Modernism in Rome: Architecture, Urban Form, & Design

COURSE DESIGNATOR

Language of Instruction English

NUMBER OF CREDITS 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This upper level course will examine the transformation of Rome as a capital city of the Papal States to that of the modern nation of Italy through a series of case studies of neighborhoods planned post-unification: Prati, Nomentana, Testaccio, Ostiense, Ostia Lido and EUR. This course will address theories of utopia, mechanization, modernity and design; the influence of archaeological excavations conducted in the late nine-teenth century at Ostia Antica on contemporary architectural form and design; the effect of industry on city planning with particular emphasis on the master plans produced between 1870 and 1940; and the relationship between national identity, historical con-text, and the modern movements of art nouveau, regionalism, rationalism, and futurism. A museum visit to Galleria dell’Arte Moderna will be organized to study connections between metaphysical art and landscape – in particular the art of De Chirico – and the fascist regime and its architecture. Public housing is an important theme of the course and also the subject of the term project where students are asked to consider Principles of Intelligent Urbanism including accessibility, creating a sense of place through design, and sustainability – environmental, technical, and social. The relation-ship between the city’s historic center and its periphery is at the heart of contemporary planning; this course will consider these issues and themes in context of Comune di Roma’s current ‘Progetto Millennium, Roma Capitale 2010-2020’.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Provide an overview of the city’s history and many transformations
- Understand architectural projects within a socio-historic framework
- Apply design and urban theory and concepts as appropriate to course material
- Exercise critical thought and learn to develop an argument through research and writing
- Acquire a deeper understanding of the city layout, its topography and infrastructures

LEARNING OUTCOMES

GENERAL OUTCOMES

At the end of the course students should be able to identify, define, and solve problems; locate and critically evaluate information; master a body of knowledge and a mode of inquiry; understand diverse philosophies and cultures within and across societies; communicate effectively; understand the role of creativity, innovation, discovery, and expression across disciplines; acquire skills for effective citizenship and life-long learning.

COURSE-SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

This course will provide you with a clear grasp of the topography, urban makeup and history of the city and its monuments; as well as introduce the theoretical tools needed to examine, evaluate and critically assess city form, design and architecture.
At the end of the course, students should have shown to be able to:

- How to ‘read’ architecture: identifying building materials & methods; elements of style & structure.
- How to critically assess urban space: learning and applying the vocabulary and theory associated with architecture and urban planning.
- How to express and formulate your ideas about architecture.
- How to develop and substantiate arguments about architecture and the history of the city through research and writing.
- How to access and use critically printed and, where appropriate, electronic learning resources identified as useful by the course tutor; find independently and evaluate critically other relevant resources.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Requirements for the course are as follows: mid-term exam, term project consisting of a research paper and sketchbook with on-site observations and analysis, and final exam. Exams will test information presented in class and from assigned readings.

METHODOLOGY

This course has been designed to take full advantage of the city so that whenever possible a student can learn through first-hand observation. A strong emphasis is placed on class discussions and active participation is encouraged. The city will be explored through a series of case studies where we will visit a range of different neighborhoods. Material is organized chronologically beginning with the birth of the Italian nation in 1870 and concluding with an examination of the Fascist period ending in the 1940s.

REQUIRED READING/MATERIALS

COURSE MATERIALS

B.W. Painter, Jr., Mussolini's Rome. Rebuilding the Eternal City (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005)

Reader of assigned articles

RECOMMENDED READINGS


P. Hall, Cities of Tomorrow. 2nd Edition (Blackwell, 1989)


Il Piano Regolatore di Roma 1908 di Sanjust Teulada Edmondo (Università La Sapienza, 2008)


R. Fishman, Urban Utopias in the Twentieth Century (MIT Press, 1982)

E. Howard, Garden Cities of To-morrow


R. Unwin, Town Planning and Practice


D. Settembrini, ‘Mussolini and the Legacy of Revolutionary Socialism’, Journal of Contemporary History 11 (1976), 239-68

GRADING

TERM PROJECT

Students are asked to travel on their own to see public housing projects at San Saba, Trionfale and Corviale and to write a paper comparing one of these sites with the Garbatella. Your research will combine primary and secondary sources in addition to on-site observation. Students are required to record these observations along with site analyses in sketchbooks that will be collected in Week 14.

A viewing of the film The Architect will be arranged in week eleven. This film raises central questions of functionality, design and social responsibility with regard to housing projects. Include a discussion of the film in your final paper as it pertains to your argument.

EXAMS

Exams will be composed of slide identifications, slide comparisons and essay questions taken directly from course readings.
CRITERIA FOR GRADING AND GRADING STANDARDS

Summary of how grades are weighted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95+</td>
<td>Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86-89</td>
<td>Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-85</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76-79</td>
<td>Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-75</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>66-69</td>
<td>Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-65</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation and participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Project</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall grade</td>
<td>100%</td>
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# CLASS SCHEDULE AND DESCRIPTION

## WEEK 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LESSON 1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lecture:</strong></td>
<td>Introduction Roma Capitale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meeting Place:</strong></td>
<td>in-class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topic:</strong></td>
<td>Unification of Italy; capital cities; nation building; national identity; master plan 1873/83 and 1911; Road projects of Via Nazionale and Corso Vittorio Emanuele; Monument of the Vittoriano</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Activities:** Course presentation; distribution of the syllabus; course requirements and course expectations; methodology.

**Assigned Readings Week 1**

**Assigned Readings Week 2**

## WEEK 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LESSON 2</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lecture:</strong></td>
<td>Roman Neighborhood I: The Rioni of the Historic Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meeting Place:</strong></td>
<td>Piazza San Bartolomeo on Tiber Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topic:</strong></td>
<td>Vernacular Architecture; <em>Associazione Artistica fra i Cultori di Architettura</em>; Gustavo Giovannoni; defining a ‘Roman vernacular’ and ‘palimpsest style;’ <em>spoglia</em> and spoliation.</td>
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**Assigned Readings Week 3**
### WEEK 3

**LESSON 3**

**Lecture:** Roman Neighborhood II: Nomentana  
**Meeting Place:** Piazza Buenos Aires  
**Topic:** Villini building type; Art Nouveau; Coppedé

**Assigned Readings Week 4**


### WEEK 4

**LESSON 4**

**Lecture:** Roman Neighborhood III: Testaccio  
**Meeting Place:** TBA  
**Topic:** ICP Public housing; MACRO Testaccio

**Assigned Readings Week 5**


### WEEK 5

**LESSON 5**

**Lecture:** Roman Neighborhood IV: Ostiense  
**Meeting Place:** TBA  
**Topic:** Piano Regolatore 1908, Industrial Rome, Montemartini

**No assigned readings in preparation for midterm exam**
### WEEK 6

#### LESSON 6

**MIDTERM EXAM**

**Assigned Readings Week 7**


### WEEK 7

#### LESSON 7

**Lecture:** Roman Neighborhood V: Garbatella  
**Meeting Place:** Metro Station Garbatella (Line B)  
**Topic:** ICP Public housing, Garden City Planning, maritime industry

**No Assigned Readings**

### WEEK 8

#### LESSON 8

**Lecture:** Ostia Antica (Guest Lecture)  
**Meeting Place:** Ostiense Station  
**Topic:** Visit to Ostia Antica – connections between the Scuola Romana and excavations at Ostia Antica

**Assigned Readings Week 9**

- U. Calabrese, ‘From the Dream of Engineer Orlando to the Garden City of the Scholars of Architecture, to the first Regulatory Plans’ and ‘Ostia after World War I to the Fascist Regime: The Development from Maritime Suburb to Vacation City,’ in *The Architecture of Ostia* (Palombi, 1999), 85-89; 90-95.
## WEEK 9

### LESSON 9

**Lecture:** Ostia Lido  
**Meeting Place:** Ostia Lido Centro Metro Station  
**Topic:** Paolo Orlando and maritime industry; rationalist architecture of Ostia Lido

**Assigned Readings Week 10**  

## WEEK 10

### LESSON 10

**Lecture:** Galleria Nazionale di Arte Moderna (Guest Lecture)  
**Meeting Place:** Entrance to Galleria Nazionale di Arte Moderna  
**Topic:** Introduction to contemporary artistic movements including Futurism and Metaphysical Art

**Assigned Readings Week 11**  
B.W. Painter, Jr., *Mussolini’s Rome. Rebuilding the Eternal City* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), 1-19; 59-77

## WEEK 11

### LESSON 11

**Film Viewing:** The Architect (2006) Director Matt Tauber  
Please see bulletin board for room assignment. Viewing will be followed by class discussion.

**Assigned Readings Week 12**  
### WEEK 12

<table>
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<tr>
<th>LESSON 12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lecture:</strong></td>
<td>Foro Italico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meeting Place:</strong></td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Topic:</strong></td>
<td>Creating a fascist mythology; defining a fascist style</td>
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**Assigned Readings Week 13**


### WEEK 13

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<tr>
<th>LESSON 13</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lecture:</strong></td>
<td>Roman Neighborhood VI: EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meeting Place:</strong></td>
<td>EUR Magliana Metro Station (Line B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topic:</strong></td>
<td>Vernacular Architecture; <em>Associazione Artistica fra i Cultori di Architettura</em>; Gustavo Giovannoni; defining a ‘Roman vernacular’ and ‘palimpsest style’; <em>spoglia</em> and spoliation.</td>
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**No assigned readings in preparation of final exam**

### WEEK 14

<table>
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<tr>
<th>LESSON 14</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
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</table>

**DUE:** Term projects and sketchbooks
ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory in order to earn full marks. The final grade will take into consideration preparation required for class (i.e. readings) and participation in class discussions. The assigned readings relate to topics that will be discussed in the week to follow and can be found in your course reader. This allows you to prepare for class discussions in advance. If you should like to investigate any given week’s topics further please refer to the recommended readings listed.

If you need to miss class for medical reasons, please let the Director of Academic Affairs know in advance of meetings so plans can be made accordingly. If you miss any meetings without an excused absence from the Director, your final grade will be dropped accordingly. In the case of absences, it is the student’s responsibility to find out what information was given in class including any announcements made.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else’s work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an “F” or “N” for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

STUDENT CONDUCT

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct and student needs. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.