

*Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the Instructor during the first day of class.*

## **The American University of Rome**

### **Religious Studies Program**

*Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate*

<b>Course Title:</b>	Sacred Space: Religious Architecture of Rome
<b>Course Number:</b>	AHRE 106
<b>Credits &amp; hours:</b>	3 credits – 3 hours
<b>Pre/Co-Requisites:</b>	None

#### **Course description**

The course explores main ideas behind the sacral space on the example of sacral architecture of Rome, from the ancient times to the postmodern period. The course maximizes the opportunity of on-site teaching in Rome to best illustrates the main themes and particular topics of the course. Students will study different religious traditions, various religious ideas and practices (including the ancient Roman religion, early Roman Catholicism as well as Judaism and Islam) and learn about the broader cultural and historical context in which they appeared.

#### **Recommended Readings (subject to change)**

(Only selected chapters must be read, according to weekly schedule)

- Erzen, Jale Nejd. "Reading Mosques: Meaning and Architecture in Islam," in: The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism. Winter, 2011, Vol. 69, 125-131.
- Kilde, Jeanne Halgren. Sacred Power, Sacred Space: An Introduction to Christian Architecture and Worship. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Levine, Lee I. The Ancient Synagogue: The First Thousand Years. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000.
- McClendon, Charles B. "The History of the Site of St. Peter's Basilica, Rome," in: Perspecta, Vol. 25. (1989), pp. 32-65

#### **Entry Fees**

Students are responsible for all entry fees.

#### **Course Learning Objectives**

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

1. demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of sacred places and sacral architecture of various religious traditions in Rome, and their relation to religious rituals and the public and urban surrounding in which they are located
2. analyze the origins and development of ancient Roman, Jewish, Christian (Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant) and Muslim architecture in connection to religious teachings and practices
3. demonstrate basic knowledge of aesthetic properties and aesthetic principles of religious architecture and the way in which sacred spaces were shaped by both tradition and innovation
4. demonstrate basic elements of the broader social, cultural and political context in which particular religions and religious architecture were formed

### Course Learning Activities

- Out of class reading and in class analysis and discussions (CLO 1-4): Each week students will read the scheduled texts in preparation for classes and class discussion. Students will be asked to participate in class discussions and to present their responses to scheduled texts and particular topics during the class. They will be expected to answer orally to questions stemming from the assigned readings and the topic for that week.
- On-site classes (CLO 1-4): Students are expected to be prepared for on-site classes. Students are also expected to participate actively in on-site class by discussing the topic of the class.
- Oral presentation (CLO 1-4): Students will make an oral presentation on one of the course topics. Oral presentations can be made in form of power point, poster or other appropriate presentations, in consultation with professor. Students are expected to make a well structured and organized presentation, which should be 10 minutes long, followed by discussion. The purpose of this presentation is to expand students' understanding of a particular topic, and to teach them how to structure their oral presentations and how to establish links between knowledge they obtained during the classes, class readings and their preparations for the presentation.

### Assessment tools

Participation in class discussions	10%
Tests (3, 20% each)	60%
Oral presentation	30%

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Reading
Week 1	Introduction The idea of “holy” space. Continuity of “sacred” places. Examples from antiquity, Christianity, Islam.	
Week 2	Forum Boarium Sacred places and sacred spaces in ancient Rome; their features and relation to public rituals in the ancient Roman civilization	
Week 3	Tempio Maggiore di Roma The Great Synagogue of Rome. The origins of Jewish sacral architecture. Synagogues, the Jerusalem Temple in and its influence on later sacred art and architecture.	Levine, The Ancient Synagogue: The First Thousand Years. (selected chapters)
Week 4	Catacombs The origins of Christian architecture. Domus ecclesiae and catacombs.	Kilde, Sacred Power, Sacred Space. 23-33.
Week 5	San Paolo fuori le mura Early Christian Basilicas – structure, origin, symbolism. Test	Kilde, Sacred Power, Sacred Space. 46-52.
Week 6	St. Catherine (Russian) Orthodox Church Early Christian and Byzantine roots of Orthodox Christian architecture	Kilde, Sacred Power, Sacred Space. 54-60
Week 7	St. Peter’s Basilica and the Vatican St. Peter’s grave, Constantine’s basilica, Medieval church, Renaissance and Baroque interventions. Religious architecture and political power.	McClendon, The History of the Site of St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. 39-65.
Week 8	Il Gesù Baroque architecture, its form and purpose. Reformation and contra reformation. Test	Kilde, Sacred Power, Sacred Space. 98-111.
Week 9	Santa Maria della Vittoria Bel Composto – Gesamtkunstwerk of baroque. Baroque aesthetics in service of religious policies. Sacred space and religious/ideological narratives.	Kilde, Sacred Power, Sacred Space. 98-111.
Week 10	Chiesa Evangelica Luterana Lutheran Church. Protestantism and the idea of “holy” space	Kilde, Sacred Power, Sacred Space. 111-125.
Week 11	Moschea di Roma Roman Mosque and Islamic Cultural Center. Origins and development of Islamic sacral architecture. Test	Erzen, Reading Mosques: Meaning and Architecture in Islam.
Week 12	Chiesa Dives in Misericordia Richard Meier and Partners, 2003. Rome. Postmodern Christian architecture.	
Week 13	Extra trip	
Week 14	Oral presentations and final discussion	

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

### 1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;  
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;  
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note\* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

### 2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please refer to the Provost's Office list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally not be counted as an absence.

Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

\*Note: No Instructor may penalize a student more than half a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

#### Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

#### Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		