pm) Back to Collective Living.	
Mar 31	Monday	desk crits	AM
Apr 1	Tuesday	<i>STRONGLY RECOMMENDED: Kent State University: lecture by Stefano Pujatti (ElasticoSPA, Italy: www.elasticofarm.com) - 7:00-8:00pm Kent State University, vicolo dei Cerchi 1 (1 min walk from Palazzo Vecchio)</i>	
Apr 2	Wednesday am	desk crits	MB
	Wednesday pm	desk crits	PG
Apr 7	Monday	desk crits	AM
Apr 8	Tuesday	<i>STRONGLY RECOMMENDED: Kent State University: lecture by Manuel Aires Mateus (Aires Mateus Arquitectos, Portugal: www.airesmateus.com) - 7:00-8:00pm Kent State University, vicolo dei Cerchi 1 (1 min walk from Palazzo Vecchio)</i>	
Apr 9	Wednesday	MID-TERM CRITS	GP+MB+PG+AM
Apr 14	Monday	desk crits	AM
Apr 16	Wednesday am	desk crits	MB
	Wednesday pm	desk crits	PG
		Image: HOT SEASON'S PIX (via Venti Settembre 84) - 8 pm	
***** SPRING BREAK (April 18-27) *****			
Apr 28	Monday	desk crits	AM

Apr 30	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits desk crits	MB PG
May 5	Monday	desk crits	AM
May 7	Wednesday	FINAL CRITS	GP+MB+PG+AM
May 28	Wednesday	CD with portfolio* of Florence studio projects (including adopt-a-monument) is due	

*** INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PORTFOLIO**

Each student will turn in a CD which will contain a folder for each of the 4 assignments carried out in the course of the year in Florence:

- 1. Adopt-a-monument: please include a PDF or JPG file of the submitted boards;*
- 2. Piazza Brunelleschi: please include a PDF or JPG file of each of the boards + a folder containing high resolution images (plans, sections, elevations, renderings, photomontages, etc.).*
- 3. Bellariva museum: please include a PDF or JPG file of each of the boards + a folder containing high resolution images (plans, sections, elevations, renderings, photomontages, etc.).*
- 4. Viale Belfiore: please include a PDF or JPG file of each of the boards + a folder containing high resolution images (plans, sections, elevations, renderings, photomontages, etc.). In particular, each student will add the project "postcard" image he/she made for the final presentation.*