Background
Venice has developed over the centuries into one of the most remarkable cultural patrimonies in the world due to a series of unique historical geographical, social and political circumstances. The historic city of Venice, together with its lagoon, has been inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987 as an extraordinary architectural masterpiece.

The big flood of 1966, which put in evidence the dramatic conservation problems of Venice's historic and artistic heritage, gave rise to a significant international campaign launched by UNESCO collecting and channeling contributions of many private organizations to restore and preserve the buildings of Venice and its art treasures in close collaboration with the local authorities. Over the past 40 years many research and conservation projects have been set up in Venice, functioning as a pilot laboratory for conservation practice, scientific research, experimentation and evaluation of stone conservation treatments.

Program objectives and content
The course aims at providing participants with an understanding of the Built Heritage of Venice, its historical development, construction techniques and building materials and at gaining insight in the related conservation problems. It is conceived as a logical progression, starting with an introduction to Venice and its unique location in a lagoon environment and offering a historical overview of its growth and architectural development. The program subsequently deals with the specific characteristics of Venetian architecture and its great variety of stone materials and finally focuses on decay mechanisms and conservation treatments performed since 1966.

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Course requirements and grading
Students are required to attend and actively participate in all course activities and to be flexible for possible required changes - especially related to site visits - in the scheduled program. Students should complete all assigned readings before the related class meetings so as to engage with the topic.

Grading will include active class participation (20%) as well as two paper assignments, each consisting of a written and documented research paper, to be completed at mid-term (40%) and at end-term (40%). Detailed information will be given during the course. It is important that students bring their camera for documentation.

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Please make sure to wear comfortable walking shoes for site visits!
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WEEK 1

Wednesday June 11

Introduction to Conservation

Friday June 13
Venetian Perspectives: Historical Development of Venice and its Architecture
(with Guest Speaker Paola Modesti, Architectural Historian, Università degli Studi di Trieste)
NB: There are no scholarly articles encompassing the wide, introductory context of this session but the following article touch meaningful points:

WEEK 2
Wednesday June 18
Visit to the CNR-ISMAR Institute (National Research Council - Institute of Marine Science, Arsenale) at 14.00 (Bacini boat stop)
Venice and its Lagoon Environment, Acqua Alta and Related Problems
(with Guest Speaker Georg Umgiesser, Oceanographer, CNR-ISMAR)

Friday June 20
Characteristics of Venetian Construction Techniques
(with Guest Speaker Edoardo Danzi, Architect, Consultant Lecturer Università IUAV di Venezia)

Visit to the San Sebastiano church and the ongoing Save Venice conservation project.

WEEK 3
Wednesday June 25
Local Stone Building Materials and Use of Imported Stones & Marbles in Venice
(with Guest Speaker Lorenzo Lazzarini, Petrographer, Università IUAV di Venezia)

Friday June 27
Overview of Stone Deterioration Processes

Visit to St. Mark's Square and Basilica
Use of stone materials and decorative marbles and their decay, Area Marciana
(with Guest Speaker Lorenzo Lazzarini, Petrographer, Università IUAV di Venezia)

WEEK 4
Wednesday July 2
Visit to the LAMA Laboratory for the Analysis of Ancient Materials, Università di IUAV di Venezia
(with Guest Speaker Lorenzo Lazzarini, Petrographer, Università di IUAV di Venezia)

Friday July 4
The Diagnostic Process and Morphology of Stone Decay

Field Work at the San Sebastiano Church

WEEK 5
Wednesday July 9
Overview of Stone Conservation Practice / Materials and Methods
- Normal Recommendation 20/85, Conservation of Stone Material: project development, execution and preliminary evaluation, Rome 1987, pp. 6-16

Friday July 11
Field trip to the island of the Lazzaretto Nuovo; recovery and revival of a historical site.
For many years abandoned, the island is now fully recovered and has developed into a centre for didactic, scientific and archaeological research.
- English brochure on the Lazzaretto Nuovo island
- Venezia. Isola del Lazzaretto Nuovo, ed. G. Fazzini, Venezia, 2004, selected articles (for those students reading Italian)

Visit to the ongoing Save Venice conservation works of the mosaic pavement at the Basilica of SS. Maria e Donato on the island of Murano

WEEK 6
Wednesday July 19
Field Work at the San Sebastiano Church

Friday July 18
Evaluation of former stone conservation treatments in Venice (1970s)