

ART HISTORY

AHMM 300: Masters and Monuments of Rome

This course introduces students to the artistic riches of Rome designed to examine the art and architecture within the context of the history of the city, focusing on the main representative works from the most important periods of Italian art: Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Modern. The course will also explore the historical factors which made Rome *Caput Mundi* - the capital of the world - the birthplace of the Roman Empire, and center for Christianity, as well as the role of the patronage of the arts and architecture on the part of Vatican and the powerful families such as the Chigi, Borghese, Pamphili and others.

A major component of the course is the study of art and architecture on site as a means to further appreciate the social function of art, its relationship to its context, and the impact on the viewer.

This course includes weekly site visits, field trips, individual research projects.

AHBA 300: The Grandeur of Rome: Baroque Art and Architecture

This course focuses on the major artistic monuments in Italian Early and High Baroque Art and their development. It is designed to examine the architecture, sculpture and painting within the context of religious, political and social history, centering upon the city of Rome from about 1600-1700.

The course will first introduce the students to fundamental concepts and topics of Baroque Art before providing a general historical survey of Roman history from Pope Sixtus V. to Paul V. It will then explore single artists by discussing the form and function of some of their most famous works in a roughly chronological order. Caravaggio and his deep influence on painting in Italy as well as Europe will be discussed before analysing the classical art of the Carracci and their followers. In a next step, Guido Reni, Peter Paul Rubens as well as Claude Lorrain and Nicolas Poussin and the specific development of their artworks will be examined.

Carlo Maderno and the following study of Gian Lorenzo Bernini as the major representative of Roman Baroque sculpture and architecture will constitute the base for focusing on artists like Francesco Borromini, Pietro da Cortona, Carlo Fontana, Stefano Maderno and Francesco Mochi.

By the end of the course, the students will:

- gain a broad historical knowledge of the major Baroque monuments of Rome
- gain an understanding of the developments in the visual arts in Rome during the 17th c.
- be familiar with different techniques, practical problems in executing pieces of art and major achievements of Italian and particularly Roman Baroque
- be able to describe and discuss works of art in their political, social, religious context
- develops visual skills to allow them to recognize different styles and schools from the end of the 16th to the end of the 17th c.

HISTORY

HSAR 300: Ancient Rome: Civilization & Legacy

This course will introduce students to the history and culture of the Roman world, from its beginnings in myth and legend through its rise to domination of the Mediterranean area and beyond, and from its violent conversion from a Republic to an Empire, and the long success of that Empire until its collapse in the fifth century. The first part of the semester will focus on the development of Roman institutions and political system, while the second will be devoted to the social structure of the Roman Empire and the daily life of its people. As we search together to unravel the historical significance of the Roman achievement, we will look at Roman literature and religion, art and architecture, and philosophy. When possible, we will give a privileged place to primary sources in translation, letting the characters of this great historical drama speak for themselves. Our readings will be at times be supplemented by slides and videos,



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and site visits to Roman vestiges in Florence. There will be a field trip to Rome.

At the conclusion of this course, students should be conversant with many aspects of Roman civilization, and the contribution it made (and continues to make) on all subsequent Western societies.

HSAH 300: Saint Peter's and the Vatican: The Papacy and Architecture

The course will examine the history and development of Vatican territory and in particular its principal site of worship, the Basilica of Saint Peter, considered the center of Christianity and declared a world heritage site by UNESCO. Its nearly 2000 years long history will be discussed by analyzing its major archeological sites and the archeological evidence that has emerged from discoveries made in recent years; the construction, restoration and renovation phases of the Basilica that involved the contribution of famous artists like Raphael, Michelangelo, Bernini, and architects as Donato Bramante, Antonio da Sangallo, Jacopo da Vignola, Giacomo della Porta, Carlo Maderno, Francesco Borromini. Finally it will also consider practical considerations as the rise of Vatican City State as a political entity; the major implications and challenges that have accompanied the management of the Basilica to this day, also as a world heritage site; conservation and preservation policies and legal measures issued by international organizations like UNESCO for the protection of cultural and natural heritage sites; the sustainable development policy of the Church towards its cultural heritage in general.

Special visits to some of the “secret corners of the Vatican”, normally not open to the public, like: the newly discovered archeological sites, the Fabbrica di San Pietro – the Department, founded in 1506, to look after the management and care of the Basilica - and its Historical Archives, containing a precious collection of records, letters, drawings autographed by the above mentioned famous architects and artists, as well as its storage rooms housing the spectacular monumental wooden models of the Basilica made in the 1500's by Antonio da Sangallo and Michelangelo; as well as the Vatican Secret Archives, will permit students to gain a comprehensive picture of this spectacular site valued as one of the wonders of the world precisely for its uninterrupted evolution and devotional history throughout the centuries.

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

ISXX 400: Independent

The Independent Study course is a student-centered learning exercise. It provides an opportunity for a deeper understanding in a specific area or topic, personalized to the student's interests, and to engage in advanced research with the support of a faculty mentor. This course is ideal for a student who has already studied a particular topic in a previous course (such as contemporary Italian politics or the artistic genius of Bernini) and would like to explore a more narrow aspect of that topic through individual research, while taking advantage of being in Italy for the semester.

The course begins with a thesis topic or area of study submitted to the Academic Director. In consultation with the Director, an appropriate faculty member will be identified as the advisor for the course. During the first two weeks, a more detailed proposal, bibliography, and project design will be submitted to the faculty advisor for approval. Upon approval, a project schedule will be established for the semester. By the third week, the student will have begun the project in earnest and will meet on a weekly basis with her/his advisor. The student is expected to submit all drafts of the study in a timely fashion, as scheduled by the advisor, and is personally responsible for meeting all deadlines for the completion of the project. Approximately two weeks before the end of the semester the student will make a short, oral presentation to the advisor and other independent study and research students and submit the first draft of the study. At the end of the semester, the student will submit his/her final draft based on the independent study and, along with other independent study and research students, participate in a poster presentation event, highlighting the final results of the various projects undertaken during the semester.

Course credit equates approximately into 40-45 hours of research activity per credit hour.



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Independent study projects are evaluated based on the successful completion of the research proposal, the final presentation of the project in poster form, and submission of a full-length study.

ITALIAN LANGUAGE

ITAL101: Beginner Italian I: Esperienza Romana

Prerequisite: None

Beginner Italian - Esperienza Romana (the Roman 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 Roman life and Italian culture. The course offers students a unique experience in language learning made possible only by direct immersion in the target culture.

The historic center of Rome becomes a cultural laboratory: with its inspiring monuments, museums, piazzas and parks, its winding cobblestone streets and lively markets, its characteristic stores and artisans' workshops, and of course its many restaurants and cafes, 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 a second-semester of language study, the course includes a series of on-site encounters, which will range from interviews with various exponents of Roman society, to encounters with artisans in the botteghe of the centro storico, field-trips and treasure hunts in town, and encounters with the local *Romani*.

At the end of the semester, students should reach the level A2 of the Common European Framework in the four basic competencies in Italian: listening, speaking and interacting, reading, and writing and have acquired a deep understanding of Italian culture, society and everyday life that has evolved from the millennia of history and tradition in modern Rome.

ITAL 102: Beginner Italian II: Esperienza Romana

Prerequisite: One semester of elementary Italian, or level A2 of the Common European Framework for language proficiency.

Beginner Italian II - Esperienza Romana (the Roman Experience) is an interdisciplinary course equivalent to a second semester course in Italian language. The course is designed to reinforce prior learning and introduce students to the next levels of speaking, listening, reading and writing Italian, while exploring various and relevant aspects of contemporary Roman life and Italian culture. The course offers students a unique experience in language learning made possible only by direct immersion in the target culture.

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In addition to classroom work based on the standard content of a second-semester of language study, the course includes a series of on-site encounters, which will range from interviews with various exponents of Roman society, to encounters with artisans in the botteghe of the centro storico, field-trips and treasure hunts in town, and encounters with the local *Romani*.

At the end of the semester, students should reach the level A2-plus of the Common European Framework in the four basic competencies in Italian: listening, speaking and interacting, reading, and writing and have acquired a deep understanding of Italian culture, society and everyday life that has evolved from the millennia of history and tradition in modern Rome.

ITLN 201: Intermediate Italian I: Esperienza Romana

Prerequisite: The equivalent of one year of beginning Italian - two semesters - or level A2 of the



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Common European Framework for language proficiency.

Intermediate Italian I - Esperienza Romana (the Roman Experience) is an interdisciplinary course equivalent to a third semester course in Italian language. The course is designed to reinforcement prior learning and communicative skills and introduce students to the next levels of speaking, listening, reading and writing Italian, while exploring various and relevant aspects of contemporary Roman life and Italian culture. The course offers students a unique experience in language learning made possible only by direct immersion in the target culture.

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In addition to classroom work based on the standard content of a second-semester of language study, the course includes a series of on-site encounters, which will range from interviews with various exponents of Roman society, to encounters with artisans in the botteghe of the centro storico, field-trips and treasure hunts in town, and encounters with the local Romani.

At the end of the semester, students should reach the level B1 of the Common European Framework in the four basic competencies: listening, speaking and interacting, reading, and writing.

ITLN 202: Intermediate Italian II: Esperienza Romana

Prerequisite: The equivalent of lower intermediate Italian, three semesters of Italian, or level A2 of the Common European Framework for language proficiency as a minimum.

Intermediate Italian II - Esperienza Romana (the Roman Experience) is an interdisciplinary course equivalent to a fourth semester course in Italian language. The course is designed to reinforcement prior learning and communicative skills and introduce students to the next levels of speaking, listening, reading and writing Italian, while exploring various and relevant aspects of contemporary Roman life and Italian culture. The course offers students a unique experience in language learning made possible only by direct immersion in the target culture.

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In addition to classroom work based on the standard content of a second-semester of language study, the course includes a series of on-site encounters, which will range from interviews with various exponents of Roman society, to encounters with artisans in the botteghe of the centro storico, field-trips and treasure hunts in town, and encounters with the local Romani.

At the end of the semester, students should reach the level B1 of the Common European Framework in the four basic competencies: listening, speaking and interacting, reading, and writing.

ITALIAN STUDIES-INTERDISCIPLINARY

ITCS 300: Italian Cinema, Culture and Society

This course provides students with an introduction to Italian cinema from the 1940s to the present within the socioeconomic and historical context of Italian society. This survey course will analyze major works by major Italian directors as Rossellini, Fellini, De Sica, Antonioni, Wertmüller, Bertolucci, the Taviani brothers and Moretti. The course will consider the different ways in which these directors drew on a variety of artistic and intellectual traditions to explore the political and social issues thrown up by Italy's controversial fascist past and the profound social implications of the 'economic miracle'. It will also discuss the economic and cultural factors that lay behind the development of this distinctive cinema and the degree to which these film-makers were able to maintain a national element in their work as the art film became increasingly international in the 1970s.



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The aim of this course is to provide students with those analytical instruments that enable them to critically review Italian films through a thorough historical and sociological perspective. Attention will be given to the intellectual, historical, cultural, and literary matrix of each movie.

On successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Explore the degree to which these 'art' films reference political and social issues in Italy
- Gain knowledge of the innovative narrative and visual strategies used by 'art' film auteurs and their artistic, cultural, intellectual and political influences
- Be aware of the historical relationship between neo-realism and the 'art' films of the period
- Gain a familiarity with the economic and cultural relationship between Italian national cinema and Hollywood
- Demonstrate personal qualities (such as independence, ability to take responsibility, self-esteem and confidence) and transferable skills (such as negotiation/working effectively with others, communication, objective-setting, planning and creativity)
- Approach the study of film in a scholarly manner through careful planning, research, analysis and written work.

LITERATURE & CREATIVE WRITING

CWRM 320: Rome and the Art of Living: Creative Non-Fiction

From antiquity, Rome has set the standard for the "good life"—from the glory days of the Roman empire, through the establishment of Christianity and Papal Rome, through the flourishing of Art through Renaissance artists who flocked to sculpt and paint its churches, through the post-war "dolce vita" culture of the Veneto: In this course students will be encouraged to examine texts, historic sites, monuments and cultural icons from various epochs in Roman history to explore how the city has evolved as the epicenter of "life as it should be lived." How has that ideal changed over time? What values seem inherent to geography, climate and the Roman temperament? How does the presence of the past—in all its complex layers—influence how Romans see themselves and thereby cultivate values and lifestyle? How does living amid so much history impact the values and lifestyles of contemporary students of Rome? Through weekly readings, excursions and personal experiences, students will explore their own impressions and transform them into lucid, engaging works of creative non-fiction. Students will be required to produce a weekly discovery draft of two or three pages, generated from assigned topics, and two polished essays that evolve out of the exercises or out of material that they initiate independently. At the end of the term, select writings will be gathered in a course literary anthology.

Course Objectives:

- To acquaint the student with the voices and visions of diverse writers writing about Rome.
- To explore the evolving genre of creative non-fiction—its epistemology, aesthetics, ethics and strategies
- To explore the writing process in general and personal strategies for generating effective work
- To produce fresh and engaging personal essays about Roman/Italian experience.
- To develop evaluative strategies and vocabulary to best serve other writers in a workshop setting
- To review the mechanics of writing and hone editorial and proof-reading skills
- To explore the process of desktop publishing through our course literary anthology

POLITICAL SCIENCE

PSIT 300: The Government and Politics of Contemporary Italy

This is a comprehensive course on the government and politics of contemporary Italy.

The course begins with an analysis of the process of constitution and state-building in Italy and the consolidation of democracy in the early post-WWII years. The course then examines the problems of government in the 'first republic', focussing in particular on Christian Democratic domination and lack of alternation in power, institutional failure, and the political role of the mafia, and the multi-fragmentation of the political parties. The course will then explore the political upheavals that have characterised Italy since the early 1990s including the profound party and electoral changes that



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have transformed the political landscape.

Finally this course will examine Italian politics today with visits to the parliament and other government offices and analyse and discuss current events and issues in Italian politics found in daily Italian print and televised news.

STUDIO ART

SAWC 300: Watercolor Painting: Citiscapes of Rome

A study of the fundamentals of watercolor. This course is for beginning and advanced students. The course will focus on space, proportion, line, form, color and composition. Basic techniques will be demonstrated and the history of watercolor painting will be discussed as we look at the work of artists from Durer to William Wiley and Robert Bechtle. The technique for watercolor monotypes will be demonstrated. Classes will be held outside on site in Rome as well as at the Umbra Istitute-Rome. Assignments are designed to help students see Rome from an individual perspective and to develop a foundation in the medium. During the course students will visit the Palazzo Barberini in Rome to discuss major paintings. Instruction will be tailored to the level of experience of the student.