COURSE DETAIL

URBAN FLORENCE THROUGH ART, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND CINEMA
Country Italy
Host Institution UC Center, Florence
Program(s) Italian in Florence,Made in Italy, Florence
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Urban Studies Italian Film & Media Studies
UCEAP Course Number 114
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title URBAN FLORENCE THROUGH ART, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND CINEMA
UCEAP Transcript Title FLOR ART PHOTOG&FLM
UCEAP Quarter Units 5.00
UCEAP Semester Units 3.30

Course Description

What is the relationship between a city's structure and the way it is represented? This course investigates this question by analyzing Florence's urban history and its visual representation in paintings, frescoes, maps, photographs, and films from the 1200s to today. As the city has been in turn the site of a proud communal society, the main center of the Medici and then Lorraine rule, the capital of newly unified Italy and the repository of national and international cultural and ethical (and touristic) values, we examine how Florence has been both shaped by and represented according to different political and cultural agendas, and how the city's structure and its representation have constantly affected each other. Special emphasis is devoted to the emergence of photography and cinema and the radical visual and conceptual shift that these media have produced in the city's image. Some of the issues this course explores are: the role of linear perspective as a scientific and political tool for representing, conceptualizing, and controlling urban space; the ways in which the city has been reconfigured and portrayed by foreigners from the 1600s on; and photography's and cinema's potential for addressing compelling urban issues such as the contrast between memory and urban modernization, the elusive relationship of past preservation and mass tourism, and the enmeshment of notions of tourism and surveillance.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

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Host Institution Course Details
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Host Institution Campus
UC Center Florence

Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department ACCENT
Course Last Reviewed 2024-2025

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