

LC 265/375 Renaissance Italy
General Education Credit in “Intellectual Traditions”
May Term 2018

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This syllabus may be modified at the discretion of the instructor.

Reading materials:

Selections from secondary sources on history, politics, society, architecture, and art:

- J.H. Plumb, *The Italian Renaissance* (online)
- Bates Lowry, *Renaissance Architecture* (course packet)
- Laurie Schneider Adams, *Italian Renaissance Art* (selections, online reserves)

Literary Works (selections):

- Boccaccio, *The Decameron* (course packet)
- Castiglione, *The Book of the Courtier* (course packet)
- Dante, *The Divine Comedy* (course packet)
- Machiavelli, *The Prince* (course packet)
- Petrarca, *The Canzoniere* (course packet)

Description:

From its passion for antiquity to its contrast with the Middle Ages, the Italian *Rinascimento* represents a turning point in Western history. The goal of this travel course is to introduce students firsthand to the art, architecture, literature, and history of Renaissance Italy, in order to arrive at a deeper understanding of their tremendous impact on Western thought. We will explore the concept of intellectual inquiry for which the Renaissance is famous, in its relation to economic, political, and social forces such as the emergence of the bourgeoisie, and the power of Rome and the Church. The idea of *uomo universale* ("universal man," otherwise known as "Renaissance man") will also be examined, particularly in its influence on principles of gentility. The importance placed on education, breeding, and an appreciation of the arts became an essential part of wealth, and went on to influence court aesthetics and the aristocratic foundations of European society for centuries. Even the architectural wonders we will visit are due to the abundant patronage of the wealthy Italian noblemen.

Spring Meetings:

This course will meet 9 times during the spring 2018 semester. Each meeting will be held in Buck 108 starting at 8 pm unless otherwise noted. *For every absence the professor reserves the right to lower your final grade by one half a letter grade.*

Class 1: Introduction to the course; Preparing for travel; Itinerary/Geography of Italy

Class 2: Plumb—Italian Renaissance History, Society, Politics (and brief overview of Italian History)

Class 3: Lowry, Adams—Introduction to Italian Renaissance art and architecture

Class 4: *Art and Architecture presentations* (class 7 pm until 10 pm!)

Class 5: Discussion of **Boccaccio, Petrarca, Dante**

Class 6: Discussion of **Castiglione**

Class 7: Discussion of **Machiavelli**; *Term paper abstract, outline, and bibliography due*

Class 8: *Paper Presentations* (class from 7 pm until 10 pm!)

Class 9: Italian language crash course / food / money

Grade Distribution:

<i>Term Paper</i> (due by email by June 30)	20%
<i>Travel Journal</i> (due prior to leaving Italy)	10%
<i>2 Oral Presentations</i>	30%
<i>Participation</i> (includes preparation, pop quizzes, discussion, and attendance at class meetings on campus, and activities scheduled while abroad)	40%

Grading scale:

93-100	A	78-79	C+
90-92	A-	73-77	C
88-89	B+	70-72	C-
83-87	B	60-69	D
80-82	B-	Below 60	F

Itinerary (see Itinerary sheet)

Components of the Course:

I. Term Paper and Oral Presentation

For this travel course, you will research and write a 6-7 page term paper (1" margins, 12 point Times New Roman font). It is my belief that, after preparing an academic subject in a "traditional" way, students can later enhance their learning by making connections first-hand with the subjects they have independently studied. Your term paper is meant to be a "gathering and synthesis of information" rather than argumentative, and it should include several secondary sources as references. Also, please refer to university guidelines regarding plagiarism.

Your term paper is due before June 30 by email to sheridan@iwu.edu. The term paper abstract (1 paragraph summary of your subject), outline, and bibliography are due in class in March (TBA, hard copy, or email prior). A rough draft of the term paper will be due the night of the oral presentations.

For your oral presentations based on your paper subjects, you will present to the class a 4-minute "lesson" on an aspect of the subjects covered in our travel course, based upon your research for your term paper. A polished presentation, in which you make use of PowerPoint slides, is expected. Your presentation will be scored on criteria such as content, presentation, etc. You are NOT TO READ a prepared monologue. Please practice your talk so that you keep to the time limit. (It's best if you bring the presentation on a flash drive with you or submit it as a file to our class page. Feel free to email the document to yourself as a back-up, but it often takes too much time to download via email.) Everyone in class is expected to pay close attention to each presentation. Students may choose one of the following subjects for their term paper (one student per subject). **Oral presentations will take place in April (date TBA), from 7:00-10:00 pm.**

Historical Figures

1. Pope Nicholas V, the “Humanist Pope”:
2. Pope Paul II, his politics, and his reaction to Renaissance Humanism:
3. Pope Sixtus IV, his politics, and his patronage of the Arts:
4. Pope Julius II, his politics, and his patronage of the Arts:
5. Pope Leo X, his politics, and his patronage of Arts:
6. Cosimo de’ Medici, Florence, and the Renaissance:
7. Lorenzo de’ Medici (The Magnificent), Florence, and the Renaissance:
8. Federigo da Montefeltro and the Court at Urbino:
9. Doge Francesco Foscari and the Venetian Council of Ten:
10. The Rise of the Sforza family in Milan:
11. The Della Scala (Scaglieri) Family in Verona:
12. Isabella d’Este:
13. Lucrezia Borgia:
14. Savonarola in Florence and the Bonfire of the Vanities:
15. Pico della Mirandola and Neoplatonism during the Italian Renaissance:

Themes

16. The Byzantine Style and its influence in Art/Architecture of Renaissance Italy:
17. The Reformation in Northern Europe and its connection with Italian Renaissance Humanism:
18. The Invention of Printing and its effect during the Renaissance (focus on Italy as much as possible):
19. The Early History of Italian Universities—Bologna and Padua:
20. Science during the Italian Renaissance: Astronomy, Geography, Physics:
21. Medicine (and/or Nursing) during the Italian Renaissance:
22. Italian Music during the Renaissance:
23. Women’s Roles in Society and Prostitution in Italy during the Renaissance (Venice, for example):
24. Homosexuality in Italian Renaissance Culture:
25. The Invention of Modern Finance in Renaissance Italy:
26. The Trade Guilds during the Italian Renaissance:
27. Guelphs vs. Ghibellines: The Dynamics of Political Factions and Feuds in Renaissance City-States:
28. The Most Influential Classical Authors and Literary Texts during the Italian Renaissance:
29. The Effects of the Plague on Renaissance Italy:
30. Marco Polo: The Importance of Trade Routes and the Influence of Exploration during the Renaissance:

II. Travel Journal

This travel journal will be worth 10% of your course grade. The following topics have been provided for you to give you some guidance. Feel free to include personal reflection and notation of personal experiences, but you **must** also address the following suggestions in your entries. For each entry, you should write at least 3-4 pages (front and back). You must turn it in to me at baggage claim when you land in Chicago. *Think about what you write before you write,*

and organize your thoughts. Be clever, emote, etc. Remember, this journal is for you as much as it is for the instructor. Topics to be distributed.

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III. Oral Presentations on Art & Architecture

For these oral presentations, you will present to the class a 4-5 minute “lesson” on one of the subjects listed below. Presentations should be modeled on the class lectures on art the instructor introduces to the class, as well as a carefully researched list of bibliographic sources. **Use of the text by Laurie Schneider Adams is essential.** A polished presentation, in which you make use of PowerPoint slides, is expected. Your presentation will be scored on criteria such as content, presentation, etc. You are NOT TO READ a prepared monologue. Please keep to the time limit. (It’s best if you bring the presentation on a flash drive with you or submit it as a file to our class page. Feel free to email the document to yourself as a back-up, but it often takes too much time to download via email.) Everyone in class is expected to pay close attention to each presentation.

Presentation Subjects:

Painting/Fresco

1. Giotto: Scrovegni Chapel in Padova
2. Giotto: Frescoes in Santa Croce in Florence
3. Upper Church and Lower Church, Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi
4. Filippo Lippi, Madonna and Child (Uffizi)
5. Botticelli: Primavera (Uffizi)
6. Botticelli: Birth of Venus (Uffizi)
7. Botticelli: Madonna of the Pomegranate (Uffizi)
8. Botticelli: Adoration of the Magi (Uffizi)
9. Da Vinci: The Annunciation (Uffizi)
10. Michelangelo: The Sistine Chapel (ceiling and Last Judgment)
11. Michelangelo: Doni Madonna (Uffizi)
12. Raphael: School of Athens, Stanza della Segnatura (Vatican)
13. Titian: Venus of Urbino (Uffizi)

Sculpture

14. Donatello: David (Bargello)
15. Michelangelo: David (Accademia, Florence)
16. Michelangelo: Pieta (St. Peter’s, Rome)
17. Ghiberti: Doors for Baptistery, Florence

Architecture

18. Orsanmichele (building design, exterior statues, and tabernacle), Florence
19. San Vitale, Ravenna (design and mosaics)
20. Duomo, Siena (design, interior)
21. Duomo, Florence (design, dome, interior)
22. Ducal Palace, Urbino (design, courtyard, rooms)

23. Doge's Palace, Venice (design, courtyard, famous features)
24. St. Mark's, Venice (exterior, interior features)
25. Teatro Olimpico, Vicenza (design, features)
26. Villa Rotunda, Vicenza (design, interior, exterior)
27. St. Peter's Basilica, Rome (design, dome, interior, piazza)
28. Piazza Campidoglio, Rome (design)

Expectations for the Travel Course *Renaissance Italy*
(will be presented to all students who are expected to sign as a contract)

This course is a travel course that equally values your classroom and out-of-classroom experience. While abroad, students will participate in organized activities (lectures, tours, group meals, etc.) as well as individual exploration (some free time is incorporated into your stay in each city). We, the travel course leaders, are excited to travel with you and introduce you to Italy and the Italian Renaissance. Traveling together will require a lot of understanding, tolerance, and mutual respect that we hope we will have for each other. We don't plan to "babysit" you, but rather hope to open new doors for you into a new world. We consider this task to be a privilege and a joy. Please help us to fulfill it as best we can, as we get to know all of you during this travel course experience. You are expected to observe the following rules and regulations.

Coursework and Class Activities

1. You must complete all the course requirements as described on the course syllabus. Attendance at lectures, discussions, and all group activities is mandatory. Each absence will result in your grade being lowered by 5% per absence.
2. Your responsibilities include coming to group activities on time and staying with the group during activities. Please gather in hotel lobbies or other indicated venues 10 minutes prior to every scheduled departure or event.

Travel

3. You must familiarize yourself with the baggage limits for the airlines we are using. You must pack light, and you **MUST** be able to handle your own baggage, at times for long distances over difficult surfaces or steep inclines.
4. When using public transportation, be aware of your surroundings and your belongings. Know where you are going.
5. When using our private coach, be mindful of other students with your noise level. Don't be picky about who you sit by.
6. Please try to use bathroom stops when scheduled.
7. You must pay attention and walk quickly when the group is walking, especially in crowded cities and/or when crossing dangerous city streets. You are to obey all traffic signals/signs when walking, and you should only cross streets in designated marked areas.

Behavior and Safety

8. In general, you must do what is both responsible and prudent; please use common sense while going out and enjoying your free time. For instance, if you get separated from your group, do not go off by yourself.
9. This trip is an academic experience that requires discipline and balance. We expect that students will get at least 4-5 hours of sleep per night.
10. There will be a 2:00 am curfew every evening. You **MUST BE PRESENT ON TIME** at the hotel and ready for the group activities the next morning. If you ever fail to return to the hotel before morning, you will be dismissed from the course immediately without a warning.
11. Before free time, each day you must let one of the travel leaders know what you plan to do for the remainder of the day (where you plan to go, what you plan to do, and with which students).
12. Never jeopardize your safety or the safety of anyone else on the trip. If you do, you will be sent home.
13. If any of you have any medical issues (such as asthma or food allergies), please let the instructor know as soon as possible. Also, if you have any conditions that will prevent you from walking, such as previous injuries, tell the instructors. If you are taking medication, please have a sufficient supply with you.
14. Bring appropriate attire, including at least one dressy outfit, as well as comfortable shoes. Women must be mindful of covering their shoulders in some churches. A rain jacket or small umbrella is a good idea to pack as well.
15. Be mindful of thieves, pickpockets, and “gypsies.” If people on the street try to get your attention, it is better to ignore them rather than fall prey to a trick.
16. You are encouraged to explore the sights on your own, however you are required to go out in small groups and mind the other members of your group. We require that you form a “buddy system”: each of you must be responsible for another person, so we can avoid problems.
17. The cities we will be visiting are very tourist-friendly. However your behavior should be modified so as to avoid problems. Do not attract attention to yourselves by being loud, or by shouting in the streets. Always pay attention to your belongings (wallet, purse, etc.). Exercise good judgment when making the acquaintance of strangers. **DO NOT** accept invitations to someone’s house.
18. In case of an emergency, in each city information will be given to you concerning the designated meeting place(s) in that city.
19. If your behavior will be disruptive to the successful fulfillment of the program, you will be issued **ONLY ONE WARNING**. The second warning will result in your premature departure to the U.S. Any additional cost that may be involved in such disciplinary measures (such as in fees associated with taking an earlier flight back to the U.S., damage done to hotel rooms or other public/private property, arrest or incarceration, legal fees, etc.) will be **YOUR** responsibility. IWU and your family in the U.S. will be notified immediately. Such an early departure will result in failing the course, and a grade of “F” will be recorded in your transcript.

Hotels

20. You must keep noise when in the hotel to a minimum. No more than a few students should ever be present in a room at a time—there is no room for more than 6 or 7 students in a room at a time.
21. Keep your hotel room neat. Messy rooms are often reported by the cleaning staff. Pick up clothes and shoes.
22. Vandalism or unintentional damage to hotel property will not be tolerated.

23. You must always know the name of your hotel and the street address. Keep the phone number of the hotel as well as the phone number of the travel leader on you, in case an emergency comes up.

Food & Alcohol

24. Keep an open mind when eating food. Please try everything, and be polite to wait staff who serve the food.
25. Everyone is expected to be present at breakfast each morning, and taking advantage of breakfast is highly recommended.
26. Some alcohol is part of the scheduled group meals. This is meant to be a part of your experience of Italian culture. Although all students are of legal drinking age in Italy, everyone must be sure to drink responsibly, at group meals and at other times. Misuse or abuse of alcohol will not be tolerated. Drinking to the point where your perception becomes impaired is inexcusable.
27. Students are not EXPECTED to drink if they choose not to. Students who choose not to drink will be both supported and respected.

Other Responsibilities

28. It is the responsibility of each student to look out for their own welfare as well as the welfare of others on the trip. If you ever feel that another student is engaging in unsafe or irresponsible behavior, it is your responsibility to let the travel leaders know. Also, if difficult group dynamics or personality conflicts arise, please let a travel course leader know as soon as possible.
29. It is your responsibility to be friendly to all members of the group, and to try to get along with others. If you notice that another student seems alone or separated, please be kind enough to offer for the student to join your group.
30. You must act as American goodwill ambassadors to Italy, respecting the country, city, neighborhoods, and culture (including the food and performances we will be seeing)—acting like a responsible citizen of the world.