



**ITAL 105: Introduction to Italian Culture
COURSE SYLLABUS AND WORKBOOK**

Professor: Christopher Fulton

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Syllabus subject to change

Your name: _____

Your email: _____

Course Description. This course introduces students to Italian culture and history through a focus on the many ways in which Italian artists, writers, composers, scientists, political leaders and others have contributed to World Civilization. The course examines Italian culture in historical perspective and the present-day living culture of the people on the streets. Significant concepts, mores, traditions and social systems that characterize Italian culture are studied. The Place-as-Text investigative approach provides opportunities to explore the living culture in depth.

This course may fulfill General Education Requirements at your home institution. Check with your school's study-abroad office for more information.

Learning Objectives

The course utilizes the Place-as-Text approach, which allows students to take an active role in the direction of their learning. Students learn to work effectively in small groups, improve their oral presentation and analytical skills, and heighten their confidence and leadership abilities.

The course introduces students to Italian cultural history, including knowledge of major achievements in arts and letters, as well as in other arenas of social life, an appreciation for the complexity and variety of daily cultural life, an understanding of society and human behavior in cross-cultural perspective.

Classes are a mix of conversation and exploration. We share knowledge, personal insight and responses in a free and open, friendly, caring and respectful learning environment.

On average, there are two hours of instruction per day in the form of excursions and seminar discussions, for a total of forty contact hours over the term. Almost all meetings are conducted on-site in social environments.

Course Requirements

Students execute three Place-as-Text exercises and complete written assignments in the Course Workbook.

1. Place-as-Text Exercises. For each of your three exercises, you join a small team and study a particular site utilizing the Place-as-Text approach. This involves four steps: *mapping* the site; *observing* individuals, conditions, activities, etc., while listening attentively and interacting with people as appropriate; *reflecting* on the situation in light of prior knowledge and newly gathered information; *presenting* your team's findings in an informed and well-organized oral report of 10-15 minutes.
2. Course Workbook. You will write a series of short responses to questions posed in the Workbook. At the end of the program's second week your Workbook will be collected by the instructor and returned with comments and recommendations for improvement. At the end of the program you will hand in the completed workbook for grade. The Workbook should be submitted electronically. It is due on Monday, July 2. Late submissions will be penalized 5 points for each day the Workbook is overdue.
3. Class Participation. You will be evaluated throughout the semester as to your preparedness for class and involvement in discussions. Attendance at all class meetings is mandatory, and you are expected to complete assigned readings as they are due and contribute regularly to class discussions.

Students with learning disabilities or any other difficulty that might prevent them from fulfilling the course requirements should speak with the instructor early in the term. Together we can consider alternative methods of evaluation and make special accommodation as necessary.

Grading Procedures

Place-as-Text exercises: 25% of final grade

Course Workbook: 50% of final grade

Class Participation: 25% of final grade

Workbooks and Place-as-Text reports will be graded on the following criteria: (1) clarity of writing and presentation, including organization, spelling and grammar, sentence and paragraph structure, (2) insight and originality of analysis, (3) accuracy and thoroughness with respect to facts, theoretical perspectives, and responsible use of visual and literary sources.

Your Workbook will be collected early in the term, evaluated by the professor and returned with recommendations for improvement and revision. Responses will also be given on your first Place-as-Text report. However you will receive final grades on these assignments only at the end of the term, after you have completed the entire Workbook (due July 2) and oral reports.

Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend every class and participate in all course and program activities. You are further expected to review all readings and videos on their assigned dates. It is KIIS policy that unexcused absences result in grade reduction, and multiple unexcused absences may result in expulsion from the program.

Academic Honesty Policy

Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own), or doing academic work for another student is absolutely forbidden and will result in a failing grade for the course. This includes the use of unauthorized sources, unauthorized assistance given to other students in completing assignments, and the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were your own. Infractions will be reported to the student's home institution and disciplinary action may extend beyond the academic penalty administered by the KIIS program and faculty member. Any questions about which actions constitute plagiarism should be directed to the instructor before presenting your work.

VIDEOS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Assigned videos and readings will be made available by email and Dropbox. You are responsible for all assignments on the dates they are due, and you should be prepared to discuss the material in the day's class. You are asked to review the course readings and videos before leaving home for Italy, as you will have little time for studying this material once you are abroad.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
MAY 20	21	22	23 Depart USA	24 Florence noon: arrive in Florence	25 Florence 9-12: Center City 1-2: Introduction to the course	26 Florence 9-12: Scavenger hunt 2-3: group mtg
27 Florence free day	28 Florence 10-12: Oltra'Arno class excursion	29 Florence 8-12: Fiesole ruins 1-2: discussion of readings	30 Florence 9-11: PAT reports 4-6: Accademia	31 Florence 9-12: Uffizi	Jun 1 Florence free day	2 Florence free day
3 Villa 10-12: Sant'Ambrogio excursion	4 Siena 10-12: agriculture 2-6: San Gimignano	5 Siena 9-12: Center City 1-2:30: discussion of readings 5-9: cooking	6 Siena 9-11: Siena excursion 5-9: cooking	7 Siena free day	8 Rome 8-2: Assisi	9 Rome 9-11: PAT repor 8-11: night hike
10 Rome 8-12: Ancient Rome	11 Rome 9-11: Trastevere excursion	12 Rome free day	13 Rome 1-2:30: PAT reports	14 Rome 8-12: St Peter's 1-4: Vatican Museum	15 Rome free day	16 Rome free day
17 Rome free day	18 Rome 10-1: Keats House 2-3: discussion of readings	19 Ostia 10-1: Ostia Antica	20 Ostia 10-12: concluding discussion	21 Return USA Depart Rome Arrive USA	22	23

WORKBOOK: MONDAY, JUNE 2: COMPLETED HANDBOOK DUE

May 28: Florence Impressions

Assignment — Length: 600-1200 words. What are your impressions of Florence's social geography, that is, the way people interact and behave at sites within the urban plan?

May 30: PAT Reports

Assignment — Length: 600-1200 words. Describe your place-as-text experience. What did you see that was of personal interest? What did you learn about Italian culture and way of life?

June 3: Uffizi Museum

Assignment — Length: 800-1200 words. Complete the Uffizi Museum worksheet and transcribe your responses to 8 of the 10 works of art listed on the guide.

June 6: Siena Excursions

Assignment — Length: 600-1200 words. Consider the course readings and videos we have done up to this point and give your opinion of their accuracy in light of your own observations in Florence and Siena.

June 10: PAT Reports

Assignment — Length: 600-1200 words. Describe your place-as-text experience. What did you see that was of personal interest? What did you learn about Italian culture and way of life?

June 13: Trastevere

Assignment — Length: 600-1200 words. Give an account of the variety of social life that you have observed in the Trastevere neighborhood.

June 14: PAT Reports

Assignment — Length: 600-1200 words. Describe your place-as-text experience. What did you see that was of personal interest? What did you learn about Italian culture and way of life?

June 18: Vatican Museum and St. Peter's

Assignment — Length: 800-1200 words. Complete the Vatican worksheet and transcribe your responses to 8 of the 10 works of art listed on the guide.

June 20: Summary of Your Cultural Experience in Italy

Assignment — Length: 1200-1800 words. What have you learned in this course and in the program about Italian culture? Give examples of specific events and places you witnessed and the human interactions you encountered.