



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

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GENERAL STUDIES PROGRAM COURSE PROPOSAL COVER FORM

Courses submitted to the GSC between 2/1 and 4/30 if approved, will be effective the following Spring.

Courses submitted between 5/1 and 1/31 if approved, will be effective the following Fall.

(SUBMISSION VIA ADOBE.PDF FILES IS PREFERRED)

DATE 18 January 2009

- 1. ACADEMIC UNIT: School of Government, Politics and Global Studies
2. COURSE PROPOSED: SGS 484 Natural Catastrophe and Urban Response-Italy 3
3. CONTACT PERSON: Name: Thomas J Puleo, PhD Phone: 480-727-0790
Mail Code: 5102 E-Mail: tpuleo@asu.edu

4. ELIGIBILITY: New courses must be approved by the Tempe Campus Curriculum Subcommittee and must have a regular course number. For the rules governing approval of omnibus courses, contact the General Studies Program Office at 965-0739.

5. AREA(S) PROPOSED COURSE WILL SERVE. A single course may be proposed for more than one core or awareness area. A course may satisfy a core area requirement and more than one awareness area requirements concurrently, but may not satisfy requirements in two core areas simultaneously, even if approved for those areas. With departmental consent, an approved General Studies course may be counted toward both the General Studies requirement and the major program of study. (Please submit one designation per proposal)

Core Areas

Awareness Areas

- Literacy and Critical Inquiry-L
Mathematical Studies-MA CS
Humanities, Fine Arts and Design-HU
Social and Behavioral Sciences-SB
Natural Sciences-SQ SG

- Global Awareness-G
Historical Awareness-H
Cultural Diversity in the United States-C

- 6. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED.
(1) Course Description
(2) Course Syllabus
(3) Criteria Checklist for the area
(4) Table of Contents from the textbook used, if available

7. In the space provided below (or on a separate sheet), please also provide a description of how the course meets the specific criteria in the area for which the course is being proposed.

The course covers the deployment and development of baroque architecture, planning and philosophy in the aftermath of the natural disasters that destroyed Catania, Sicily in 1693.

CROSS-LISTED COURSES: [X] No [ ] Yes; Please identify courses:

Is this amultisection course?: [X] No [ ] Yes; Is it governed by a common syllabus?

Chair/Director (Print or Type)

Chair/Director (Signature)

Date:

TEMPE SGS 394 Special Topics

Covers topics of immediate or special interest to a faculty member and students.

**Academic Group & Organization:** Liberal Arts & Sciences - School of Government, Politics and Global Studies

**Allow multiple enrollments:** Yes  
**Repeatable for credit:** Yes

**Primary course component:** Lecture  
**Grading method:** Student Option

The course covers the deployment and development of baroque architecture, planning and philosophy in the aftermath of the natural disasters that destroyed Catania, Sicily in 1693.

Arizona State University Criteria Checklist for

**HUMANITIES, FINE ARTS AND DESIGN [HU]**

**Rationale and Objectives**

The humanities disciplines are concerned with questions of human existence and meaning, the nature of thinking and knowing, with moral and aesthetic experience. The humanities develop values of all kinds by making the human mind more supple, critical, and expansive. They are concerned with the study of the textual and artistic traditions of diverse cultures, including traditions in literature, philosophy, religion, ethics, history, and aesthetics. In sum, these disciplines explore the range of human thought and its application to the past and present human environment. They deepen awareness of the diversity of the human heritage and its traditions and histories and they may also promote the application of this knowledge to contemporary societies.

The study of the arts and design, like the humanities, deepens the student's awareness of the diversity of human societies and cultures. The fine arts have as their primary purpose the creation and study of objects, installations, performances and other means of expressing or conveying aesthetic concepts and ideas. Design study concerns itself with material objects, images and spaces, their historical development, and their significance in society and culture. Disciplines in the fine arts and design employ modes of thought and communication that are often nonverbal, which means that courses in these areas tend to focus on objects, images, and structures and/or on the practical techniques and historical development of artistic and design traditions. The past and present accomplishments of artists and designers help form the student's ability to perceive aesthetic qualities of art work and design.

The Humanities, Fine Arts and Design are an important part of the General Studies Program, for they provide an opportunity for students to study intellectual and imaginative traditions and to observe and/or learn the production of art work and design. The knowledge acquired in courses fulfilling the Humanities, Fine Arts and Design requirement may encourage students to investigate their own personal philosophies or beliefs and to understand better their own social experience. In sum, the Humanities, Fine Arts and Design core area enables students to broaden and deepen their consideration of the variety of human experience.

Revised October 2008

Proposer: Please complete the following section and attach appropriate documentation.

ASU - [HU] CRITERIA			
HUMANITIES, FINE ARTS AND DESIGN [HU] courses must meet <i>either</i> 1, 2, or 3 <i>and</i> at least one of the criteria under 4 in such a way as to make the satisfaction of these criteria <b>A CENTRAL AND SUBSTANTIAL PORTION</b> of the course content.			
YES	NO		Identify Documentation Submitted
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Emphasize the study of values, of the development of philosophies, religions, ethics or belief systems, and/or aesthetic experience.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Concerns the comprehension and interpretation/analysis of written, aural, or visual texts, and/or the historical development of textual traditions.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Concerns the comprehension and interpretation/analysis of material objects, images and spaces, and/or their historical development.	Course description and syllabus
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. In addition, to qualify for the Humanities, Fine Arts and Design designation a course must meet one or more of the following requirements:	Course description and syllabus
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Concerns the development of human thought, including emphasis on the analysis of philosophical and/or religious systems of thought.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Concerns aesthetic systems and values, literary and visual arts.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	c. Emphasizes aesthetic experience in the visual and performing arts, including music, dance, theater, and in the applied arts, including architecture and design.	Course description and syllabus
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Deepen awareness of the analysis of literature and the development of literary traditions.	
		<b>THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE:</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courses devoted <b>primarily</b> to developing a skill in the creative or performing arts, including courses that are <b>primarily</b> studio classes in the Herberger College of the Arts and in the College of Design.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courses devoted <b>primarily</b> to developing skill in the use of a language – <b>However, language courses that emphasize cultural study and the study of literature can be allowed.</b></li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courses which emphasize the acquisition of quantitative or experimental methods.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courses devoted <b>primarily</b> to teaching skills.</li> </ul>	

Course Prefix	Number	Title	Designation
SGS	394	Natural Catastrphe and Urban Response: Baroque architecture in Catania, Sicily	Humanities, Fine Arts and Design

Explain in detail which student activities correspond to the **specific** designation criteria.

Please use the following organizer to explain how the criteria are being met.

Criteria (from checksheet)	How course meets spirit (contextualize specific examples in next column)	Please provide detailed evidence of how course meets criteria (i.e., where in syllabus)
3 Course engages the comprehension, interpretation and analysis of objects, images and spaces and their histoical development.	Natural disasters ignited deep contemplation and fervent discourse on nature/culture relations, and spurred a renaissance of these areas as they ushered in the use and transformation of Baroque architecture and planning in their reconstruction.	All daily lesson plans that engage the criterion bear an "HU". The following lesson plans are particularly relevant: June 2, 3, 5, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 18.
4c Course engages the aesthetic experience of applied arts, architecture and design.	The course examines the role of aesthetic experience involved in the deployment of the baroque architectural and design elements in the reconstruction of Catania and Lisbon after they were destroyed by their respective natural disasters.	All daily lesson plans that engage the criterion bear an "HU". The following lesson plans are particularly relevant: June 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 19.

**SGS 394: Natural Catastrophe and Urban Response-Italy**  
**Baroque architecture and planning in Catania and Val di Noto**

Catania, Sicily  
31 May -20 June

ASU Summer Study Abroad 2009  
M-F 9:00-12:00

Thomas J. Puleo, PhD  
School of Government, Politics and Global Studies

[tpuleo@asu.edu](mailto:tpuleo@asu.edu)  
3 units

**Topic:** In 1693, Catania, Sicily suffered a very strong earthquake that largely destroyed it and its surrounding region. This disaster ignited deep contemplation and fervent discourse on the relationship between humans and nature locally and abroad. Yet this destructive event also spurred a renaissance of this area, most notably as it ushered in the use and transformation of baroque architecture and planning in its reconstruction. The catastrophe and the subsequent reconstruction projects continue to have a profound effect on the economic activities and cultural identities of Catania and Val di Noto.

**Goals:** To investigate the process of natural and social place destruction and creation using various methods so as to develop: a historical awareness of the transformation of the two cities and regions because of the disasters, an understanding of the role of the humanities, fine arts and design in this transformation, and literacy and critical inquiry skills in multiple and varied engagements with the topic.

**Catania and Val di Noto, Sicily (31 May 2009 – 21 June 2009)**

**Event: Before and during the earthquake of 1693 (31 May -7 June 2009)**

31 May: Students arrive in Catania

- 1: Natural and social place making and destruction (Johns 1999, Puleo 2007) [Welcome dinner!]
- 2: Pre-1693 baroque architecture and planning in Sicily (Mack Smith 1968b, Blunt 1968 1) **H, HU**
- 3: Baroque architecture and planning in Europe (Mumford 1961 1, Benevolo 1993) **H, HU**
- 4: Geomorphology of quake and ensuing topographic destruction (Pietanisi and Tinti 1998) **H**
- 5: Field trip: Etna (Bonajutus 1694)
- 6: OFF
- 7: OFF

**Response: Causes and Meanings (8-14 June 2009)**

- 8: Moral and philosophical understandings and expressions of the event (Mack Smith 1968a 1) **HU, H**
- 9: Political-economic context: Spain, Church, Nobility (Mack Smith 1968a 2, Tobriner 1999) **H**
- 10: View of and from Italy (Giuffrè 2007, Neil 1998, Blunt 1988 1) **HU, H**
- 11: Rebuilding Noto Cathedral: (Tobrer 2003, Baronio et al. 2003, Binda et al. 2003) **HU, H**
- 12: Field trip: Siracusa, Noto and Palazzolo Acreide (Blunt 1968 2, Vittorini 2000 1) **HU, H**
- 13: OFF
- 14: OFF

**Reconstruction: Birth of the Sicilian baroque (15-21 June 2009)**

- 15: Sicilian Baroque architecture/planning: forms, methods (Tringali et al. 2003, Tobriner 1982) **HU, H**
- 16: Parasite logic: analyze, paralyze, catalyze (Brown 2002, Sciascia 1994) **HU**
- 17: Design as social representation: (Blunt 1988 2, Deleuze 1993, De Benedictis 2003) **HU, H**
- 18: Local-global perspective on Val di Noto and Sicilian baroque (Tringali 2003, Puleo 2009) **HU, H**
- 19: Field trip: Caltagirone, Ragusa, Modica and Scicli (Blunt 1968 3, Vittorini 2000 2) **HU, H**
- 20: OFF
- 21: **Flight: Catania-Lisbon!** (Details shall be forthcoming)

**Assessment** You will receive a grade based upon your performance on daily response papers for critical thinking (35%), weekly field reports for analysis (35%), and class discussions for oral literacy (30%). Performance will be evaluated for how clear, complete, comprehensive, connected and convincing it is.

**Attendance** You must attend every class. If you are ill or have an emergency that causes you to miss class, you must bring documentation of the illness or emergency.

**Plagiarism** It is essential that you be graded only on your own work. ASU takes charges of cheating and plagiarism very seriously, and either can result in your dismissal. Cheating is taking advantage of the work of others. Plagiarism is representing the work of others as your own, without giving appropriate credit. Also, although interaction and the sharing of ideas are strongly encouraged both inside and outside of the classroom, each student is responsible for turning in his or her own written material with the appropriate references to materials used (such as books, papers and web resources), as appropriate. Plagiarism entails serious consequences, including failing grades on the specific assignment and possibly the course. Everyone should be familiar with ASU's standards of academic honesty which is available at: [www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/usi/usi104-01.html](http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/usi/usi104-01.html).

**Readings:** All required readings will be posted on the course website for you to download, or will be handed out in hard copy when a digital copy is unavailable. Specific assignments appear in parentheses following each daily assignment. Please see reading list for details.

### Reading list

Benevolo, Leonardo. 1993. "The difficult adjustment to the laws of perspective". *The European city*. Oxford and Cambridge: Blackwell Publishing: 124-159.

Baronio, G., L. Binda, C. Tedeschi, C. Tiraboschi. 2003. Characterisation of the materials used in the construction of the Noto Cathedral. *Construction and Building Materials*, 17: 557-571.

Binda, L., C. Tiraboschi, G. Baronio. 2003. On-site investigation on the remains of the Cathedral of Noto. *Construction and Building Materials*, 17: 543-555.

Blunt, Anthony. 1968. *Sicilian baroque*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson: (1) 1-15, (2) 16-23, (3) 24-29, (4) 30-43, (5) 44-45.

Blunt, Anthony. 1988. *Baroque and rococo art and decoration*. London: Wordsworth Editions Ltd. (1) 22-63, (2) 84-105

Bonajutus, Vincentius and Marcellus Malpighius. 1694. "An Account of the Earthquakes in Sicilia, on the Ninth and Eleventh of January, 1692/3". *Philosophical Transactions* (1683-1775), 18: 2-10.

Brown, Steven D. 2002. Michel Serres: Science, translation and the logic of the parasite. *Theory, Culture and Society*, 19, 3: 1-27.

De Benedictis, R. 2003. The partial reconstruction design of the Cathedral of Noto: part II: The naves system. *Construction and Building Materials* 17: 603-612.

De Carvalho, A. Ayres. 1993. "Dom João V and the artists of papal Rome". In *The age of the baroque in Portugal*, ed. Jay A. Levenson, 31-48. New Haven and London: Yale University Press.

Deleuze, Gilles. 1993. "What is baroque?". In *The fold*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press: 27-40.

Giuffrè, Maria. 2007. *The baroque architecture of Sicily*. London: Thames and Hudson.

- Mack Smith, Denis. 1968a. *A history of Sicily: Medieval Sicily: 800-1713*. New York: Dorset Press: (1) 243-270, (2) 271-300.
- Mack Smith, Denis. 1968b. *A history of Sicily: Modern Sicily: After 1713*. New York: Dorset Press: 171-199, 211-231.
- Mumford, Lewis. 1961. *The city in history*. San Diego, New York, London: Harcourt: (1) 344-374, (2) 375-409.
- Neil, EH. 1998. Noto, ideal city and urban space in 18th-century Sicily. *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 57, 4: 471-473
- Pietanesi, Alessio and Stefano Tinti. 1998. A revision of the 1693 eastern Sicily earthquake and tsunami. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, 103, B2: 2749-2758.
- Puleo, Thomas. 2009. Involuntary mischief: oblique agency and the Sicilian baroque. *California Italian Studies* (under review).
- Puleo, Thomas. 2007. Filling in the blanks: Translating among systematic geographies. *The California Geographer*, 47: 63-77.
- Sciascia, Leonardo. 1994. *Sicily as metaphor*. Marlboro, Vermont: The Marlboro Press.
- Serres, Michel. 2007. *The parasite*. Minneapolis, London: University of Minnesota Press: 3-40.
- Tobriner, Stephen. 2003. Building the Cathedral of Noto; earthquakes, reconstruction and building practice in 18th-century Sicily. *Construction and Building Materials*, 17: 521-532.
- Tobriner, Stephen. 1999. "Safety and reconstruction of Noto after the Sicilian earthquake of 1693—the eighteenth-century context". In *Dreadful visitations: Confronting natural catastrophes in the Age of Enlightenment*, ed. Alessa Johns, 49-80. New York and London: Routledge.
- Tobriner, Stephen. 1982. *The genesis of Noto: An eighteenth-century Sicilian city*. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press: (1) 20-24, (2) 25-42, (3) 43-53, (4) 54-108, (5) 110-141, (6) 142-199, (7) 200-204.
- Tringali, Salvatore. 2003. The partial reconstruction design of the Cathedral of Noto: part I: the social-economic impact on the town and on the territory and the cross-vaults, arches and dome system. *Construction and Building Materials*, 17: 595-602.
- Tringali, Salvatore, R. De Benedictis, R. La Rosa, C. Russo, A. Bramante, C. Gavarini, G. Valente, V. Ceradini, C. Tocci, S. Tobriner, M. Maugeri, L. Binda, G. Baronio. 2003. The reconstruction of the Cathedral of Noto. *Construction and Building Materials*, 17: 573-578.
- Unesco 2002. *Late baroque towns of the Val di Noto (south-eastern Sicily)*. Paris: Unesco World Heritage Centre. Available online at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1024>. Last accessed on 13 January 2009.
- Vittorini, Elio. 2000 (1951). *Conversations in Sicily*, trans. Alane Salierno Mason. New York: New Directions Books: (1) 1-79, (2) 82-182.