

The American University of Rome
Course Schedule by Area

3/6/2026

2026-2027 Academic Year Fall

Course	Credits	Title	Days	Beg Time	End Time	Beg Date	End Date	Parent Course		
								Professor	Locatn	Bldg

Cultural Heritage

CH 502	3.00	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN CULTURAL HERITAGE									
Pier Matteo Barone		Wed		09:00 AM	12:00 PM	08/31/2026	12/11/2026				

This course will investigate the most pressing and contentious issues in Cultural Heritage today. It is intended to foreground some of the arguments which will come up in other courses such as contested heritage, authenticity, interpretation, sustainability etc. It may also include guest lectures from heritage practitioners in order to understand the practical implications of theoretical issues. The precise subject matter will be adjusted to focus on current real-world issues.
 3 credits.

CH 503	3.00	CULTURAL HERITAGE, CONFLICT AND PEACEBUILDING									
Valerie Higgins		Mon		10:35 AM	01:35 PM	08/31/2026	12/11/2026				

Cultural heritage has become increasingly important as a symbol of identity at an individual, community, national and international level. Heritage identity can help to create cohesion and a spirit of community or it can be a source of conflict. In post conflict scenarios cultural heritage projects can be a part of the stabilization process and reconstruction of the community. This course will explore current heritage issues critically analysing sources of conflict and strategies for positive peacebuilding between and within heritage communities.
 3 credits.

CH 511	3.00	MUSEUM STUDIES AND CURATORSHIP									
Chiara Ianeselli		Thu		09:00 AM	12:00 PM	08/31/2026	12/11/2026				

This course offers a critical overview of museology and curatorship, covering the history, theory, and practice of museums and their evolving roles in society. Students will explore key aspects of museum operations—collection management, curatorial practice, exhibition design, and audience engagement—while addressing current debates on decolonization, digitalization, and sustainability. Focusing on major Italian and international museums, the course examines how institutions respond to cultural, economic, and political change through new typological and conceptual models. It analyzes diverse museum types—Art, History, Science, Anthropology, and Natural History—through lenses of governance, colonialism, nationalism, and social representation. Students will also consider how curatorship, digital technologies, shifting visitor behaviors, and inclusive practices are redefining the museum’s role in education, community-building, and social justice. By interrogating how museums construct and contest collective memory, the course encourages reflection on hidden narratives and alternative representations.
 3 credits.

CH 512	3.00	EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE									
Pier Matteo Barone		Tue		09:00 AM	12:00 PM	08/31/2026	12/11/2026				

This course provides an advanced introduction to the digital and technological tools currently revolutionizing the cultural heritage field. Emphasis will be placed on non-destructive techniques and innovative methods for documentation, monitoring, analysis, and dissemination of heritage information. Topics include 3D scanning, photogrammetry, UAV (drone) surveys, multispectral imaging, remote sensing, AI applications in heritage, and virtual/augmented reality. A core feature of the course is a hands-on practicum, in which students engage in the collection and processing of data using selected non-invasive tools in real-life or simulated field conditions.
 3 credits.

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Cultural Heritage

CH 599 6.00 CULTURAL HERITAGE THESIS

The thesis will be focused on a particular topic identified by the student as an area of particular interest and/or pertinent to his/her future career in Cultural Heritage. The thesis enables a student to demonstrate the knowledge and skills acquired during coursework, as well as their ability to conduct a research project and produce high quality academic paper. Work on the thesis consists of intensive consultations with the thesis advisor, research work, and thesis writing. Upon successful submission of the thesis, students are required to defend the thesis in form of an oral examination. Students are examined by a committee of three professors: the thesis advisor and two other reviewers with an expertise in the field related to the thesis topic. If possible, the examination committee should have one external member.
 6 credits. Pre-requisites: Completion of all coursework for the M.A. in Cultural Heritage.

Graduate Skills

GS 510 1.00 GIS: GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM
 Lorenzo Crecco 00:00 AM 00:00 AM 08/31/2026 12/11/2026

A Geographic Information System (GIS) is a computer-based tool that analyzes, stores, manipulates and visualizes geographic information, usually in a map. This course is aimed at graduate students in different fields (e.g., food studies, cultural heritage, art history, etc.) allowing them to gain more experience and knowledge on the potential of GIS as a tool to aid in evidence informed policy and decision making. This 1-credit course will cover a general introduction to GIS using a free and open source software package. This course has been designed for those with little or no GIS experience.
 1 credit, 15 hours.

Graduate Skills - Business

GSB 506 3.00 PRINCIPLES OF BUSINESS FORNON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
 Anna Paterlini Fri 09:30 AM 12:30 PM 08/31/2026 12/11/2026

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 This course provides a survey of business methods relating to management, marketing and operations basics and accounting, finance and economics basics. Topics covered will include: customer analysis; brand development; digital and phygital marketing; accounting methodologies; financial analysis and an introduction to macro and microeconomics. The course assumes no prior knowledge of business techniques or terminology and is practical in its approach. Classroom sessions will incorporate case studies and practical exercises. The course is intended to give students the practical business skills needed to work in the non-profit sector.
 3 credits.

Food Studies

FS 501 3.00 FOOD, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY
 Maria Grazia Quietì Tue Thu 02:05 PM 03:30 PM 08/31/2026 12/11/2026

How do we affect the Earth's resources with our food choices? This course covers the interrelationship of food and the environment: it reviews the global agri-food system, its structure and evolution with particular reference to global food security. Through an interdisciplinary perspective, it will discuss the existing knowledge on the major global challenges for food production, including climate change, depletion of natural resources and changes in diets. The social, economic, cultural and psychological determinants of food consumption habits and patterns will be analyzed with the view to exploring the linkages between sustainable production and sustainable diets. The governance of the agro-food system will be examined: the mandates of the UN agencies, the main regulatory frameworks and associated intergovernmental processes, transnational and national civil society and social movements. The course includes one or more field trips to UN Agencies.
 3 credits.

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Food Studies

FS 504	3.00	FOOD POLICY									
Giacomo Branca		Thu		09:00 AM	12:00 PM	08/31/2026	12/11/2026				

This course surveys the rationales, instruments and practices of food policy. It provides an overview of the conceptual background, features and aims of food policies, and the regulatory frameworks in both developed and developing countries. The first part of the course discusses the different approaches followed and the disciplinary contributions to policy and practice from agriculture, public health, trade and environment perspectives. The influence of stakeholders and governance structures on policy formulation and implementation are also highlighted. The second part covers the evolution of food policies and regulations at the global, regional and national levels and their implications. In addition to long-standing concerns about food security and nutrition, the course will also emphasize the food system's growing challenges related to public health, food justice and sustainable paths of global food production and consumption.
 3 credits.

FS 511	3.00	FOOD, RURALITY AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT									
Paola Termine		Fri		02:05 PM	05:05 PM	08/31/2026	12/11/2026				

The course explores the role of food in influencing and shaping local development in rural areas. It examines the scope and characteristics of local food systems and the markets for typical products. It also reviews the range of other products and services delivered by rural areas for rural and urban communities. The course covers the main tenets, practices and processes of rural development, with specific reference to developed countries, but considering also the global food markets and developing countries' experiences. Rural development paths based on the multiple functions of farms will be analyzed in relation to local food systems as well as to the new roles that rural areas and actors can play to address emerging social needs and demands. The course will possibly include field visit(s).
 3 credits. Students will pay a fee to cover the cost of the field-study trip(s).

FS 518	3.00	THE GLOBAL FOOD ECONOMY									
Laura Protta		Mon Wed		09:00 AM	10:25 AM	08/31/2026	12/11/2026				

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This course introduces students to key concepts in economics as applied to the food system, and in finance and accounting. Microeconomic concepts are covered as they relate to consumption, production, marketing and information, as well as associated externalities and public goods. Emphasis will be on concepts and analyses relevant to agriculture and the food system e.g. global food trade, market structures, supply chains and networks. Basic concepts and theories of macroeconomics are elaborated, including national income, unemployment, inflation, growth, together with key policy issues of stabilization and sustainability. The last part of the course provides a survey of finance and accounting principles and methodologies. Case studies, lecture and in class exercises provide for a practical and active learning approach. The course assumes no prior knowledge of economics and finance. The course may include a field trip.
 3 credits.

FS 599	6.00	FOOD STUDIES THESIS									
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The thesis enables students to demonstrate the knowledge and skills acquired during coursework, as well as their ability to conduct a research project and produce a high quality academic paper. It will be focused on a topic identified by the students as an area of particular interest and/or pertinent to their future career. Work on the thesis consists of intensive consultations with the Thesis Advisor, research work and thesis writing. Upon successful submission of the thesis, students are required to defend it in an oral examination.
 6 credits. Pre-requisites: Completion of all coursework for the M.A. in Food Studies.

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Graduate Skills - Research

GSR 502	3.00	RESEARCH METHODS FOR SOCIALSCIENCES									
Anar Khamzayeva		Mon Wed		03:40 PM	05:05 PM	08/31/2026	12/11/2026				

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This course aims to provide a comprehensive examination of the main aspects, potential and limits of theoretical and applied social research methods, and to use them appropriately according to their specific research needs. The course covers the epistemology of social science and the logic of research design. It reviews the steps in the research process from the research idea to the research questions, formulation of hypotheses and deciding on method. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods will be described and practiced. The main methodological problems of quantitative and qualitative analysis, data gathering, data quality and interpretation of evidence will be discussed. Presentation skills for researchers will be explained and practiced.

3 credits.

Peace Studies

PST 504	3.00	POLITICAL ECONOMY OF PEACE AND WAR									
Irene Caratelli		Thu		09:00 AM	12:00 PM	08/31/2026	12/11/2026				

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This course focuses on the international political and economic aspects of conflicts from WWII up to today. It explores the concepts of Empire and Hegemony in the contemporary international affairs. The course also investigates various theories and strategies to avoid conflicts, such as hegemonic stability theory, balancing between major powers, cooperation within international institutions, trade integration, or socialization of norms and principles.

The absence of a major war on a global scale does not indicate the presence of peace, since conflicts and competitions take place on a different level (through, for instance, trade wars, sanctions, boycotts, embargos, etc.). In addition to that, global actors in contemporary international political economy (ranging from states, religious and non-governmental organizations, to multinational corporations, arm dealers, transnational extremist organizations, etc.) often have competing objectives when waging the costs and benefits of war and peace. Only when the actors of conflicts, and the political economy factors that drive them are addressed, can one understand the conditions of resolving the conflicts and promote peace.

3 credits.

PST 505	3.00	THEORIES OF PEACE AND CONFLICT									
Giorgio Poti		Tue		03:40 PM	06:40 PM	08/31/2026	12/11/2026				

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This course aims to provide a graduate-level introduction to and critical assessment of the main theoretical frameworks and approaches employed within the interdisciplinary field of Peace Studies, enabling students to understand the relevance of theory to practice in this field. More specifically, the course engages with theoretical explanations for peace and conflict looking at social, political, religious dynamics within, between and across states, and develops an understanding of key issues such as conflict resolution, violence mitigation, post-conflict peacebuilding. Various case studies will be examined, ranging from the period of early modernity up to the present.

3 credits.

PST 513	3.00	INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTSPROTECTION									
Antonio Marchesi		Tue		09:00 AM	12:00 PM	08/31/2026	12/11/2026				

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With the adoption, in 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the international legal system has undergone a momentous change. In addition to the law of international relations, it now includes rules which regulate the way governments behave vis-à-vis individuals subject to their authority, both citizens and foreigners. Human rights have become an integral part of the international legal system and States must live up to the standards provided for in a growing number of international conventions. Also, procedures aimed at improving compliance with human rights standards have developed within the United Nations and several other intergovernmental organizations. At the same time, non-state actors, such as NGOs, have come to play an increasingly relevant role in reporting violations of human rights and advocating change in law and practice. The course - which also includes an analysis of selected issues such as non discrimination, torture, the death penalty, the rights of migrants and refugees - is aimed at understanding how human rights have become a part of the legal and political system of the international community and how this impacts on states.

3 credits.

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Peace Studies

<u>PST 590</u>	6.00	PEACE STUDIES INTERNSHIP AND FINALPAPER								
Antonio Marchesi				00:00 AM	00:00 AM	08/31/2026	12/11/2026			

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In order to complete the MA degree in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution students are required, as an alternative to writing an academic thesis (PST 599), to:

a) complete an internship with an organization working on peace-building and conflict resolution or related matters. The internship requires 150 hours of practical work experience and a journal with the daily activities detailed; and

b) write a final paper, after the end of the internship period, which is related to the work carried out during the internship and may take the form of a project report or proposal or policy paper. Students will plan and write their final paper under the supervision of an advisor.

The combination of an internship experience and a – practically-oriented – final paper will expand students' knowledge on a particular subject and prepare them for future professional work. AUR will make every effort to place a student in the best possible situation but cannot ensure that all students making a request will find a suitable internship position.

6 credits. Pre-requisites: completion of all coursework in the MA in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution.

<u>PST 599</u>	6.00	PEACE STUDIES THESIS								
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In order to complete the MA degree in Peace Studies students are required to write an MA thesis. Students are expected to conduct their thesis preparations in intense consultations with their advisor. Preparations include specification of the thesis topic, development of the draft thesis, choosing appropriate methods, research and/or practical work, study trips (if necessary), work in archives, and other required activities. The MA thesis should contain an element of data analysis, and make full use of experiences, knowledge and research methodology that students have covered in the program. The thesis will expand students' knowledge on a particular subject and will prepare them for future professional work.

6 credits. Pre-requisites: Completion of all coursework for the M.A. in Peace Studies.

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