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Language and Culture PLUS – Florence, Italy

Palazzo Rucellai Institute of Fine and Liberal Arts Summer Course Descriptions

ART & ART HISTORY

AAH 214: The Art of Florence in Context: Masters and Monuments Credits: 3

This course focuses on the major artistic monuments in the city of Florence, and is designed to examine art and architecture of the within the context of the city's own unique history. Students explore the most important artists, works of art, and major monuments by seeing and studying the works first hand. A major component of the course is the study of art and architecture on site, exploring the many churches and museums of Florence. On site study 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. No prerequisite required.

Course descriptions may be subject to occasional minor modifications at the discretion of the instructor.

VARTS 481: Drawing Florence, Painting Florence Credits: 3

In this course the city of Florence, its piazzas, bridges, towers and hidden corners, becomes the raw material for an exploration of the different techniques and expressive possibilities used in drawing, charcoal, pastel and watercolor painting. Students will apply these techniques while observing and portraying spots within and around the city. The course aims to sharpen and develop the student's technical skills in drawing and watercolor painting, while encouraging a more intimate and deeper way of perceiving. In addition, through careful observation of specific sites, students will arrive at a better understanding of the city's urban texture and of the masterpieces scattered throughout, such as its unique architectural environment, its sculptures, and its gardens.

Students will learn from the past but will express themselves in a lively contemporary context where art truly matters. At the end of the course each student will have a personal "sketchbook" of Florence that will show the development in skills and expressive power.

ITALIAN LANGUAGE

ITAL 101: The Florence Experience: Elementary Italian I Credits: 3

The Florence Experience is an interdisciplinary language course which focuses on developing proficiency in speaking, listening, reading and writing Italian, while introducing the students to various, relevant aspects of contemporary Florentine and Italian culture.

The city of Florence becomes a cultural laboratory: with its world-famous fashion concerns, its beautiful theaters and lively markets, its young writers and actors, and its characteristic stores and artisans' workshops, it is a composite of contemporary Italian culture to be explored by the student. In addition to classroom work based on the standard content of the first semester of language study, the course includes a series of on-site encounters, which will range from interviews with various exponents of Florentine society, to encounters with representatives of prestigious fashion concerns,

field-trips and treasure hunts at the most vivacious markets in town, encounters with young writers, actors and journalists at the local newspaper's editorial office, and experiencing the vibrant atmosphere of Florentine theaters to encounters with artisans in the botteghe of the characteristic neighborhood of Oltrarno.

ITAL 102: The Florence Experience

Credits: 6

Prerequisite: Elementary Italian I

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The city of Florence becomes a cultural laboratory: with its world-famous fashion concerns, its beautiful theaters and lively markets, its young writers and actors, and its characteristic stores and artisans' workshops, it is a composite of contemporary Italian culture to be explored by the student. In addition to classroom work based on the standard content of the second semester of language study, the course includes a series of on-site encounters, which will range from interviews with various exponents of Florentine society, to encounters with representatives of prestigious fashion concerns, field-trips and treasure hunts at the most vivacious markets in town, encounters with young writers, actors and journalists at the local newspaper's editorial office, and experiencing the vibrant atmosphere of Florentine theaters to encounters with artisans in the botteghe of the characteristic neighborhood of Oltrarno.

ITALIAN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

HUM 306: The History & Culture of Food: A Comparative Analysis Credits: 3

In this course we will examine the relationship between food and culture in Italy through a variety of readings, discussions, field trips and tasting experiences. The study of culinary customs offers great insight into societies' past and present, from agriculture to social life, from religious beliefs to cultural habits, and will lead the student to a richer and more complete understanding of Italy. The course will trace the historical evolution of the numerous and diverse Italian regional food cultures for which Italy is justly famous. Emphasis is placed on how food relates to history, geography and society.

Because the study of food cultures in Italy invites comparison with our own alimentary habits, we will also examine the American way with food.

By the end of this course the student should be able:

- to understand the relevance of a sociological approach to studying food
- to be familiar with the historical and social construction of taste
- to develop an understanding of food as a fundamental cultural aspect of Italian society.

Course descriptions may be subject to occasional minor modifications at the discretion of the instructor.