

Syllabus

Course Number: **ARC 4930**
Course Title: **VIA Analytical Sketching**
Term: Fall 2022
Section Number: TBD
Credits: 3
Meeting times: Tuesdays (class time to be arranged)

Professor: **Sarah Gamble**
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Faculty office: 3rd floor VIA building, Vicenza, Italy
Office hours by appointment due to the travel schedule

Course description

Analytical sketching is a course designed specifically for undergraduates while in a VIA semester abroad. The goal of the course is to train students in architectural sketching by using the opportunities that travel offers for both daily, direct exposure to significant buildings, and to the European urban environment.

This course will pair with and complement the Design Seven studio. Both will continue the trajectories of city and building analysis started in lower division and further developed in Design 6. The role of analysis in the two courses –is twofold: first to document the existing conditions in dense, organically formed, European cities; and second, to improve the understanding of a complex mix of spatial, formal, organizational, constructive, and material issues influencing the making of buildings.

The support materials brought to this course by both faculty and students will have a significant impact on the course direction, aligned with the selected sites for the Design Seven studio (Milan and Rome) and student travel (group and individual). Complemented by internet sources, the VIA library has abundant, relevant material to aid in this course, which are helpful in providing context, historically and conceptually, for the buildings, public spaces, and urban landscapes that will be studied.

Course Goals

1. To examine critical modes of analysis within the architectural design process, with a focus on analytical sketching;
2. To increase awareness of analytical sketching methodologies and their use within the design process;
3. To develop (or further develop) analytical sketching skills;
4. To develop an original thesis proposal and methodology for testing – and successfully execute the proposal;
5. and, to further develop the ability to effectively and constructively critique your and others' process and products.

Calendar and Exercises

The course will be organized into five learning modules, each roughly two to four weeks, to align with the Design 7 and travel schedule. Students will be assessed at the conclusion of each module, including a Mid-term drawing assignment following Module 3 and Final drawing assignment to conclude the course.

Module 1: Skill-building

Module 1 will focus on foundational exercises and the cultivation of basic drawing skills. Short lectures and structured exercises, both in studio and out in the field, will set the groundwork for future, self-guided explorations.

Module 2: Exploring Place

In Module 2, sketching will be used as a tool for observation and analysis at the scale of city, district, neighborhood, and street. Drawing exercises will focus on engagement and exploration of place throughout Vicenza and travel locations.

Module 3: Site + Building Analysis

Module 3 will focus on analysis at the individual site and building scale with direct implications for the architectural design process. Aligned with the Design 7 schedule, this module overlaps with the group trip to Rome and will cultivate first-hand observation and analysis for Project 2.

Module 4: Thesis Proposal

Drawing on lessons from the first three modules and students' personal interests, Module 4 will focus on the development of a unique thesis and project to be executed by the students during Module 5. Students will produce a proposal, including text and draft visuals to communicate their process / methodologies and anticipated outcomes.

Module 5: Thesis Execution

During Module 5, students will execute the project developed in Module 4. A final presentation / review will conclude the course.

Course Format + Structure

This course will be conducted akin to an architectural studio course, rather than a lecture format course. The course will take place within the facilities of VIA and in the field, including Vicenza and other travel locations. The environment must be considered akin to the university environment with identical corresponding rules of conduct and restrictions, as if it were the University of Florida grounds.

Like a studio, the course format is designed for students to learn as much from fellow students as from professors. The course requires your active participation in discussion and drawing exercises. The process is an active and communal one, involving redundant sequences of doing, looking, articulating, clarifying, and doing again. All effort and critique are public – therefore it is essential to learn to trust and respect one another.

Critique + Presentations

As part of the course, students will take part in formal and informal critique and presentations. Group gatherings to share work provide a forum for discussion and 'social learning', where students experience the critique of their own work and the work of other students in order to further individual and collective learning. Think of these events not as moments of judgment, but rather as opportunities to add depth to the implications and possible directions for scholarly development. Developing the ability to appropriately critique fellow students will also be essential to your education and professional career.

Supplies and Tools

For this course, a sketchbook is required. This sketchbook should be designed for drawing and contain drawing paper that is white and not lined. The minimum size is 8" by 10". The sketchbook binding should not hinder the drawing process and ideally lie flat when opened. Consider the thickness and tooth of the paper and the potential for drawing on both sides (or not). In addition, watercolor paper will be needed for certain exercises. Students are welcome to bring paper with them, but know that it is easily purchased in Vicenza.

For this course and Design 7, students should expect to use typical drawing and design tools used in studio courses. Be prepared to trim drawing paper, construct a paper model, create a collage, sketch in the field, etc. While supplies and tools can be purchased in Vicenza, prices are typically higher than sources in the US.

While keeping travel restrictions and luggage weights in mind, it is recommended students put together a basic toolkit to bring with them, containing the following:

- drawing pencils – ranging from thin to thick, soft to hard lead
- drawing pens – ranging from thin to thick
- small cutting mat
- cork backed ruler
- small triangle (for making 90-degree angles)
- small scissors
- x-acto or mat knife

- travel watercolor set
- clear tape
- masking tape
- glue stick
- small to medium binder clips

While planning your toolkit, envision yourself sketching or using watercolor paints out in the field. How will you transport everything? Do you prefer a certain type of container or bag? Will you need a clipboard or similar (chipboard + binder clips) to hold paper while you work? Any other favorite tools you can't design without?

Room and field use

While at the VIA facilities, many students will be working in the same room. Please be considerate of others, including: working quietly and unobtrusively, that you respect your fellow student's work, and that you clean up after you are finished. Please note that sprays are prohibited in studio and anywhere on the VIA grounds.

Safety

Please use every safety precaution in the studio and out in the field. Always be aware of your surroundings, especially in unfamiliar places and situations.

While working in the VIA studio space, please use every precaution with tools and materials. Do not hesitate to ask for assistance. Please note - power tools and sprays are prohibited in the studio.

Attendance

Attendance to the class is mandatory and will be recorded each day. There is no possibility to make up a missed studio session. Notes will be useful and a long conversation with a fellow student will help you begin to figure out what to do to prepare for the next session, but it can never make up the learning. A session with your instructor may or may not be possible and cannot duplicate the collective conversation.

As a result, our policy on attendance is extremely strict: ANY absence must be registered with the professor by Canvas message. It is your responsibility to get the assignments from your fellow students. Two un-excused absences may adversely affect your grade. Three un-excused absences is grounds for failing the course. Chronic lateness will also affect your grade. It is never permissible to miss a critique, nor is it permissible to be late or to leave early during a review.

If something is seriously wrong, please talk to us about it. Arrangements can be made to cope with serious illness, family or personal crisis.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Performance and Grading

Through analytical sketching, translations of spaces and ideas is an iterative process that must be nurtured and developed. Each sketch will take on new questions or advance previous questions to another level of sophistication. Developing personal processes of inquiry and investigation will foster proficiency and sophistication in the work. The quality and sophistication of products and process are key factors in assessment, rather than the determination of right and wrong answers.

In design, grades are subjective and assessments are aligned with course goals. Feedback will be given to provide students with the opportunity to advance and improve the work while in process. Outlined below, assessments of the design work will take into account: quality and process; and student advancement / progress.

Titled Participation, 10% of the final grade will be based on in-class participation, attendance, effort and progress, and general attitude. While it may seem that the majority of your efforts will be reflected within the final product of each project, do keep in mind that the day-to-day interaction will have a significant impact on your final grade. Titled Course Documentation, 10% of the final grade will be based on the successful submission of high-quality documentation of the entirety of the semester. Detailed instructions will be provided.

Composition of Final Grade

- 10% Module 1 Assessment
- 10% Module 2 Assessment
- 20% Mid-term Assessment
- 10% Thesis Proposal
- 30% Thesis Execution
- 10% Participation
- 10% Course Documentation

The system of grading will be similar to other studio classes:

- A Outstanding work only
- A- Excellent work - close to outstanding
- B+ Very good work
- B Good work thoroughly completed
- B- Good work
- C+ Slightly above average work
- C Average work – meets minimum requirements
- C- Average work – missing a few requirements
- D+ Poor work with some effort – missing important requirements
- D Poor Work – missing most of the requirements
- E Inadequate work – missing all of the requirements

UF Grading Policy

Information on UF's grading policy can be found at the following location:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Numeric Grade	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	0-59
Quality Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0

Regarding accommodations for students with disabilities

"Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation."

Course References

This course does not require the purchase of textbooks or other reference material texts. Assigned readings in a digital format will be provided via Canvas. Within the VIA library, students will have access to a number of books on course topics.

SoA, DCP, and UF Policies

Policy on Retaining Work

Please note that the University of Florida, College of Design, Construction, and Planning policy states that student's work may be retained indefinitely for academic purposes. You should be prepared for the instructor to ask that it be exhibited or photographed during or after the term. Having your work retained for photography or exhibition is evidence of its quality and value to the School. Not to worry, you will be able either to retrieve your original work or retrieve it temporarily to make copies or photograph it for your own personal purposes.

Online Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.a.a.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.a.a.ufl.edu/public-results/>

University Policy on Academic Conduct

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Academic Honesty in Architecture

Students in the School of Architecture are expected to adhere to all University of Florida academic honesty policies. Failure to do so will result in lowered grades and/or referral to the University Honor Court. Since the University's policies are necessarily generalized, the School of Architecture further clarifies academic honesty within the specific setting of design education.

The following acts are considered to be academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism/misrepresentation

There shall be no question of what your work is and what someone else's is. This applies to all aspects of student performance, including but not limited to: CAD drawings and construction details; design guidelines (written and graphic); design, planning, and management projects or portions of projects; class reports and papers (again, both written and graphic information); any assignment where sole authorship is indicated, such as take-home tests, individual projects, etc.

Examples of inappropriate activities include:

- copying graphics for a report without crediting the original source
- representing someone else's work as your own (using existing CAD construction details, tracing drawings, etc.)
- allowing someone else to represent your work as his own

Given the collaborative nature of design studios, interaction between students is desirable, but the intention and degree of assistance must be appropriate. For example, it is appropriate to discuss the assignment/method/software program/course materials—but it is not appropriate to solve or resolve a large portion of the project together unless group work is specified.

The importance of precedent and learning from past works is a necessary part of most design processes. Again, it is the intent and degree of "borrowing" ideas that is at question. If in doubt, discuss the role of the precedent in your presentation of the work with your Professor.

Anything not original must be paraphrased and cited, or quoted; using accepted style formats such as APA, MLA, Chicago Manual of Style, etc. This includes information obtained from the Internet, public documents, graphics, and personal interviews as well as more traditional written sources. Proper crediting of all information that is not common knowledge is necessary for academic honesty as well as for professionalism. For example, analysis drawings and/or text should cite the sources from which data was obtained.

2. Multiple submissions of the same or similar work without prior approval

For example: If the instructors understand that you are doing a paper associated with your thesis or senior project topic, then doing similar work for two different classes is acceptable—if the instructors agree to it. If a single paper is

submitted for one class, then later is submitted for another, and the instructors expect original work, then the multiple submission is inappropriate.

3. Falsifying information

Examples include:

- Misrepresenting reasons why work cannot be done as requested
- Changing or leaving out data, such as manipulating statistics for a research project, or ignoring/hiding inconvenient but vital site information. (However, for educational purposes only, certain aspects of the “real world” may be jointly agreed upon as not being pertinent to the academic goals of the course, such as not dealing with specific project parameters or budget, changing the program, etc.)
- Altering work after it has been submitted
- Hiding, destroying, or otherwise making materials unavailable (hiding reference materials, not sharing materials with other students, etc.)

Class Demeanor + Netiquette policy

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in face-to-face and digital formats, including email messages, threaded discussions, and chats.

<https://stat.ufl.edu/files/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses-LLC.pdf>

Technical Assistance

For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>, (352) 392-HELP (4357).

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the [Notification to Students of FERPA Rights](#).

Counseling + Emergency Contacts

- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: counseling.ufl.edu/cwc, and 352 392-1575
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
- University of Florida Dean of Students, 392-1261, after hours: 392-1111 (ask for on-call staff); <https://dso.ufl.edu>