



SYLLABUS

Spring Session Only

HISTORY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE: THE MEDIEVAL CITY-STATE AND THE RENAISSANCE TOWN

Instructor: Dott. Arch. Filiberto Bracalente.

Contact Hrs: 45

Language of Instruction: English

MACERATA, ITALY

This course will trace the major developments of the town in central Italy from the early medieval times to the renaissance period.

The main focus will be on the hill towns of the Marches during the twelfth through the sixteenth century, especially Macerata, Urbisaglia, Fermo, Ancona, Loreto, Ascoli Piceno, Tolentino, San Severino, Camerino and Urbino.

The city will be considered in its most characteristic physical aspects and from the point of view of the social, religious and cultural currents that were most important in helping shape the character and development of each center.

Many interesting comparisons will be made, not only between the various cities of the Marches, but also with important centers in the nearby regions such as Florence and Rome.

Part of the course will be devoted to the study of architectural styles and urban planning. Students will be expected to become familiar with architectural terminology and the style of Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance architecture in Italy.

They will have also the opportunity to compare and study architecture and urban planning first hand and to study a number of the unique historical cultural features of many Italian cities.

Course syllabus

The study of the urban morphology will be done first hand in Macerata and in the nearby town of Fermo and Ascoli Piceno, while a number of elements which make the forms and patterns of the city will be investigated as follows:

1. the **fortifications**: as in Macerata and in the nearby Tolentino and San Severino;
2. the **roads**: as the Via Septempedana, the Via Salaria and the Via Flaminia;
3. the **typology**: as the **castles**, the **rocca** and the **tower-house**;
4. the **monumental emergencies**: as the **cathedrals** in Macerata, Fermo, Camerino and Ancona, the **churches** of religious and monastic orders, the **abbey** of Chiaravalle di Fiastra, the **medieval palace** vs. the **renaissance palace** such as the Palazzo dei Capitani in Ascoli Piceno and the Ducal Palace of Urbino ;
5. the **squares**: also this is a key - element of comparison between the medieval concept of Piazza and the renaissance one with the superb examples of Ascoli Piceno, Urbino, Loreto, the Piazza dell'Annunziata in Florence, and the one of the Capitol in Rome;
6. the **green spaces**: as the **Italian garden**, from the Giardini Diaz in Macerata to the superb examples in the nearby Giardino Bonaccorsi in Potenza Picena and the Giardino di Boboli in Florence.

The course is articulated around two sections: a) the medieval city state and b) the renaissance town

a) **The medieval city-state.** This section includes also the study of a selection of the works of art of Giotto, Duccio di Buoninsegna, Simone Martini, the Lorenzettis, the Pisanos, Arnolfo di Cambio and Gentile da Fabriano.

b) **The Renaissance town.** This section includes also the study of a selection of works of Brunelleschi, Donatello, Masaccio, Piero della Francesca, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raffaello.

Class procedures: Class lectures and discussions will help to stimulate students awareness and sharpen their critical abilities in summarizing and analyzing their experiences. Walking tours, day trips to most of the towns mentioned above and two three day trips, one in Florence and the other in Rome will be an essential part of this course.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Each absence will result in a dock of one increment from your final grade. If your final grade is a B, for example, and you were absent once, you will receive a B- for the course; if you were absent twice, you will receive a C+ and so on.

Examinations: Course requirements will include two short mid-term tests, a final exam and a journal of excursions. The first paper will involve the study of a work of art to develop the student vocabulary and analytical skills. The second will explore a given problem in relation to one major work or architect. The final exam will provide an opportunity for the student to review the overall development of the medieval and renaissance town.

Grades: the final course grade will be composed of the following parts:

First mid-term test	15%
Second mid-term test	15%
Journal/sketchbook	25%
Final exam	35%
Professorial evaluation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

Required text: Benevolo, L. - *The European City*, Blackwell Publishers Ltd.

Hartt, F. - *History of Italian Renaissance Art*, Prentice-Hall Inc.

Reference text: Arnheim, R. - *The Power of the Center*, University of California Press

Burckhardt, J. - *The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance*, Penguin B.

Giedion, S. - *Space, Time and Architecture*, Harvard University Press

Lotz, W. - *Studies in Italian Renaissance Architecture*, The MIT Press, Cambridge

Morris, A. E. - *History of Urban Form. Before the Industrial Revolutions*, Longman Scientific & Technical

Mumford, L. - *The City in History*, Penguin Books

Murray, P. - *The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance*, Thames and Hudson, London