



Santa Reparata International School of Art  
Course Syllabus

**Semester Course**

**Course Title:** Sketchbook Studies: Italian Architecture and Interiors

**SRISA Course Number:** IDES 2101

**Maryville Course Number:** ART 209

**Credit Hours:** 3, Contact Hours: 90

**1. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is meant to help foundation and advanced students develop drawing abilities as they relate to interior architectural spaces. The class follows the decades old practice of teaching architects and designers how to sketch as a learning and study tool as well as a means to understand and read the architectural environment. Studio instruction and demonstrations plus on-site exercises in some of the most relevant historical and contemporary buildings in Florence will provide students with the skills to understand the physical environment around them. Students will be helped to understand the value of sketching as one of the most remarkable experiences for the designer in order to establish a useful and creative conversation regarding the project at hand.

**2. CONTENT INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this course is to help students take advantage of the unique experience of living in Florence. The course will also focus on helping students improve their sketching skills as a learning tool in order to understand construction rules, methods, and the history and materials found just below the visual surface of the city.

The course provides an understanding of the Florentine urban structure through the study of selected places and buildings in the city whose constructed environmental richness and articulation offer invaluable lessons to students. Studio assignments will help students understand the basic tools of drawing, and on-site visits will allow students to put in practice what they are learning.

**3. PREREQUISITES**

Drawing I & II

**4. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

At the successful completion of this course students will be able to represent and analyze the built environment and fully understand relationships between interior and exterior spaces. They will present their sketchbooks from a personal point of view - improving their ability to analyze the built environment as a learning experience in design. Personal research and analysis will be encouraged to support the development of student work which will exhibit a critical approach with clever analytical observations.

**5. REQUIRED MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES**

Materials necessary for this course are a set of sketching and drawing tools.

- Media at the discretion of the student but may include
  - Lead holder, leads, erasers, etc.
  - Wood drawing pencils (HB, B, H, 2H), pencil sharpener
  - Watercolor pencils
  - Colored pencils
  - Pigment liner pens

- Tracing paper/newsprint paper
- Sketchbook: a wide range of sketchbooks are available in Italy. Type will depend on the student's preference and the recommendation of the instructor, in any case minimum size should be A5 (148x210mm).

Recommended stores where to get the above listed materials are:

- Mugnai, address: via S. Gallo 105r  
opening hours: 8am - 1pm / 3pm - 7pm (closed on Saturdays)
- Salvini, address: via Alfani 127r  
opening hours: 8am –6:30pm (closed on Saturdays)
- Lory & C, address: piazza Frescobaldi 8/r  
opening hours: 9am–1pm / 3pm–7pm (closed on Saturdays afternoon)
- Zecchi, address: via dello Studio 19/r  
opening hours: 8:30am –12:30pm / 3:30pm–7:30pm (closed on Saturdays afternoon)
- Il Plastico, address: via S.Gallo 127r  
opening hours: 10am–6pm (Monday-Friday, closed on Saturdays)

Aprox. cost for the listed materials is 75 €.

## 6. GRADING POLICY AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Evaluation is based on the quality of the presentations included in the sketchbook and diorama boxes, as well as on student's attendance, concentration and participation during class and on site visits. Sketchbooks will be presented to the instructor and reviewed at least 3 times through the course of the semester and for final grading at the end of the semester. There will be four required diorama boxes during the semester

The final grade will be based on the following percentages:

- 10% First Sketchbooks review
- 20% Mid-Term Sketchbook review and critique
- 10% Second Sketchbook review
- 40% Diorama Boxes
- 20% Final Sketchbook Review and Presentation

Evaluation will be based on individual student's research and analytical process, as well as on progress through the semester in observation and sketching technique.

Students will be graded on completeness of drawings (sketchbook should be labeled with all pertinent, basic information such as site location, building/site name, architect, and dates for future reference), the critical insight and communicative intensity of their analyses, quality and clearness of the presentations. Sketching, craft, and presentation of Diorama Boxes is a critical part of the work in this class.

Following grading system will be observed:

- A Excellent 4.0 (grade points awarded) 95% percentage of 100%
- A- 3.7, (90% to 94%)
- B+ 3.3 (87% to 89%)
- B Above Average 3.0 (83% to 86%)
- B- 2.7 (80% to 82%)
- C+ 2.3 (77% to 80%)
- C Average 2.0 (73% to 76%)
- C- 1.7 (70% to 72%)
- D Below Average 1.0 (60% to 69%)
- F Failure 0.0 (59% and below)
- W Withdrawal 0.0

## 7. PLAGIARISM AND COPYING

SRISA severally condemns ignorant plagiarism and copying during examinations. Any student that makes use of words or ideas taken from another person's work without properly citing credit for the specific purpose of deceiving their professor will receive an automatic "F" on that assignment or exam. Should the offense be repeated, the student will receive an automatic "F" in the class. Students utilizing the strategy of appropriation in a work of visual art for political, religious or social reasons may do so. It is fundamental that students pursuing strategies of appropriation understand that in the United States *fair use* allows them to copy copyrighted material for a limited and "transformative" purpose. Given the complicated nature of how artists utilize appropriation in the 21st century, SRISA students are required to discuss ideas regarding fair use and copied imagery with their professors before turning in their assignment.

## 8. CRITIQUES

Critiques are friendly group discussion of each student's course work. They allow students to see their own work through the eyes of their peers and instructor, and also encourage students to develop critical insights about their work and the work of others. During the semester instructor will take the time to personally review each student's work as well with the aim to improve student's ability to develop a personal point of view.

## 9. ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOR POLICY

Students should attend all classes if they are healthy and able to come to class. Students who miss more than 1 class will have their final grade lowered by one letter grade for each additional absence. For example, if you have an "A" in this class and you are absent 3 times you will receive a "D" in the course. If you are absent more than 3 times you will receive an "F" on your transcript.

Tardiness: After 20 minutes into class time, students are considered absent.  
Students who leave 20 minutes before class time ends will be considered absent  
Excused absences require a doctor's note or a written note from the Director.  
Arriving in class unprepared to work is considered an unexcused absence.  
The use of cellular phones is prohibited during class time.

Students are expected to participate in class, act responsibly, and behave properly while on the school premises. Classrooms are to be left in order and clean. Students must take care of equipment and materials and promptly report any damage and/or loss.

## 10. COURSE CALENDAR

### Week 1

*introduction to the studio course/ first in-studio assignment/intro to first sketchbook excursion*  
**first sketchbook excursion "Florence icons of powerful families"**  
**Tower Houses**

### Week 2

*desk crits on sketchbooks/ introduction to sketchbook excursion/*  
**sketchbook excursion "Florence icons of powerful families"**  
**Palazzo Davanzati**

### Week 3

*in studio work/first review of sketchbooks*  
**sketchbook excursion "Florence icons of powerful families"**  
**Palazzo Medici-Riccardi**

### Week 4

*desk crits on sketchbooks/ introduction to sketchbook excursion/*  
**sketchbook excursion "Florence icons of powerful families"**  
**Palazzo Vecchio**

**Week 5**

*desk crits on sketchbooks/ introduction to sketchbook excursion*  
**sketchbook excursion “public & sacred Florence”**  
**Piazza Ss. Annunziata e Istituto Innocenti / Box 1 Due**

**Week 6 - midterm review and critique**

*desk crits on sketchbooks with the complete sites analysis*

**Week 7**

*desk crits on sketchbooks/ introduction to sketchbook excursion/*  
**sketchbook excursion “public & sacred Florence”**  
**Piazza e Chiesa S. Croce + Church**  
**Piazza e Chiesa S.M. Novella + Church**

**Week 8 - fall break****Week 9**

*desk crits on sketchbooks/ introduction to sketchbook excursion*  
**sketchbook excursion “nature and artifice”**  
**English Cemetery / Box 2 Due**

**Week 10**

*in studio work/second review of sketchbooks*

**Week 11**

*desk crits on sketchbooks/ introduction to sketchbook excursion/*  
**sketchbook excursion “nature and artifice”**  
**Rampe Poggi, Piazzale Michelangelo**

**Week 12**

*desk crits on sketchbooks/ introduction to sketchbook excursion*  
**sketchbook excursion “Your Personal Florence”**  
**Box 3 Due**

**Week 13**

*desk crits on sketchbooks/ introduction to sketchbook excursion*  
**sketchbook excursion “Your Personal Florence”**

**Week 14**

*desk crits on sketchbooks/ introduction to sketchbook excursion*  
**sketchbook excursion “Your Personal Florence”**

**Week 15 - final group exam and critique**

*final desk crits with the complete sketchbooks and presentation*  
**Box 4 Due**

**11. ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

SRISA strives to foster an all-inclusive learning environment that best caters to its students' needs. While faculty frequently work one-on-one with students, there are some situations in which special accommodations are required. Should a student have any academic accommodations regarding test taking or otherwise, they must present an official letter from their home University to the SRISA Director within the first week of class stating the accommodations.

**12. DISCLAIMER**

This Syllabus may be amended as the course proceeds. You will be notified of any changes.