

400-level. The Beauty of Ideas: An Experience of Florence

Description

Florence, the birthplace of the European Renaissance, continues to represent Western ideals of civilization and artistry across the globe. The period that marked the beginning of modernity—a monumental shift in ways of thinking and managing politics, economics, and the arts—is inscribed in the very stones of the City of the Lily and continues to inspire new creations and ideas. It's the quintessential site for an examination of how beauty impacts political, cultural and economic processes. This course integrates individualized research projects with visits to Florence's major museums, historical and artistic monuments, encounters with different types of artisans, and exploration of how ideas and beauty intersect in a variety of fields.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course:

- * students will demonstrate knowledge of the major historical events and figures who shaped the history of Florence, especially from the XIV through the XVII century
- * students will demonstrate knowledge regarding the nature and significance of some of Florence most important historical and artistic monomers
- * students will demonstrate knowledge of techniques, significance and economic value of different types of traditional craft traditions of Florence
- * students will demonstrate understanding of the subtle mechanics of the business of auctioning and selling artwork
- * ability to
 - students will develop their ability to plan and pursue interdisciplinary research in a foreign context, including presenting and discussing their research project to an Italian university student and integrating feedback received into their project.
 - students will understand the nuances of the process of preservation and reinterpretation of cultural and artistic heritage through contemporary art and artisanal traditions.
 - students will improve their ability to adapt to and live in this European city and, more generally, get the most out of any travel/study activity in another country.

Program outcomes

Upon completing this course in the University Honors Program students will have:

- a. obtained a starting point for integrative exploration of the development of cultures and intellectual achievements through a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives;
- b. sharpened their ability to critically analyze and synthesize a broad range of knowledge through the study of primary texts and through engagement in active learning with fellow students, faculty, and texts (broadly understood);
- c. understood how to apply more integrative and interdisciplinary forms of understanding in the advancement of knowledge and in addressing complex challenges shaping the world;
- d. developed effective communication skills.

GE: 7GC, 7CC, 7AI

Travel class: YES

CONTENT

In this travel/study course students will spend two weeks in Florence during the interterm period. Faculty and guides knowledgeable about this city will offer tours, museum visits, and cultural and artistic outings. At the center of this course is a self-designed research project that examines a specific aspect of the artistic and cultural life of Florence. Students will closely coordinate their research with the faculty member directing the course and take advantage of peer feedback from Italian university students in Florence.

Texts

- Students must acquire physical or digital copies of all their research sources before leaving for Italy (see bibliography assignment below)
- Rick Steves, *Florence and Tuscany* (Avalon Travel: 2017)
- Rick Steves, *Europe Through the Back Door: The Travel Skills Handbook* (Avalon Travel: 2015) [recommended]
- Detailed folding maps of central Florence

Instructional Strategies

Travel skills notes, participation, projects, annotated bibliography, research paper, intercultural research workshop, scholarly paper, creative project and reflection paper

Method of evaluation

Grading:

Travel Skill Notes	5%
Research Proposal (e.g., proposal, maps, and bibliography)	10%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Presentations during Intercultural Workshop (2)	10%
Research Project	50%
Participation	15%
Total	100%

Itinerary

December 1 Mandatory group orientation meeting and travel planning session

December 15 Individual meetings with Dr. Pacchioni to discuss proposal during finals week (schedule your meeting via email)

Sunday, Jan 3. Dr. Pacchioni arrives in Florence. Annotated bibliography due via email. Send Whatsapp message to Dr. Pacchioni (+1 940 435 5613)

Monday, Jan 4. Students arrive in Florence. Accommodation.

Tuesday, Jan 5. 9:00: Meet with Professor Pacchioni at ISI Florence Study Center . 9:00 – 10:30: Check-in, overview of the program, survival Italian Class with Prof. Pacchioni. 10:30-11:00 Coffee break. 11:00 – 12:00 – small orientation by ISI staff, emergency and safety, immigration paperwork, maps, etc.). 12:00-1:00: Florence Orientation Walking Tour (weather permitting, various city neighborhoods). 1:00 – 2:30: Welcome lunch. 3:00 – 5:00: Intercultural Research Workshop I “Think Tank” (ISI classroom).

Wednesday, Jan 6. 9:00-12:00 Affresco Technique Workshop with ISI Prof. Lucchesi. Visit S. Ambrogio Market. 12:00-2:00 Free time for lunch. 2:00-4:30 Palazzo Vecchio; town hall of Florence, both historical and current significance with Prof. Stefano Corrazzini.

Thursday, Jan 7. 9:30-11:30 Visit to Opificio delle pietre Dure and workshop. TO BE CONFIRMED. I need to check their proposals for next year in terms of visits and hands-on. Alternative visit to be identified. 11:30-1:30 Free time for lunch. 1:30-3:30 Tour of Duomo. Guided tour of Museum. Visit Duomo, Cupola, Baptistry and Tower Bell.

Friday, Jan 8. 9:00-1:00 Tour of Galleria degli Uffizi with ISI faculty. Free time to explore the museum. Afternoon: Independent work on individual projects

Saturday, Jan 9. 9:00-1:00 Tour of Galleria dell'Accademia with ISI faculty. Free time to explore the museum. 1:00-2:00 Free time for quick lunch. 2:00-3:00: Intercultural Research Workshop II “Coffee Chat Check-In” (location?).

Sunday, Jan 10. Free day to explore Florence. Independent work on individual projects

Monday, Jan 11. 9:00-12:00 Museo Galileo; customized guided tour and free time in the museum. Afternoon: Independent work on individual projects

Tuesday, Jan 12. 9:00-11:00 Perfume: workshops based sensorial experience where students can combine their emotions to the fragrances that they smell. Example: Villorosi. 11:00-11:30 Break. 11:30-1:00 Jewelry; visit artisanal Florentine jewelers, who work on commission, translating the idea of the client to a tangible work of art. Example: Penko. Afternoon: Independent work on individual projects.

Wednesday, Jan 13. 10:00-12:00: Papiro workshop and book creation. 12:00-2:00 Free time for lunch. 2:00-3:00: Intercultural Research Workshop II “Coffee Chat Check-In” (location?). Afternoon: Independent work on individual projects

Thursday, Jan 14. 9:00-11:30: Fashion. ISI faculty guest lecture in class and guided visit to museums: focus on history of the brand, historical collections and extra. For example: Gucci Museum. 11:30-11:45: Coffee break. 11:45-1:00: Leather School visit – to be confirmed. Alternative: Stefano Bemer Leather Shoes. Afternoon: Independent work on individual projects.

Friday, Jan 15. 9.00-1:00 Visit to Auction House in Prato (business of art) . Afternoon: Independent work on individual projects

Saturday, Jan 16. Free day to explore Florence. Independent work on individual projects. Email rough draft of project to Dr. Pacchioni by 11:59pm.

Sunday, Jan 17. Morning: Independent work on individual projects. Prepare Presentation. 2:30-3:00 Meet at ISI to complete course evaluation. 3:00-5:30 Intercultural Research Workshop IV “Presentations” (ISI Classroom). 5:30-7:00: Farewell dinner.

Monday, Jan 18. Students and faculty return home from Florence.

January 18-22. Dr. Pacchioni is available to debrief your work on the project.

Monday, January 25. Complete project due (11:59pm)

Schedule of lectures

Pre-travel: project proposal and bibliography, pre-departure orientation, and individual project proposal discussion

During: See itineraries included

After: Paper/Project due a week after the stay in Florence.

ASSIGNMENTS

Travel Skills Notes

Each student must assemble an approximately 10-page list of ideas on how he or she prepared for this trip to Europe using Rick Steves' Europe Through the Back Door.

Travel skills notes are due via email before the start of the program in Florence.

Travel Class Participation Grade

This substantial portion of your grade is based on your professor's observations of your capacity to do the following:

THE PROJECT

The course orbits around a central project, which can be a scholarly research paper or a scholarly/creative project (e.g., video essay, creative writing, performance, etc.). The project is organized in various phases entailing the following:

- A proposal packet
- An annotated bibliography (due before start of the program)
- Two presentations scheduled to be delivered during the program in Florence
- The final product (submitted a week after the stay in Florence)

Proposal, Maps and Bibliography

Each student will be asked to put together a one-page research proposal describing how he or she plans on pursuing his or her research topic while in Florence, a map of Florence indicating on it the places that will be visited while there, and a 10- to 15-item bibliography of books and articles on his or her research topic. All three items are due in the week before final exams during the fall semester. Students will find a list of suggested research topics below. No two students can select the same topic. Some students will want to do some of their Italian capstone project research while abroad. This can be done in lieu of a standard research paper in consultation with the instructor teaching the course. Otherwise, a research topic must be chosen in consultation with this instructor during the fall semester before the course is being offered.

The Annotated Bibliography

Each student will submit a fully annotated bibliography by the beginning of the program in Florence (email submission).

Intercultural Research Workshop Chapman University/University of Florence

While in Florence, students will meet with Italian students from the University of Florence to receive feedback on their project.

The Final Product

In consultation with the professor, students will decide the best medium to document and elaborate their research, which can be a scholarly paper or a video essay. The research project is due a week after the stay in Florence

- **Scholarly Paper:** Students produce a scholarly paper that points to an original contribution to the field of cultural studies and incorporates their original preliminary research, bibliography, and field research in Florence. The paper will be 15–17 pages plus a works cited page, double-spaced with one-inch margins and using a 12-point Times New Roman font, and in the MLA citation style.
- **Creative Project + reflection paper:** Students with a strong background in a specific artistic medium (advanced control of the medium's conventions and techniques) can discuss the possibility of a project documenting and elaborating their research through their artistic medium. This project requires a thorough integration between the research and creative component, where the former supports the latter and the latter fuels the former. Whatever the medium, the final product must be recorded and submitted in CD, DVD, or web transfer. Furthermore, the final product will be accompanied by a three-page informal reflection paper elaborating on the learning outcomes of the creative project vis-à-vis course objectives and subject matter.