



HS 311 GREAT AGE OF ITALIAN CITIES
IES Abroad Center Milan

DESCRIPTION:

During the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance period, the Italian peninsula was home to a web of independent city-states built upon the preexisting Roman city network. These city-states, which were to become the cradle of Europe's great cultural, political, and economic renaissance, made the Italian peninsula one of the centers of the emerging Western civilization.

This course will offer an overview of Medieval and Renaissance history of Italian cities and an introduction to the Medieval and Renaissance architectural heritage and urban planning of Italian cities.

The cityscape of Milan, one of the peninsula's major economic and political centers during the Middle Ages and Renaissance, will be used as an entry point for exploring how, through the signs inscribed on urban spaces, the past meets the present in European cities. It will become a site for experiencing history come alive.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Lectures and discussions on assigned readings and documents, student presentations, course-related trips

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Course Participation – 20%
- Midterm Exam – 20%
- Final Exam – 20%
- Research Paper – 20%
- Oral Presentation of Research Work – 10%
- Other – 10%

Course Participation

Course participation will be evaluated according to the interaction of each student with their classmates, with the instructor, and with the guest speakers during the class discussion sessions

Midterm Exam

Based on essay questions aimed at determining students' ability to use the materials and information discussed in class

Final Exam

Based on essay questions aimed at determining students' ability to use the materials and information discussed in class

Research Paper

Students are required to work on one Italian city by making use of the approaches and methodologies presented in class. The paper should be 2,500 – 3,000 words long.

Oral Presentation of Research Work

The grade will be based on the clarity and force of the communication and the quality of the local and online sources used

Other

This grade is composed of handouts, worksheets, and reading quizzes.



LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Recognize and explain the main lines of historical evolution of Italian cities from the late Middle Ages through the Renaissance period
- Understand the role Milan played in Medieval and Renaissance European history
- Identify and assess the Medieval and Renaissance architectural heritage and urban planning in contemporary Italian and European cities

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend classes each day, including course-related excursions. IES ABROAD MILANO allows a maximum of two excused absences per semester. Each further absence will automatically result in a penalty of two points off (2/100) on the final grade. Seven absences per course (including the two excused absences) will result in a failing grade for that course. Furthermore, absence on the date of scheduled tests, presentations or quizzes does not entitle you to recover/reschedule such tests. Failure to attend your midterm and/or final exam will result in an F grade on that paper/exam.

It is your responsibility to manage your absences during the term. If you are sick, you will need to apply your absence to the two excused absences allowed for the term. If you use up your two excused absences for personal travel and then are sick at the end of the semester, those sick days will not be excused.

CONTENT:

Students will be required to enter the Moodle course page on a regular basis in order to access readings, exercises, and any other regular or extra material. Students are expected to come to class having studied, in detail, the assignments indicated for each particular class session.

Week	Content	Assignments
Week 1 Session 1	Introduction 1. When history meets geography, the past meets the present: Medieval heritage in European cityscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A. Guzmán, “The Classical Legacy: Identity, Memory and Heritage”, <i>Quaderns de la Mediterrània</i>, 13, 2010, (ph. 37-43).
Session 2	From Republic to Empire 1. Rome 753BC – 476AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• H. Hearder – D.P. Waley (eds.), <i>A Short History of Italy. From Classical Times to Present Day</i>, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1963 (1st ed.), (pg. 28-43).
Week 2 Session 1	Milan’s <i>Forma Urbis</i> 1. The shaping of Medieval Milan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• L. Robuschi, <i>Milano. From the origins to Filarete and from Leonardo to Expo 2015</i>, Milan: no edition, 2015, pp. 15-28.

Session 2	Milan's Foundations: From the Roman Empire to the Medieval Age 1. Course-Related Trip: St. Ambrose Cathedral and Door, Imperial Palace, St. John 'ad fontes'	
Week 3 Session 1	The Communal Experience in Northern Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C. Wickham, <i>Sleepwalking into a New World. The Emergence of Italian City Communes in the Twelfth Century</i>, Princeton UP, Princeton, (pg. 21-66)
Session 2	The Italian Communes and the Holy Roman Empire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> G. Raccagni, <i>The Lombard League 1167-1225</i>, Oxford UP, Oxford 2010, (pg. 36-53)
Week 4 Session 1	The origins of Milan's canals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> G. Fantoni, "Water management in Milan and Lombardy in Medieval times: an outline", <i>Journal of Water and Land Development</i>, 12, 2008, (pg. 15-25)
Session 2	Course-Related Trip 1. Discovering Milan's canals: A walk through time	
Week 5 Session 1	Cities and central State in Southern Italy 1. Review (T topics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R. Putnam, <i>Making Democracy Work</i>, Princeton UP, Princeton 1993, (pg. 121-152).
Session 2	Medieval Streets and Street Names in Milan 1. Review (R topics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M. Tucci et al. "Fragments from many pasts", <i>Journal of Historical Geography</i>, 37, 3, 2011, (pg. 370-384). Study for Midterm exam

Week 6 <i>Session 1</i>	Rural Italy 1. Midterm exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary movie
<i>Session 2</i>	The Medieval and Renaissance Architectural Styles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K.J. Conant, <i>Carolingian and Romanesque Architecture 800 to 1200</i>, New York: Penguin. 1978, (pg. 1-10, 31-41, 57-61, 238-248).
Week 7 <i>Session 1</i>	From City Republics to <i>Signorie</i> 1. The Visconti and Sforza families in Milan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A. Gamberini (ed.), <i>A Companion to Late Medieval and Early Modern Milan</i>, Brill, London 2014, (pg. 19-45).
<i>Session 2</i>	Italian Cities in the Renaissance Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Martines, <i>Power and Imagination. City-States in Renaissance Italy</i>, Pimlico, London 2002, (pg. 218-244 and 271-276)
Week 8 <i>Session 1</i>	The Revival of the Middle Ages in the Modern West 1. The case of Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.M. Shanken, "Preservation and Creation: Alfonso Rubbiani and Bologna", <i>Future Anterior</i>, 7, 1, 2010, (pg. 60-81). • A. Lyttleton, "Creating a National Past: History, Myth and Image in the Risorgimento", (pg.27-78).
<i>Session 2</i>	Course-Related Trip 1. Visit to the Sforza Castle	
Week 9 <i>Session 1</i>	Spring Break	

Week 10 <i>Session 1</i>	The Geo-historical Approach to Italian Medieval Cities 1. Introduction to the individual paper work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Ferrighi, "Urban History through New Technologies: Visualizing Venice, a Pilot Project", in R. Tamborrino (ed.) <i>Digital Urban History</i>, Croma, Rome 2014, (pg. 59-66).
<i>Session 2</i>	Course-Related Trip: Between Renaissance and Revivalism 1. Visit to the <i>Casa degli Atellani</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J. Ghirardotti, <i>The Atellani house and Leonardo's vineyard</i>, Milan: Rai Eri, 2015 (excerpts).
Week 11 <i>Session 1</i>	The Italian Renaissance in Western Literary Culture 1. Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> 2. General review (T topics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N. Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i>: anthological readings
<i>Session 2</i>	General Review 1. R topics	
Week 12 <i>Session 1</i>	Final Presentation of Individual Papers	
<i>Session 2</i>	Final Presentation of Individual Papers	
Week 13 <i>Session 1</i>	Final Exam	

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- St. Ambrose Cathedral and Door, Imperial Palace, St. John 'ad fontes'
- Milan's canals: A walk through time
- Sforza Castle

- Casa degli Atellani

REQUIRED READINGS:

- K.J. Conant, *Carolingian and Romanesque Architecture 800 to 1200*, New York: Penguin. 1978. (pg. 1-10, 31-41, 57-61, 238-48).
- G. Fantoni, "Water management in Milan and Lombardy in Medieval times: an outline", *Journal of Water and Land Development*, 12, 2008. (pg. 15-25).
- A. Ferrighi, "Urban History through New Technologies: Visualizing Venice, a Pilot Project", in R. Tamborrino (ed.) *Digital Urban History. Telling the History of the City in the Age of the ICT Revolution*, Croma, Rome 2014. (pg. 59-66).
- A. Gamberini (ed.), *A Companion to Late Medieval and Early Modern Milan*, 2017, Leiden – Boston: Brill, 2015, (pg. 19-45).
- J. Ghirardotti, *La casa degli Atellani e la vigna di Leonardo-The Atellani house and Leonardo's vineyard*, Milan: Rai Eri, 2015.
- H. Hearder – D.P. Waley (eds.), *A Short History of Italy. From Classical Times to Present Day*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1963 (1st ed.). (pg. 28-43).
- A. Lyttleton, "Creating a National Past: History, Myth and Image in the Risorgimento", in A.R. Ascoli - K. von Henneberg (eds.), *Making and Remaking Italy. The Cultivation of National Identity around the Risorgimento*, Oxford: Berg, 2001. (pg. 27-78).
- N. Machiavelli, *The Prince*, ed. P. Bondanella, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- L. Martines, *Power and Imagination. City-States in Renaissance Italy*, Pimlico, London 2002. (pg. 218-244 and 271-276).
- R. D. Putnam, *Making Democracy Work*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993. (pg. 121-152).
- G. Raccagni, *The Lombard League, 1167-1225*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. (pg. 36-53).
- A.M. Shanken, "Preservation and Creation: Alfonso Rubbiani and Bologna", *Future Anterior*, 7, 1, 2010. (pg. 60-81).
- M. Tucci, R. Ronza, A. Giordano, "Fragments from many pasts: layering the toponymic tapestry of Milan", *Journal of Historical Geography*, 37, 3, 2011. (pg. 370-384).
- D. Waley, *Italian City Republics*, New York: Mc Graw Hill, 1969. (pg. 1-68).
- E. S. Welch, *Art and Authority in Renaissance Milan*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995. (pg. 80-115).
- C. Wickham, *Sleepwalking into a New World: The Emergence of Italian City Communes in the Twelfth Century*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015. (pg. 21-66).
- J. White, *Art and Architecture in Italy 1250 to 1400*, New York: Penguin, 1987. (pg. 517-530).

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- G. Chittolini, "Cities, 'city-states', and regional states in north-central Italy", *Theory and Society*, Vol. 18 (5), 1989. (pg. 689-706).
- E. Coleman, "The Italian communes. Recent work and current trends", *Journal of Medieval History*, Vol. 25 (4), 1999. (pg. 373-97).
- E. Coleman, "Cities and communes", in D. Abulafia (ed.), *Italy in the central Middle Ages: 1000-1300*, 2004. (pg. 27-57, 255-257).
- T. Dean, *The towns of Italy in the later Middle Ages*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2000.
- H. Hearder – D.P. Waley (eds.), *A Short History of Italy. From Classical Times to Present Day*, Cambridge UP, Cambridge 1963. (pg. 28-43).
- P. Jones, *The Italian City-State. From Commune to Signoria*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997. (pg. 55-77).
- S. Mayall Brasher, *Hospitals and Charity: Religious Culture and Civic Life in Medieval Northern Italy*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2017. (pg. 28-54).
- D. Waley – T. Dean, *The Italian City-Republics*, New York: Longman, 2010 (or. edition: 1969).
- C. Ady, *A History of Milan under the Sforzas*, Perennial Press, 2015 (or. ed. London: Methuen, 1907).
- J. Black, *Absolutism in Renaissance Milan. Plenitude of Power under the Visconti and the Sforza 1329-1535*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- J. Black, "The emergence of the duchy of Milan: Language and the territorial state", *Reti Medievali*, Vol. 14 (1), 2013. (pg. 197-210).
- D.M. Bueno de Mesquita, *Giangualeazzo Visconti Duke of Milan (1351-1402). A study in the political career of an Italian despot*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1941.



- D.F. Dowd, "The Economic Expansion of Lombardy, 1300–1500: A Study in Political Stimuli to Economic Change", *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 21 (2), 1961. (pg. 143-160).
- D. Muir, *A History of Milan under the Visconti*, London: Methuen, 1924.
- J. M. Najemy, *A History of Florence 1200-1575*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2006.
- J. M. Najemy, *Corporatism and Consensus in Florentine Electoral Politics, 1280-1400*, Chapel Hill (NC): University of North Carolina Press, 1982.
- J. J. Martin, D. Romano (eds.), *Venice reconsidered: the history and civilization of an Italian city-state, 1297-1797*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000.