

**The American University of Rome**  
**Course Schedule by Area**

4/15/2025

2025-2026 Academic Year Fall

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

**Cultural Heritage**

<b>CH 502</b>	3.00	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN CULTURAL HERITAGE									
Pier Matteo Barone		Wed		09:00 AM	12:00 PM	09/01/2025	12/12/2025				

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.

<b>CH 503</b>	3.00	CULTURAL HERITAGE, CONFLICT AND PEACEBUILDING									
Valerie Higgins		Mon		10:30 AM	01:30 PM	09/01/2025	12/12/2025				

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.

<b>CH 599</b>	6.00	CULTURAL HERITAGE THESIS									
Valerie Higgins				00:00 AM	00:00 AM	09/01/2025	12/12/2025				

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**

<b>GS 510</b>	1.00	GIS: GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM									
. TBA		Fri		02:05 PM	05:05 PM	09/01/2025	12/12/2025				

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.

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**Graduate Skills - Business**

<b>GSB 506</b>	3.00	PRINCIPLES OF BUSINESS FORNON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS								
Anna Paterlini		Fri	09:30 AM	12:30 PM	09/01/2025	12/12/2025				

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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**

<b>FS 501</b>	3.00	FOOD, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY								
Maria Grazia Quieti		Tue Thu	02:05 PM	03:30 PM	09/01/2025	12/12/2025				

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.

<b>FS 511</b>	3.00	FOOD, RURALITY AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT								
Rita Salvatore		Fri	02:05 PM	05:05 PM	09/01/2025	12/12/2025				

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).

<b>FS 517</b>	3.00	SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DIMENSIONS OFFOOD AND EATING								
. TBA		Fri	09:00 AM	12:00 PM	09/01/2025	12/12/2025				

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This course aims at enabling students to identify the meaning and significance of food in different societies by exploring the way that culture, gender, socioeconomic status and religion influence food choices and preferences. Eating habits and patterns -namely how we eat, what with eat and with whom we eat- are key elements in determining and communicating social identities. In Social and Cultural Dimensions of Food and Eating we will determine how people use food to define themselves as individuals, groups or whole societies. We will discuss food taboos and beliefs, the historical dynamism of food habits, contemporary food trends, indigenous sovereignty rights over natural resources and contemporary critical issues as food access, malnutrition and food vulnerability as a climate change consequence. Identifying and defining the differences between eating and nutrition, the course will provide a holistic perspective on the study of food, tackling its influence on body perceptions and health issues. Furthermore, the course will provide qualitative research methodological tools for applied research and project work on food and eating in both industrialized and developing countries' social and cultural contexts.

3 credits.

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**Food Studies**

<b><u>FS 518</u></b>	3.00	THE GLOBAL FOOD ECONOMY								
Laura Prota		Mon Wed	09:00 AM	10:25 AM	09/01/2025	12/12/2025				

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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.

<b><u>FS 599</u></b>	6.00	FOOD STUDIES THESIS								
Maria Grazia Quietì			00:00 AM	00:00 AM	09/01/2025	12/12/2025				

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.

**Graduate Skills - Research**

<b><u>GSR 502</u></b>	3.00	RESEARCH METHODS FOR SOCIALSCIENCES								
Valentina Peveri		Wed	02:05 PM	05:05 PM	09/01/2025	12/12/2025				

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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**

<b><u>PST 504</u></b>	3.00	POLITICAL ECONOMY OF PEACE AND WAR								
Irene Caratelli		Thu	09:00 AM	12:00 PM	09/01/2025	12/12/2025				

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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.

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**Peace Studies**

**PST 505** 3.00 THEORIES OF PEACE AND CONFLICT

Giorgio Poti Tue 03:40 PM 06:40 PM 09/01/2025 12/12/2025

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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 RIGHTS PROTECTION

Antonio Marchesi Tue 09:00 AM 12:00 PM 09/01/2025 12/12/2025

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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.

**PST 590** 6.00 PEACE STUDIES INTERNSHIP AND FINAL PAPER

Antonio Marchesi 00:00 AM 00:00 AM 09/01/2025 12/12/2025

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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.

**PST 599** 6.00 PEACE STUDIES THESIS

Antonio Marchesi 00:00 AM 00:00 AM 09/01/2025 12/12/2025

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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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