



Study abroad.

SYLLABUS

TUSCANY: MEDIEVAL & RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE

Carol Caughey
300 level
Contact Hrs: 45

SIENA, ITALY

Course content:

The Renaissance began in Italy. Many icons of Renaissance architecture exist there today. What differentiates the architecture of Renaissance Italy from the medieval architecture that preceded it and from Renaissance buildings in other European countries? Students will study masterpieces of architecture that have charmed humans for 600 years. By means of walking tours and coach and train site visits, they will learn to identify characteristics and photograph and sketch architectural details from the best examples of medieval and Renaissance buildings in Tuscany, Rome, and beyond. Instruction will be provided in “sketching for the artistically timid.”

Objectives:

Identify characteristics of Italian Medieval and Renaissance architecture. Analyze the role of buildings in the lives of Renaissance Italians. Utilize sketching as a means to see detail usually missed in viewing a photograph or even actual buildings. Compile a portfolio of sketches, photographs, and images from the web to illustrate each architectural style discussed. Students will justify why each illustration is characteristic of that period or architect.

Suggested excursions, and relevance:

NOTE: these excursions may be blended with those already scheduled.

Siena (walking tours): Medieval buildings such as the Duomo, Palazzo Pubblico, Casa di Santa Caterina, Palazzo Piccolomini, and the museum. Visits to the outstanding buildings of Siena will form the basis of the first part of the course (medieval).

Florence: Palazzo Vecchio, Florence Cathedral, S. Maria del Fiore, Foundling Hospital, Uffizi Gallery, Pazzi Chapel at S. Croce, S. Lorenzo and the Laurentian Library. The famous Renaissance buildings of Florence form the heart of the Italian Renaissance.

Venice: Basilica di San Marco for a blend of many centuries of design, San Maria Gloriosa dei Frari, Ca' d'Oro, San Giorgio Maggiore, Piazza S. Marco. Venetian architecture is characteristic of Renaissance Italian architecture but also reflects the influences of Venice's many trading partners.

Vicenza: (if possible) to see Palladio's buildings.

Rome: St. Peter's Basilica, the Sistine Chapel, The Tempietto at San Pietro, Villa Medici, Palazzo Farnese. Tours of buildings in Rome will cover some medieval architecture and many buildings that have become Renaissance icons.

Instructional methodology:

Lecture format illustrated with Power Point (or traditional) slides. Most class sessions will consist also of several of the following active learning activities:

- 1.) Team discussions and debates wherein students must support an assigned point of view or defend why an architectural feature is from a certain period
- 2.) Artifact analyses of architectural and interior features
- 3.) Scavenger hunts through the city in order to sketch and identify specific architectural features, buildings, and interiors
- 4.) Portfolio of students' own photos, sketches, and images taken from the web with justifications of why they are characteristic of each period or style
- 5.) Field trips to examine and free-hand sketch buildings and interiors first-hand

Method of evaluation/grading:

- One mid-term exam based upon the textbooks and field trips
- One final exam based upon the textbooks and field trips
- A final project, due during the last week of class, which is a portfolio of all of the students' photos, sketches, and images from the web with captions explaining the style or period. Students will take the portfolios back to the US with them.

Course readings/texts:

- Hopkins, A. (2002). *Italian architecture from Michelangelo to Borromini*. London: Thames & Hudson. \$14.95.
- Moffett, M., Fazio, M. & Wodehouse, L. (2004). *A world history of architecture*. Boston: Mc Graw-Hill. (photocopies with copyright permission of Ch. 9 Gothic Architecture and Ch. 11 Renaissance Architecture)
- Whiton, S. & Abercrombie, S. (2002). *Interior design and Decoration (5 ed)*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. (photocopies with copyright permission of Ch. 8 The Gothic and Ch. 13 The Renaissance).

Proposed daily/weekly schedule:

The class will meet to see slides (either Power Point or traditional) and to discuss the subjects for at least 2 hours each week. The remaining average of 2.5 hours per week will consist of walking/sketching tours in Siena and trips to other cities. This totals 45 contact hours per term.

Week 1: Italian Gothic Architecture

Week 2: Italian Gothic housing, interiors, and construction

Week 3: Florence: where the Renaissance began

Week 4: The Trecento (1300-1400) Brunelleschi, Ghiberti

Week 5: Early Renaissance (1400-1500). Alberti, Bramante, Leonardo, Michelangelo

Week 6: Early Renaissance (cont)

Week 7: High Renaissance (1500-1550) Michelangelo, Palladio

Week 8: Late Renaissance and Mannerism (1550-1600) Palladio, Vasari

Week 9: Late Renaissance (cont)

Week 10: Portfolios due. Review for final exam.