

**School of Architecture | Georgia Tech | Summer 2026**

**ARCH 3009 / 6009: Art and Architecture in Italy II (3 credits)**

*Undergraduate and Graduate Offering*

## **ARCH 3009 / 6009 Syllabus**

---

### **Instructor Information**

**Instructor:** Danielle S. Willkens, PhD

**Email:** danielle.willkens@design.gatech.edu

**Office Location:** Hinman 358A

GTA: Botao Li

GTA: botaoli825@gatech.edu

## **General Course Information**

---

### **Course Description**

The course is part of a three-course sequence on the interrelated subjects of architecture, urbanism, painting, and sculpture from the Bronze Age to the eighteenth century in Greece and Italy. This course is distinguished from the first and second in the sequence by its emphasis on the late medieval, renaissance, and baroque periods in Northern Italy.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

The purpose of the course is to provide an intensive on-site investigation of the role that the arts have played in the development of Italian civilization, and by extension, the influence of this civilization on the historical development of the visual arts and architecture in the Western world. The core of the class is a two-and-a-half-week intensive, on-site study of the cities, buildings, and art of medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, and contemporary Italy. The course is organized around a two-week residence period in Florence, Vicenza, and Venice, with day trips to other important cities (e.g., Pienza), and it includes visits to and lectures on the most important relevant sites and museums.

This course is designed to accomplish the following objectives:

- To understand the historical evolution from the late Middle Ages to the Renaissance to the Baroque in terms of broad societal and cultural changes (in politics, economics, religion, philosophy, and technology) and the major agents of change.
- To be able to identify the manifestations or catalysts of those changes in the growth or planning of cities, the range of building types and their contexts, and the forms of individual buildings.
- To be exposed to the variety of media and genres of art making in the late Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Baroque periods.

- To acquire and develop the fundamental critical tools of visual and historical interpretation: a descriptive and analytical vocabulary with which to express visual perception verbally, the rudiments of sketching and diagramming techniques, the ability to identify and evaluate different kinds of historical evidence, and a sense of the complex constitution of historical context.

Those students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

- Describe and analyze the urban form and architecture of the sites visited and understand their relationship to larger historical changes.
- Approach the study of art with more confidence and a basic awareness of kinds of art making in the periods in question.
- Speak about, write about, and draw the major attributes of cultural production in an informed, critical, focused, and thorough way.
- Summarize and give examples of the major societal and cultural changes over the course of the periods in question.

## Required Course Materials

Sketchbook(s) for on-site notetaking, drawings, and reflections in conjunction with the required field notes and journal. All additional readings and resources will be available on Teams.

## Grading Policy

Grade evaluations will be based on consistent, high-quality work over the entire semester. All three course-specific assignment requirements (field-notes, journal and presentation,) are graded for accuracy, completeness, comprehensiveness, and criticality. The grading of the class is distributed in the following fashion:

- Field notes: 20%
- Journal: 50%
- Presentation: 30%

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled program events; participation and the overall quality of the submitted work provide the foundation for your grade. Remember, grades are earned by you, not given by your instructor.

- A grade of "A" indicates excellent work: your deliverables (presentation, field-notes, and journal) manifest both a clear understanding of the course's themes and criteria, and a self-motivated exploration beyond the basic course requirements. A student who receives a grade of "A" has delivered work that is exemplary in conception, development, and craft.
- A grade of "B" indicates good work: you have met the basic requirements of the course and your deliverables are developed to the point where positive evaluation can be made according to the course's themes and criteria.
- A grade of "C" indicates average work: you have met the basic requirements of the course, but your deliverables are substantially undeveloped.
- A grade of "D" indicates poor, minimally passing work: you have barely met the requirements of the course and your deliverables are weak or very incomplete.
- A grade of "F" indicates failing work, and is given to a student who does not meet the attendance and other course requirements, including those specified for the deliverables.

## Grading Scale

A	90–100%
B	80–89%
C	70–79%
D	60–69%
F	Below 60%

## Course Schedule

Generally, on-site lectures are given Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This schedule varies, depending upon the site and the subject. The exact dates, time, and itineraries are all on the annotated class schedule on Teams; this is subject to periodic revisions.

## Course Policies

---

### Attendance and/or Participation

Active Participation at all class meetings is mandatory and crucial to the successful completion of the class. Attendance and participation will be collected through Canvas-based questions and surveys presented during class time. Excused absences will not count towards the calculation of a final grade.

### SoA Attendance Policy

Active participation at all class meetings is mandatory. Absences will be excused only for medical or family emergencies, Institute-approved events, and religious holidays documented in writing. (Notify your instructor in writing during the first two weeks of the semester about any anticipated religious holiday absences.) Late arrivals will be counted as absences.

NOTE: Absences due to special and/or unforeseen circumstances must be discussed with the instructor as early as practically possible.

Missing three classes without an approved excuse will result in a letter grade reduction. Missing more than three classes, excused or unexcused, may result in a meeting with your instructor and the Architecture Program Office to determine a course of action, and can result in an incomplete (I) or failing grade (F).

Students are highly encouraged to submit absence verification for documented illness, hospitalization, accidents, family emergencies, or lengthy illnesses to the Dean of Students: <https://studentlife.gatech.edu/request-assistance>

### Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards.

Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#). Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity.

For expectations of student and instructor conduct, consult [Code of Conduct \(rules/19\)](#) and [Student-Faculty Expectations \(rules/22\)](#).

### **Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement**

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgment, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body.

[The Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement](#) articulates some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. Simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek.

### **Core IMPACTS**

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Humanities area. Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the [Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment, obtain an accommodations letter, and discuss your special needs. Please also schedule an appointment with your instructor to discuss your learning needs.

## **Optional Policies, Expectations, and Resources**

### **Limited Generative AI Use Permitted**

Use of Generative AI (e.g., Chat GTP, Nano Banana) is permitted but only within instructor-approved boundaries. Its use must be transparent and documented in a required AI Usage Statement with each submission, including: tool used and date of access, the input (prompt) provided, a copy of the output, and a description of how you used or edited the AI-generated content. Failure to disclose its use may be considered a violation of Georgia Tech's academic integrity policies.

## Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

As an intensive, site-based class, absences are only granted in extenuating circumstance.

Late submissions of assignments without previous arrangements will be graded down one-half letter grade for each calendar day they are overdue.

## Student Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom

Full attention is required in class. Students using devices for anything other than active note-taking may be counted as absent for the class period.

## CIOS — Course Evaluations

At the end of the term, students are asked to complete the online course evaluation for all courses at Georgia Tech (<https://gatech.smartevals.com>). CIOS scores and comments have different degrees of visibility based on roles:

Reporting access by role	CIOS Scaled Results	CIOS Comments	TA's Scaled Results	TA's Comments
Instructor	Their Own	Their Own	All within their own course	All within their own course
TA Supervisor	N/A	N/A	All within their own course	All within their own course
Teaching Assistant	None	None	Their Own	Their Own
School Administration	All within their own unit	None	All within their own unit	All within their own unit
Students	All – Summary only	None	None	None

More information: [CIOS Student FAQ](#)

## Campus Resources for Students

### Undergraduate Student Academic Success Resources

A list of resources for undergraduate students' academic success and advising can be found at [Success at Tech](#). Academic Support (a unit in the Office of Undergraduate Education & Student Success) provides free tutoring: [success.gatech.edu/tutoring](https://success.gatech.edu/tutoring).

### Graduate Student Academic and Professional Success Resources

A list of resources for graduate students is available on the [Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Education](#) website.

## Student Well-Being

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A [comprehensive list of wellness-related resources](#) has been compiled by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being.

## Library & Archives

Contact your Architecture Library subject specialist, Catherine Mancini ([catherine.mancini@library.gatech.edu](mailto:catherine.mancini@library.gatech.edu)), for research help and information on available resources.

Contact your Architecture Archives liaison, Jody Thompson ([jody.thompson@library.gatech.edu](mailto:jody.thompson@library.gatech.edu)), for assistance with archival research and collections.

Georgia Tech Library: <https://library.gatech.edu/> Georgia Tech Archives: <http://library.gatech.edu/archives>

## Approved Communication Platforms

[Georgia Tech Approved Communication Platforms](#)

## Georgia Tech Values Statement

At Georgia Tech, we see different backgrounds and perspectives as essential to learning, discovery, and creation. We strive to remove barriers to student success and to build a welcoming community where everyone has the opportunity to contribute to our mission. As outlined in our [strategic plan](#), we want to create an environment of holistic learning where all individuals can grow and learn to lead healthy, purposeful, impactful lives.

# SoA & College of Design Policies

---

## Archiving

At the end of the semester, all students are required to submit physical and/or digital examples of their work to their instructors or administration for archiving no later than one week after the end of term. By enrolling, each student grants a license to reproduce and display their work online, in forthcoming print publications, and in public exhibitions.

## Ownership

For the purposes of continuous improvement efforts, such as accreditations and periodic program reviews, the School will select samples of student work submitted to satisfy course requirements. This includes digital files, papers, drawings, models, etc. Collected samples may be returned to students upon request.

## College of Design Facility Rules and Guidelines

Please consult the [Georgia Tech Student Handbook](#) regarding the use of facilities and all Institute policies. Aerosol sprays of any kind are strictly banned from the studio and surrounding

areas. A spray painting booth is available in the College of Design shop on the ground floor of the East Architecture Building.

### **Course Expectations & Guidelines**

Per the [GT Catalog](#), all work produced in the College of Design as part of a degree program becomes the property of the College; it may be retained or returned at the discretion of the faculty. The faculty of the School of Architecture reserves the right to refuse credit for any project executed outside the precincts of the College or produced without proper coordination with the faculty.

### **Emergencies**

In case of emergency (e.g., fire, accident, or criminal act), please call the Georgia Tech Police at 404-894-2500. Perry Minyard, IT Support Administrator for the College of Design, is also a firefighter and EMT certified in performing CPR.