



Mail: 117 S. 17th Street #1401  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Fax: 215-751-1986  
Tel: 800-879-6640/215-751-1100  
Email: [info@amerispan.com](mailto:info@amerispan.com)  
Web: <http://www.amerispan.com>

---

## Language and Culture PLUS – Florence, Italy

### Palazzo Rucellai Institute of Fine and Liberal Arts

### Course Descriptions

#### ARCHITECTURE

##### **ARCH 413: Advanced Architecture Design Studio**

Students may select from a number of directed studios in fulfilling the four-semester Advanced Architectural Design Studio requirement for the Bachelor of Architecture Degree. Students completing Bachelor of Science are required to take one Advanced Architectural Design Studio. Studio offerings at this level are enriched by studios focusing on topics such as urban design, housing, sustainable design, contemporary technologies, interior architecture, historic preservation, and others. Some topical design studios may have additional prerequisites. Note: this course carries 5 semester hours of credit.

Studio One: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. (maximum enrollment 13)

**Credits:** 5

**Instructor:** Bianca Maria Nardella, MS Arch.

**Class meetings:** Architecture Studio at Palazzo Alamanni.

**Site visits and materials fee:** \$175 includes site visits and materials.

**Prerequisite:** ARCH 231, 313, 321, 322, 332.

---

##### **ARCH 477: Italian Architecture in Context**

This course will provide the student, through a variety of study and documentation techniques, with the history of Italian architecture, from antiquity through the twentieth century, using the city of Florence as a case study of major movements and issues in architectural and urban design. The course will examine the city from its earliest foundations as a Roman military colony through its great Romanesque, Gothic, and Renaissance monuments that still define the city today. The course will finish by looking at the interventions of Poggi and Michelucci in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Readings, lectures in class and on-site provide historical or theoretical background for students' observations which are recorded in a sketchbook. The current practice is to examine the range of issues that can influence architecture and urban form. In the study abroad setting, students will reflect more objectively than in their own culture, environment and creative process.

Monday and Wednesday, 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m. (maximum enrollment 20)

**Credits:** 3

**Instructor:** Jane Zaloga, M.A. **Class meetings:** Class meetings on site and at Palazzo Rucellai: Santo Spirito Classroom.

**Site Visit Fee:** \$100 includes site visits to Florentine museums and monuments.

**Prerequisite:** Art Major, Architecture major or permission from Dean. **Textbook:** Required readings have been put together in a course reader. This will be available at a local copy shop in Florence. **Reference Texts:** Crowe, Norman.

Visual Notes for Architects and Designers. New York, 1984. Silvano Fei. Firenze: An Outline of Urban History. Florence, 1995. *This course may be applied for credit, subject to the approval of the student's home institute, to the following disciplines: Art History and Architectural History.*

---

# **ART HISTORY**

## **AAH 430: The Renaissance Masters**

Vasari, the 16th-century art historian, architect and artist believed that, in his century, a perfection had been achieved in the arts, most specifically in the works of Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519), Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564) and Raphael Sanzio(1483-1520). Accordingly, the greater part of the course focuses on the achievements of these three, the major artists of the High Renaissance. However, in order to fully assess their achievements, we will also study the art of other contemporary, or near-contemporary artists and, at the same time, consider the far-reaching impact of Leonardo, Michelangelo, and Raphael. Are they truly the three greatest artists of the High Renaissance, or can other artists also claim that status? As well as examining the works of arts in depth, consideration will also be given to such crucial aspects as patronage and the political and social background of the 16th century to show that art is as much a reflection of society as it is a product of the individual genius of an artist. Last, but not least, we will also look at the writings of Leonardo, Michelangelo and others to gain an insight into their artistic views and aims.

**Credits:** 3

**Instructor:** Linda Reynolds, M. Lit.

Monday and Thursday, 10:30 – 12noon. (maximum enrollment 20)

**Class Meetings:** Class meetings on site and at Palazzo Rucellai: Santo Spirito Classroom.

**Site Visit Fee:** \$25 includes site visits and a day excursion to visit the birthplace of Leonardo and the museum dedicated to his works in the town of Vinci.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Textbooks:** Vasari, Giorgio. The Lives of the Artists. New Translation by J.C. Bondanella and P. Bondanella. Oxford World Classics, 1998.

Clark, Kenneth. Leonardo da Vinci. Penguin, 1989.

Hibbard, Howard. Michelangelo. Penguin, 1985.

Required readings have been put together in a course reader. This will available at a local copy shop in Florence.

---

## **AAH 477: Masters and Monuments of Florence**

This course focuses on the major artistic monuments in the city of Florence, and is designed to examine the art and architecture of the city within the context of the city's own unique history. Political, social and religious history will be discussed as a means to understanding the artistic boom experienced in Florence making it the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance. The course explores the most important artists, works of art, and major monuments, by visiting the churches and museums in Florence, thus seeing and studying the works first hand. The effects of patronage, from the powerful families in Florence such as the Medici, Strozzi and Rucellai, as well as the guilds and the church, will also be explored. A major component of the course will be the study of art and architecture on site, exploring the many churches and museums of Florence, which provides the opportunity for a greater understanding of the form and the function of art, its relationship to its physical and historical context, and its impact upon the spectator.

SECTION ONE: Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (maximum enrollment 20)

**Credits:** 3

**Instructor:** Maia Gahtan, Ph.D.

**Class Meetings:** Class meetings on site and at Palazzo Rucellai: Santo Spirito Classroom.

**Site Visit Fee:** \$50 includes museum and site visits in Florence and environs.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Textbook:** Paoletti and Radke. Art in Renaissance Italy. Required readings have also been put together in a course reader. This will available at a local copy shop in Florence.

---

## **HISTORY / POLITICAL SCIENCE**

### **HIST 300/ POLSC 430: Special Topics in the Italian Renaissance**

The course analyzes the cultural, political, economic and social changes that define the Italian Renaissance, incorporating topics in politics, art, social history and private life. Topics covered include: the birth of capitalism; the growth of cities that became the motor for all Europe's commercial expansion and political development; the emergence of political structures, such as the Communes, and subsequently regional states and structures. Emphasis will be places on the transformation of culture, the emergence of modern political thought in the writings of Machiavelli, the rise of individualism, the role of "new learning" in education and philosophical debate, and the artistic revolution. The class will analyze and discuss a variety of sources, including paintings, architecture, diaries, poetry and political essays written by the protagonists of the time. Representations and idealizations of the Renaissance over time and their historical significance will also be studied.

Monday and Wednesday, 1:15 - 2:45 p.m.

**Credits:** 3

**Instructor:** Marcello Bellini, M.A.

**Class Meetings:** Class meetings at Palazzo Rucellai. Classroom: San Giovanni.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Textbook:** Burke, Peter. The Italian Renaissance. Princeton, 1987.

This course may be applied for credit, subject to the approval of the student's home institute, to the following disciplines: History, Political Science and Italian Studies.

---

### **HIST 300 / POLSC 430: History and Politics of Modern Italy**

The course begins with an introduction to the geography and history of the peninsula and to the cultural significance of the idea of Italy before unity, the course will analyze the ideals and events of Risorgimento, liberal Italy, the politics of *Trasformismo*, the Great War, Fascism in Italy, WWII, the Resistance in Italy and latest economic and political transformations, the problems of contemporary Italy, the North-South divide, and regional differences will be also explored. Particular attention will be devoted to the concept of Italy as a united entity and to its political, cultural and social significance in the past centuries, as well as in the present.

Topics include the nature and development of Italian political institutions, such as the Constitution, the Legislature, Executive and Courts, as well as the workings of the parliamentary, electoral and party systems. There will also be discussion of specific parties and elections and the ways in which the rules have changed over time. Major themes in Italian public policy will also be discussed, such as the path that Italian economic development took after World War II and the major changes in the economy and policy since the late 1960s; the crises of the early 1990s and the changes that emerged from them; and Italy's role in the European Union. There will also be a focus on Italian political activity throughout, from party behavior to the more extreme actions of terrorists.

Monday and Wednesday, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Credits:** 3

**Instructor:** Peter Fischer, Ph.D.

**Class Meetings:** Class meetings at Palazzo Rucellai. Classroom: Santa Croce.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Textbooks:** Clark, M. Modern Italy, 1871-1982. Longman, 1984.

This course may be applied for credit, subject to the approval of the student's home institute, to the following disciplines: History, Political Science and Italian Studies.

## HIST 300 / POLSC 430: Interdisciplinary Studies in the European Union

This course focuses on the history and politics of the European Union. Key topics include the historical development of European integration since World War II, approaches to integration, the economics and politics of the customs union and trade, the common market and capital and labor mobility, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), expansion of EU membership to Eastern Europe and elsewhere, EU relations with other parts of the world and monetary integration. Monetary integration is given extensive attention, both in terms of its history and in terms of current macroeconomic issues. The course will also address key issues relating to EU institutions, such as the parliament, as well as social and political issues, such as immigration.

Monday and Wednesday, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

**Credits:** 3

**Instructor:** Tamara Evans, M.Sc.

**Class Meetings:** Class meetings at Palazzo Rucellai. Classroom: Santa Maria Novella.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Textbook:** McCormick, John. The European Union: Politics and Policies. Westview Press, 1999.

This course may be applied for credit, subject to the approval of the student's home institute, to the following disciplines: History, Political Science and Economics.

---

## HUMANITIES/INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

### HUM 304: The Italian Cinema: 1945 - present

This course surveys Italian cinema from its origins to the present. Its objective is to acquaint the student with a wide variety of genres and Italian directors. This course will present a survey of films, directors and film styles in Italy from the 1940's to the present. The films will be investigated as aesthetic objects in their own right and in their relation to the wider social and cultural environment of post-war Italy. Cinema's role as a tool of historiography inquiry will also be investigated. Realist, modernist and post-modernist aesthetics will be discussed in relation to Italian cinema in particular, and Italian society in general. Film screenings will be supplemented by lectures, class discussions and readings.

Tuesday, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. (maximum enrollment 25)

**Credits:** 3

**Instructor:** Tina Fallani, Cinema Regione Lombardia, Dip. Film; Film Editor, RAI.

**Class Meetings:** Class meetings at Palazzo Rucellai. Classroom: San Giovanni.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Textbooks:** Bondanella, Peter. Italian Cinema. Required readings have been put together in a course reader. This will be available at a local copy shop in Florence.

**Films screened:** Open City, The Bicycle Thief, La Strada, La Dolce Vita, Blow Up, The Conformist, Swept Away, 1900, Cinema Paradiso, Mediterraneo, Life is Beautiful, Stealing Beauty.

This course may be applied for credit, subject to the approval of the student's home institute, to the following disciplines: Media Studies and Italian Studies.

---

### HUM 306: Dalla Terra alla Tavola: The Food Cultures of Italy

This course will examine the relationship between food and culture in Italy through a variety of readings, discussions, field trips and tasting experiences. Culinary customs offer great insight into societies' past and present from agriculture to social life, from religious beliefs to cultural habits. The course will show the historical evolution of the rich patchwork of regional food cultures in Italy which have made the country renowned worldwide. Emphasis is placed on how food relates to history, geography and society. Because the study of food culture in Italy invites comparison with our own alimentary habits, we will also examine the American relationship to food.

Students are introduced to the most significant Italian food products such as olive oil, wine, cheese, bread, pasta etc. through class demonstrations and tastings. During the course of the semester the class will visit

the rich central wholesale food market in Florence and a major food producing company in Tuscany. Through these visits students will be able to experience the incredible variety and richness of Italian food culture.

Monday and Wednesday, 1:15 – 2:45 p.m.

**Credits:** 3

**Instructor:** Peter Fischer, Ph.D.

**Class Meetings:** Class meetings at Palazzo Rucellai. Classroom: Santo Spirito.

**Site Visit and Course Fee** \$75 includes food samplings, tasting and field study trips in Florence and the environs.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Textbooks:** Required readings have been put together in a course reader. This will available at a local copy shop in Florence.

This course may be applied for credit, subject to the approval of the student's home institute, to the following disciplines: Italian Studies.

---

## **HUM 399: Cultures in Contact: Italia**

The aims of this course are to introduce the American student to contemporary Italian culture through the reading of appropriate scholarly essays and through ethnographic techniques of observation and participation; create an intellectual camaraderie in the classroom that will allow fruitful discussion of these readings; use analytical notebook/field notes writing as a mode for individual learning about culture; help student teams present a cross-cultural comparison of American and Italian culture that reflects what they've learned in their semester abroad; instill an attitude of celebration about different ways of looking at the world.

There are two sections of this course

Section 1: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. (maximum enrollment 30)

Section 2: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:15 - 2:45 p.m. (maximum enrollment 30)

**Credits:** 3

**Instructor:** Staff

**Class Meetings:** All sections meet at the Palazzo Rucellai. Classroom: Santo Spirito.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Textbook:** Required readings have been put together in a course reader. This will available at a local copy shop in Florence.

This course may be applied for credit, subject to the approval of the student's home institute, to the following disciplines: Sociology and Italian Studies.

---

## **ITALIAN LANGUAGE**

### **ITAL 100: Basic Italian**

This course includes development of basic conversation, reading and writing skills. Equal focus will be given to grammar structures and to the development of a vocabulary that will enable the students to have simple but useful everyday conversation and will be a support to their Italian experience. Emphasis will be given to oral expression of practical vocabulary and newly acquired grammar structures. Activities to enhance these skills are strongly encouraged.

There are four sections of Elementary Italian I (maximum enrollment each 15)

Section 1: Monday and Wednesday, 10: 30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Classroom: Santo Spirito

Section 2: Monday and Wednesday, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Classroom: Santa Maria Novella  
Section 3: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Classroom: Santa Maria Novella  
Section 4: Tuesday and Thursday, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Classroom: Santa Maria Novella

**Credits:** 3

**Instructor(s):** Patrizia Marzocchetti, Serena Baldini

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Textbook:** To be determined.

---

### **ITAL 201: Intermediate Italian I**

The first course of a two-course sequence which extends fundamental skills developed in the elementary courses. Proficiency-based instruction. Emphasis is placed upon skills leading to fluency and integration of language and culture through more extensive reading and writing; greater depth and range of linguistic skills through grammar review and conversational practice. Focus on comprehension using media - TV news, children programs, music, newspapers.

Monday and Wednesday, 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**Credits:** 3

**Instructor(s):** Patrizia Marzocchetti, Serena Baldini

**Class Meetings:** Classes meet at the Palazzo Rucellai. Classroom: Santa Maria Novella.

**Prerequisite(s):** ITAL 101, ITAL 102 or two semesters of college-level Italian.

**Textbook:** To be determined.

## LITERATURE

### **ENG 430: Origins of Italian Literature in Translation**

This course is an introduction to the study of Italian vernacular literature covering the medieval and Renaissance periods, roughly 1100-1600. We will read, discuss, and write about the major genres of this period; lyric poetry, the novella, theatrical comedy, biography, and autobiography and also glance briefly at chronicles, Vidas and razos, and epistles. We will spend time with the major authors of the period and their great works; Dante's Vita Nuova and Commedia, Boccaccio's Decameron, Patricia's Canzoniere, and Machiavelli's The Mandragola, but we will also address the lyric poets of the Sicilian School, Guido Cavalcanti, Guido Guinizzelli, the humorist poet Cecco Angiolieri, Michelangelo, and Vittoria Colonna, as well as pre- and post-Boccaccian novellistica (including Christine De Pisan's early Renaissance work of proto-feminism, The Book of the City of Ladies). These readings should also provide a springboard for discussing greater historical and social concerns beyond literary aesthetics, such as the effects of political and economic forces on art and literature, spirituality and/or the secular in the same, the so-called "rise of the individual," and the role of woman in this pivotal period of early modern history.

Monday and Wednesday, 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

**Credits:** 3

**Instructor:** Staff

**Class Meetings:** Class meetings at Palazzo Rucellai. Classroom: Santa Croce.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Textbooks:** Required readings have been put together in a course reader. This will be available at a local copy shop in Florence.

Dante Alighieri. The New Life. Reynolds (Barbara Reynolds translation).

Dante Alighieri. The Divine Comedy (Selected passages) (Pinsky's translation of The Inferno).

Giovanni Boccaccio. The Decameron.

Niccolò Machiavelli. The Mandragola and Belfagor (both available in The Portable Machiavelli).

*This course may be applied for credit, subject to the approval of the student's home institute, to the following disciplines: English, Literature and Italian Studies.*

# **VISUAL ARTS**

## **VARTS 101: Renaissance Drawing Techniques**

Using various drawing materials, basic drawing methods will be introduced including composition, the effective use of positive and negative space, the relationship of image to page, methods of controlling spatial illusion, and various means to creating images. Students will be introduced to the techniques of Renaissance Masters where they will also be required to copy from the art (drawings, sculptures, etc.) in Florence.

Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Credits:** 3

**Instructor:** Alan Pascuzzi, Ph.D.

**Class Meetings:** Class meetings at Palazzo Rucellai – Art Department. There will be classes conducted on site at museums for sketching assignments.

**Course Materials and Site Visit Fees:** (On average) \$125 includes visits to museums, galleries and supplies required for this course. There is an art store with student discounts in Florence.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Textbooks:** To be determined.

---

## **VARTS 261: Introduction to Photography: Portfolio of Florence**

This class is an introduction into the fundamental concepts of photography for students with little or no previous experience in creative image making using the lens formed image. The course will cover basic functions of the camera, film handling and exposure, print analysis and critical theory involved with photographic materials. Course work will be equal parts theory and practice. Ultimately the course will finish with the presentation of a small body of work drawn from experiences within the Florentine environment.

This class will use commercial laboratories for processing and printing. The student will be responsible for having at least a 35mm SLR formal camera and purchasing film and prints locally. No digital cameras allowed.

Monday, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. (maximum enrollment 15)

**Credits:** 3

**Instructor:** Sabine Korth

**Class Meetings:** Classes meet at Palazzo Rucellai. Classroom: San Giovanni.

**Prerequisite:** None. Must own 35mm Camera.

**Course Materials and Site Visit Fees:** (On average) \$150 for photography exhibitions, gallery visits in Florence and film, developing and camera costs.

**Textbook:** London and Upton. Photography. Sixth Edition.