1. Course Name & Number:
History & Theory of Urban
Design I 436/536

2. Instructor/office/extension:
Donald Genasci (503) 223 8082

3. Meeting Time & Place:
Lecture/Discussion, Rm. 505
10:00 to 11:20 Tues./Thurs.

4. Meeting Format: 1 Lecture & 1
Discussion group per week

5. Credit hours and grading: 3/one
paper & one/two presentations of readings

6. Prerequisites: none

7. Study/Course Objectives:
To examine ideas that led to the development of urban form in Europe from ancient Greece through
the Renaissance. To demonstrate the importance of ideas, myth, tradition and physical context in
the development of cities. The emphasis of the course will be on Medieval and Renaissance urban
development.

8. Study Vehicles/Course Content:
The lectures will show examples of historic urban development and the influence of social and
cultural ideas on the form of the city. The lectures will also demonstrate techniques used
historically by urban designers to give physical form to ideas.

9. Texts Primary Reading List:
Assigned readings will be discussed each discussion session. These readings will be available, as a
packet. Students are required to read weekly materials and participate in the discussions.

10. Instructor's Comment:
This course is intended for architecture students interested in the design of urban architecture and
public places. Implicit in lectures and discussions will be the idea of the central importance of the
city in the continued well being and development of our culture. Without strong cities that support
public discussion and sociability, our society suffers. Architects, as the primary professionals who
give form to the city, have a major responsibility to develop buildings that strengthen the city and
its ability to support a critical public discussion so important to our culture. This course treats the
city as a text to be read critically, and to be used to understand the important cultural role of urban
architecture as a comparative measure of our culture and ideas.