

GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

Course: VART 293: Introduction to Florence
Credits: 3 Credits
Instructor: Professor Mercedes Carrara



Study Abroad, 502 E. Boone Ave, Spokane, WA 99258-0085 • (800) 440-5391 • www.gonzaga.edu/studyabroad • studyabroad@gonzaga.edu

OFFICE HOURS

9:30-10:30 MTR or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of Florentine art and history, starting with the founding of Roman Florence in 59 BC and ending with the death of Piero de' Medici in 1469.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course introduces students, through two in-class lectures and a weekly two-hour field trip, to Florentine history and culture.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will become literate in Florentine art, history, and culture. At the end of the semester they will have a deep understanding of why Florence is regarded as the cradle of the Renaissance.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Through in-class lectures students will become competent in Florentine history and culture.
- Through the weekly tours students will be exposed to the various periods of Florentine art and history: from the archaeological remains to Giotto's frescoes in Santa Croce and Andrea da Firenze's post-plague frescoes in Santa Maria Novella.
- They will look at the model of Brunelleschi's Early Renaissance dome, Donatello's sculpture, Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise, and Michelangelo's Pietà in the Cathedral Museum among other things. If they want to, they will be able to act as volunteer guides in Florence's major churches.

GRADING AND OTHER POLICIES

Students will be graded on two exams and a final project.. They will also be graded on two class discussions where they will act as presenters of a chosen topic. These presentations will allow them to review the material covered, both in the class room and the weekly tours, preparing them for the midterm and the final.

The mid-term will be on **Tuesday, October 28**. The final will be posted with the final exam schedule. Final project is due on **Tuesday, December 9** but can be handed in **any time** after **November 24**.

ABSENCE POLICY ON WEEKLY TOURS

Weekly tours of two class periods each will be held every Wednesday morning. The tour is **worth one credit** thus **attendance is mandatory**. Students can only miss two tours but must **make up at least one of them**. For the make up tour, the student will pay his/her own fare and will **attach the ticket stub to the report of the missed tour pointing out favorites. It should be handed in as soon as possible. There will be no grade change.**

Each student will be assigned a tour group and will always remain with that particular group. The professor and her assistants will rotate every week so that all students will be able to listen to all three of them every three weeks. All tours held every Wednesday are conducted in exactly the same way. It is the Professor who prepares the handouts which are distributed before each tour.

A tour question will be included in **both** midterm and final.

ABSENCE POLICY ON LECTURES AND EXAMS

In class lectures are worth two credits. Following university policy, students are allowed four absences. At the fifth absence the grade goes down of a half letter point: from A to A-, A- to B+, B+ to B and so on. allows a maximum of six absences for a three credit course. There will be **no written make up tests** without a medical certificate.

Grades: (A 100-94) (A- 93.5—89) (B+ 88.5--85.5) (B 85—84) (B- 83.5--79) (C+ 78.5--75.5)
(C 75—74) (C- 73.5—69) (D+ 68.5--65.5) (D 65—64) (D- 63.5—59) (F 48—0)

REQUIRED READING

Students will be given two packets for the in-class lectures and handouts for each one of the weekly tours. Once the Medici family begins to rule Florence behind the scenes, the students are responsible for the first eight chapters of **Christopher Hibbert's *Rise and Fall of the House of Medici***.

COURSE OUTLINE & SCHEDULE

September

- 22 Lex Julia and the founding of Roman Florence
- 23 Division of the Roman Empire into East and West
- 24 Tour: Walking Tour of Florence
- 29 Barbarian invasions, Fall of the Western Empire, Odoacer and Theodoric
- 30 Byzantine rule, death of Justinian, Lombard invasion, Charlemagne

October

- 1 Tour: Archaeological Museum
- 6 Treaty of Verdun and a period of anarchy, German Otto I crowned HRE
- 7 Eleventh Century Religious Revival in Florence, the First Crusade
- 8 Tour: Churches and objects linked to the Eleventh Century Religious Revival
- 13 Pope Gregory VII and Henry IV, Countess Matilda, the 12th century Consular Age
- 14 Frederick Barbarossa, Henry VI, Tuscan League of 1197, and Pope Innocent III
- 15 Tour: Santa Maria Novella and the Dominican Order
- 20 Innocent III crowns Otto IV as HRE, sends his ward Frederick II to win German crown
- 21 Frederick's death, Florence's Primo Popolo and its defeat in 1260
- 22 Tour: Santa Croce and the Dominican Order
- 23 Review of class material and tours with students as presenters
- 27 Review of class material and tours with students as presenters
- 28 Exam
- 29 Tour: Cathedral Museum

November

- 3 Ghibelline dominion over Florence, king Louis IX and Charles of Anjou
- 4 Florence's second attempt at democracy: the Signoria, Ordinances of Justice, Dante
- 5 Tour: Piazza Signoria, Davanzati Palace, Orsanmichele, Dante's neighborhood
- 10 Dante and his Divine Comedy
- 11 Florence from 1302-1343, expulsion of the Duke of Athens
- 12 Tour: to be announced
- 17 The third attempt at democracy, 1343-1382: "Parte Guelfa", Ciompi Revolt of 1378
Hibbert's chapter 1

- 18 1382-1420: Visconti Threat, Florence as the new Athens, Great Schism of Avignon
Hibbert's chapter 2
- 19 Tour: Palace of "Parte Guelfa", Orsanmichele's exterior, Baptistery Doors, Duomo
- 24 1420-1434, Rinaldo degli Albizzi, Giovanni di Bicci's death, Cosimo il Vecchio as
head of the family and his exile. Students
Hibbert's chapter 3
- 25 Cosimo's return from exile, his art patronage, pope Eugenius IV and the Great
Council of the Church,
Hibbert's chapters 4-5
- 26 Tour: San Marco

December

- 1 Cosimo's foreign policy regarding Milan and Venice, Cosimo as banker and art
patron
Hibbert's chapters 6-7
- 2 Piero the Gouty
Hibbert's chapter 8
- 3 Uffizi Gallery
- 9 Final date for handing in the project.

FINAL PROJECT

A ten page paper on a specific tour and the pieces that impressed you the most. The bibliography should include **at least** five sources.

You also have a choice of doing a weekly journal of the tours commenting and researching your favourite things. Each entry can be from one to two pages long and should be illustrated through pictures, postcards or drawings. This could be a keepsake to remind you of your Florence experience.

You can also choose five of your favourite sites (churches, palaces, convents) , paintings or sculptures, research and discuss them in ten pages. Try using books and not just websites.

Otherwise you can go on your own to San Miniato to hear the friars sing Vespers and discuss the history of the church and its masterpieces.

Another possibility could be that of visiting Masaccio's Brancacci Chapel in Santa Maria del Carmine where Early Renaissance painting began. We will not be able to go there because it opens at 10 and is on the other side of the river.