

ARC 4930. Special Topics Seminar in Architecture: European Public Space
School of Architecture, University of Florida
3-credit course

Course Syllabus
Spring 2026

Instructor: Assistant Professor Sarah Gamble
Class Meeting Times: TBD aligned with VIA schedule
Instructor Contact: sarah.gamble@ufl.edu or Canvas mail
Office Location: SoA VIA Faculty Office, Vicenza, Italy
Office Hours with Instructor: TBD aligned with VIA schedule

Course Prerequisites: None
Course Co-requisites: None
Course Restrictions: Students participating in the School of Architecture's VIA program.

Required Textbook / Readings

None. Students will access required readings in a digital format through UF Libraries and/or links through the course Canvas page.

Course Description + Background

This course explores the design and development of European Public Space set within cities of varying size. Drawing on travel embedded within the VIA program, the course will serve as introduction to urbanism concepts at a range of scales, including building, street, neighborhood, district, and city. With a focus on public space, the course incorporates perspectives and knowledge from a range of disciplines, including architecture, urban planning, urban design, and others to expose students to a range of contexts, societies, landscapes, perspectives, and variables that impact the development of urban environments and daily life – and vice versa. The course will spark curiosity about the spaces and places present within the city, as we look to study their morphology and use. This course bridges multiple built environment disciplines, perspectives, cultures, and countries to take a wholistic look at European cities, public space, and contemporary life within them.

Course Objectives

- Build students' familiarity with and knowledge of history, design principles, and urbanism concepts in relationship to European cities and public space, and their impact on daily life
- Introduce and explain the design of urban environments and public space, both process and built products
- Expose students to a variety of course materials, including a range of authors, perspectives, and media, and in-person experiences to explore contemporary issues involving cities, public space, and urban life
- Provide opportunities for students to reflect and connect course content to coordinated travel and their intellectual, personal, and professional interests and ambitions

Course Format

This course is taught in a seminar format. In addition to time spent in travel, the course will have 10 class meetings at 3 hours each. Lectures will provide an overview of the meeting's focus and provide context for in-class discussion. Student presentations will explore course content, while jumpstarting dialog and discussion. Linking in-person experiences back to the classroom, course meetings and assignments will connect with coordinated group travel, preparing students for deep looking and engagement in the built environment.

Graded Assignments + Participation

On-the-Go Resource: A resource of the student's design to share information and ideas with their classmates in preparation for an assigned travel location. The resource may take a tangible and/or digital format, for example: video, podcast, map, pamphlet, etc. The student must anticipate how the resource will be shared with each student

and distribute it to their classmates at least 24 hours before travel begins, or at a mutually agreed upon time with the instructor. (individual assignment)

Topical Presentation: A 20-minute presentation exploring an urbanism concept in relationship to a European city we will travel to. The assignment draws on research by the students about the assigned city and concept, and provides a lens for investigation. The focus of the presentation is emerging ideas from their overlaps and collision, rather than a re-presentation of the research findings. (group assignment – 13 teams of 2 or 3 students)

Timeline Collage Contributions: Three contributions to a shared, visual timeline physically installed in the VIA Seminar Space. Each contribution is a tangible, physical contribution with visual strength and supporting text inserted into the chronological timeline. Each contribution stems from student's topical presentation. The timeline allows for connections across time and space in relationship to European cities and public space, their history, and development. (individual assignment)

Participation

Students will be graded on their participation in the course, with a focus on discussion, dialogue, and engagement with course content, fellow classmates, the instructor, and the built environment.

Grading Criteria

Your final grade will be a tabulation of the following assignments:

25% On-the-Go Resource

25% Topical Presentation

10% Timeline Collage Contribution: 1

10% Timeline Collage Contribution: 2

10% Timeline Collage Contribution: 3

20% Class Participation

100% TOTAL GRADE

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

Course Schedule

The 10 in-class meetings and their topical foci will be organized in relationship to travel.

Venice: Urban Origins + Development (1); Climate Adaption + Resiliency (2)

Barcelona: Streetscapes (3); Parks as Public Infrastructure (4)

Vicenza: Urban Phenomenology / Sensory Experience (5)

Milan: Public Space (6)

Rome: Transportation (7); Housing tied to Tourism (8)

Bellinzona / Vaduz / Bregenz / Chur / Vals: Quality of Life (9)

Verona: The Composition of Uniqueness / Urban Character (10)

Course + Required Policies

For UF "Academic Policies & Resources," go to: <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>. These resources include information about:

- Requirements for class attendance, make-up exams, and assignments
- Processes for students with disabilities who may require accommodations
- Current UF grading policies
- Expectations for course evaluations and constructive feedback
- The University's Honesty Policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc.
- In-class recording of class lectures for personal use
- Academic resources, including contact information
- Campus health and wellness resources, including contact information

Syllabus + Course Updates

As we move throughout the semester, students should expect minor revisions and updates to the course and syllabus. These changes and updates will be clearly communicated in class and/or via Canvas "Announcements".

Attendance + Make-up Work

Attendance is expected and required. The interactive nature of the seminar environment relies on students' attendance and participation to achieve the course's learning objectives. The course will have 10 in-class meetings linked to required program travel. Upon the second unexcused absence, a student's participation grade will be impacted. Upon the third unexcused absence, a student will be asked to drop the course.

Students have multiple days to submit work for each assignment, therefore the Make-Up Policy for the course is VERY limited. Reasonable allowances will be made for serious illness, family, or personal crisis that are accompanied by an appropriate documentation.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. For UF "Academic Policies & Resources," go to: <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>.

Communication

Questions related to the course and course content should be asked in class, as the question/answer will benefit the entirety of the class. Questions of a private nature should be directed to Instructor in-person or by email / Canvas message.

Submitting Assignments + Late Work Policy

All assignments will be submitted through Canvas. Each assignment has a unique date / time that the assignment is 'available' and 'due'. Assignments submitted past the 'due' date will receive an automatic 10% deduction per 24-hour period the assignment is late. It is entirely the responsibility of the student to verify due dates to ensure on-time submission. Be sure to provide ample time to get assignments properly submitted, keeping in mind technological glitches and problems often arise.

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. See the "Get Started With the DRC" webpage on the Disability Resource Center site. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor via email at sarah.gamble@ufl.edu and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

1. The email they receive from GatorEvals,
2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or
3. The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluer.com>.

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

University Honesty Policy

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 honor 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 (<https://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.

Campus Resources: Health + Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

Campus Resources: Academic

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.

Teaching Center: 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information.

Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.

In-Class Recordings

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.