COURSE DESCRIPTION: Studies in Fiction: Florence Narratives will focus on four narrative texts set in Florence. Beginning with E.M. Forster’s *A Room with a View*, we will examine our own experiences as finocents abroad in comparison with the characters’experiences as travelers in Florence circa 1900. We will then read Mary McCarthy’s classic travel text, *The Stones of Florence* and compare Forster’s fictional Florence with the well-documented (though highly personal) depiction of Florentine culture and history. Moving toward more recent history, *The Villa Triste*, by Lucretia Grindle, combines the mystery novel/thriller with the historical novel to reveal the socio/political realities of WWII. Finally, with Robert Clarke’s historical memoir, *Dark Water*, we discover the devastation wreaked upon Florence’s cultural heritage by the Arno flood of 1966. Through the lens of narrative theory, students will not only view these periods, but will question the very nature of narrative and the purposes of story-telling.

TEXTS: E.M. Forster, *A Room with a View*  
Mary McCarthy, *The Stones of Florence*  
Lucretia Grindle, *The Villa Triste*  
Robert Clarke, *Dark Water*  
Documents included on Blackboard.

COURSE GOALS: Reading, discussing and writing about literature are the primary activities in this class. Your individual experience with literary studies, as well as your current interest in the field, will inevitably vary; however, this course provides several universal goals for students at any level of interest and experience. Over the course of the semester you will
- gain greater experience in reading a variety of literary texts analytically and sensitively
- articulate your thoughts about these texts using terminology familiar to literary studies
- practice writing about literary texts through formal and informal assignments
- achieve a higher level of appreciation for specific works and for the practice of literary studies
- begin to understand the historical/cultural context of these works and writers as they relate to the city of Florence

GENERAL AGREEMENTS: By deciding to take this course you agree to some specific responsibilities:

1. You agree not only to attend class, but to participate actively in class discussion, class excursions and group projects. Active participation includes arriving on time with the correct text in hand and engaging with the text and other students. Class participation will constitute 30% of your overall grade. This class adheres to GU’s attendance policy. The grade for excessive absences is F and is counted in the GPA.
2. You agree to turn off all cell phones, computers and other electronic devices and focus your attention on what is happening in class.
3. You agree to have read the assigned material before class and to be prepared to respond to this material through active participation.
4. You agree to turn in all written assignments at the beginning of class on the designated due date.
5. You agree to keep a reading journal in which you will write carefully considered responses to the readings as assigned on the syllabus. I will often assign specific questions to address in these responses. You should strive for depth and detail in your observations and follow grammatical and structural conventions.
6. You agree to keep a travel journal in which you will record your experiences in Florence. As with the reading responses, I will assign some specific questions to reflect on. This journal will compliment your reading journal but will be more personal and reflective in nature.
7. You agree to turn in original work and to abide by GU’s academic honesty policy. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and theft. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty is subject to disciplinary action, which may include, but is not limited to, (1) a failing grade for the test or assignment in question, (2) a failing grade for the course, or (3) a recommendation for dismissal from the University.
8. You agree to complete all assignments in this course. Any assignment not turned in will result in failure of this course.
GRADE BREAKDOWN: Final grades will be based on class participation (30%), a reading journal (30%) and a travel journal (30%). The course will also include a final project in lieu of an exam (10%).

COURSE SCHEDULE:
- WEEK 3: Continue discussing *The Stones of Florence* with emphasis on nonfiction narrative: history and memoir. Field Trip 2. Reading journal and travel journal assignments 3 due.
- WEEK 4: Begin discussing *The Villa Triste* with emphasis on historical fiction as a genre. Field Trip 3. Reading journal and travel journal assignments 4 due.
- WEEK 5: Continue discussing *The Villa Triste* with emphasis on the thriller/mystery as a genre. Begin discussing *Dark Water*. Field Trip 4. Reading journal and travel journal assignments 5 due.
- WEEK 6: Continue discussing *Dark Water* returning to questions of memoir and personal narrative. Reading journal and travel journal assignments 6 due. Wrap up our exploration of narrative forms and present our own Florence Narratives.

A NOTE ON HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT: Consistent with its mission, Gonzaga seeks to assure all community members learn and work in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Title VII, Title IX and Gonzaga policy prohibit harassment, discrimination and sexual misconduct. Gonzaga encourages anyone experiencing harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct to talk to someone from the Campus and Local Resources list found in the Student Code of Conduct Website: http://www.gonzaga.edu/Student-Life/Community-Standards/Student-Code-of-Conduct.asp about what happened so they can get the support they need and Gonzaga can respond appropriately. There are both confidential and non-confidential resources and reporting options available to you. Gonzaga is legally obligated to respond to reports of sexual misconduct, and therefore we cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a report, unless made to a confidential resource. Responses may vary from support services to formal investigations. As a faculty member, I am required to report incidents of sexual misconduct and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. I must provide our Title IX coordinator with relevant details such as the names of those involved in the incident. For more information about policies and resources or reporting options, please visit the following websites: www.gonzaga.edu/eo and www.gonzaga.edu/titleix.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES/MEDICAL CONDITIONS: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodation for their disabilities. Please let me know if you need testing or other accommodations.

COURSE EVALUATION: At Gonzaga, we ask our students to evaluate their courses and instructors so that we can provide the best possible learning experience. In that spirit, we ask students to give us feedback on their classroom experience near the end of the semester. I will ask you to take a few minutes then to carry out course/instructor evaluation on-line. Please know that I appreciate your participation in this process. This is a vital part of our efforts at Gonzaga to improve continually our teaching, our academic programs, and our entire educational effort.