



## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

### **Methodology of historical research in architecture**

#### **SSD: STORIA DELL'ARCHITETTURA (ICAR/18)**

DEGREE PROGRAMME: ARCHITECTURE AND HERITAGE (P53)  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE**

INTEGRATED COURSE: U3997 - INTEGRATED COURSE OF CRITICAL KNOWLEDGE OF ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE  
MODULE: U3999 - Methodology of historical research in architecture  
CHANNEL: A-Z  
YEAR OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME: I  
PERIOD IN WHICH THE COURSE IS DELIVERED: SEMESTER I  
CFU: 4

### **REQUIRED PRELIMINARY COURSES**

No.

### **PREREQUISITES**

No.

### **LEARNING GOALS**

The course is intended to provide the methodological tools for historical research in the architectural and urban fields. Through the traditional and digital bibliographic resources, as well as thanks to the understanding of the role, the potential and the problems connected to the consultation of public and private archives, the necessary skills for the research activity are to be developed. It is also intended to provide adequate tools to recognize and use the different sources, distinguishing them by their origin and confronting them to check their reliability. The methodology thus acquired can also be used in other contexts, not only local but European and extra-European.

## EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES (DUBLIN DESCRIPTORS)

### Knowledge and understanding

The student must understand the logical articulation of the research path in its various phases, recognizing the need to operate preliminarily through the recognition of the published sources. A knowledge, on a methodological level, of the research path is expected, and an ability to recognize possible unpublished sources, verifying their potential, usefulness and reliability. The student will therefore have to know the methodologies of historical research on heritage and the interactions with other disciplines, as well as being able to study the history of architecture in a diachronic and multiscale way.

### Applying knowledge and understanding

The student must be able to apply the knowledge to:

- critically analyze the heritage on a historical and historiographical level;
- apply direct and indirect methods for historical knowledge of heritage;
- develop an ability to interpret critically the historical heritage;
- relate the investigation methods of the survey and representation with those of the history of architecture, of the city and of the territory, building an interpretative synthesis;
- recognize the crucial importance of historical research for any intervention on historical heritage;
- identify the correct research path for each different type of intervention;
- recognize the qualities of the sources in order to proceed with their intersection and define an overall picture;

## COURSE CONTENT/SYLLABUS

The course is organized according to the following program:

- theoretical features concerning the methodology for historical research in architecture through lectures;
- identification of all possible types of sources (textual, iconographic, documentary, etc.);
- analysis of both Italian and foreign case studies; - exercises on the use of digital resources (catalogues, archives, collections);
- bibliographic research, under the supervision of the teacher, conducted in departmental and university libraries;
- archival research, under the supervision of the teacher, conducted in public and private archives;

## READINGS/BIBLIOGRAPHY

- students are provided with slides relating to the entire block of lessons on the methodology;
- David Watkin, *A History of Western Architecture*, Barrie & Jenkins, London 1986;
- Renato De Fusco, *Mille anni d'architettura in Europa*, Laterza, Roma-Bari 1993;
- Anna Baldazzi, *Metodologie per la ricerca storica*, Gangemi, Roma 2017;
- Nicholas Stanley Price, Mansfield Kirby Talley, Alessandra Melucco Vaccaro, *Historical and Philosophical Issues in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage*, Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

2006;

### TEACHING METHODS OF THE COURSE (OR MODULE)

The course takes consists of theoretical lectures and practical activities. Theoretical lessons are about 30% of the total hours, while the exercises aimed at identifying and using digital resources are about 15%. Finally, bibliographic and archival research activities, both under the supervision of the professor, represent respectively 25% and 30% of the total hours.

### EXAMINATION/EVALUATION CRITERIA

#### a) Exam type

- Written
- Oral
- Project discussion
- Other

#### In case of a written exam, questions refer to

- Multiple choice answers
- Open answers
- Numerical exercises

#### b) Evaluation pattern

The final grade, based on the results and skills demonstrated in the discussion of the project as well as the themes and exercises of the different modules, will be weighted on the CFU of each course and therefore composed as follows: "3D digital survey for heritage" 60%; "Methodology of historical research in architecture" 40%;

The evaluation related to the "Methodology of Historical Research in Architecture" module is based on the verification of the acquisition of the required skills and of the methodological approach, which is object of the lessons.