



# SYLLABUS

Rev. 5  
19.05.15  
Direzione Accademica

## PALAZZI FLORENCE ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FLORENCE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS SAS - SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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SCHOOL OF LIFE STUDIES AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY  
DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN CULTURAL STUDIES  
**COURSE TITLE: CULTURAL INTRODUCTION TO ITALY**  
**COURSE CODE: LSSOCI202; GSANCI202; LAAHCI202; ISISCI202**

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3 Semester Credits

### **1. DESCRIPTION**

The study of Italian culture helps the student to acquire a deep awareness of both cultural unity and regional diversity. This course is intended to provide students with an in-depth introduction to Italian culture and to broaden one's awareness and understanding of the role of cultural heritage in customs and lifestyles. Lectures will provide students with an organized, focused, and academic understanding of Italian history, art, architecture, food, religion, and culture. The course provides additional enrichment through basic notions of Italian language and terminology along with assigned readings and a final paper. On-site teaching is a significant part of this course and is aimed to provide the student with an incomparable experience of studying important sites of artistic architectural and social relevance in present-day Italy. Students are encouraged to observe the sites through active participation and to discuss their observations using specific and analytic social assessment skills. Florence only.

### **2. OBJECTIVES**

This course is intended to provide students with an in-depth introduction to Florentine and Italian culture. Students will be encouraged to become active visitors and not passive observers, and to understand a culture beyond the stereotypes. We will begin by identifying the common stereotypes of Italians and Italian culture and revisit those stereotypes after being immersed for three weeks in Italian language and culture. The course will focus on several topics: culture, art history, enogastronomy and on relevant aspects of contemporary Italian culture and society, such as political and social changes that Italy is going through. Students should acquire a global understanding of history, traditions, and contemporary issues of Italian culture by the conclusion of the course. Upon completion of the course the students should:

- Analyze and describe how culture creates meaning for its members and how values are interpreted by visitors.
- Conduct a critical analysis of Italian culture and identify its key issues, themes, styles, and forms.
- Analyze Italian culture in his historical development and in the context of a globalized world.
- Experience that there are many "Italies" and understand the historical and geographical reasons for the cultural diversity of the Italian regions.
- Compare the diversity of cultural patterns and lifestyles in different contexts throughout class discussions.

- Describe how cultures are different according to the historical heritage of each region or area.
- Recognize how both verbal and non-verbal behavior is affected by history, geography and culture.
- Discover the relation between landscape, art and architecture in different contexts in Tuscany and Italy.
- Outline the cultural development of Tuscany and Italy including the development of tourism during the last century.
- Identify the fundamental features of Tuscan economy (i.e. wine and oil production, fishing industry, tourism, outdoor markets).
- Describe the geography of Italy and of Central Italy in particular.
- Examine and reflect how their points of views have changed through interaction in a multicultural environment and re-evaluate the components of personal worldview.
- Analyze and describe Italian Contemporary culture in relation to social and cultural trends, identity and citizenship, tradition and evolution of social norms and customs.
- Identify basic introductory phrases and vocabulary in Italian.
- Be able to engage in simple conversations and understand the meaning of key words of the Italian Culture.

### **3. REQUIREMENTS**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

### **4. METHOD**

The cultural development and lifestyle of Italy will be analyzed through lectures, on-site learning and visits. Daily critique sessions will be held. Students will become familiar with analytic methodology and critical terms in order to participate in class discussions, and effectively sustain views. Participation and interaction are considered a fundamental part of the teaching. Other teaching tools, such as images, films, cross-connection with other subjects will also play an important role during the course.

### **5. TEXT BOOK – FURTHER READINGS – RESOURCES**

#### **TEXT BOOK**

Severgnini, Beppe, *La Bella Figura: A Field Guide to the Italian Mind* (Random House USA Inc, 2007). Also available as an e-book.

The text book is mandatory for successful completion of the course.

Where applicable, additional materials, handouts and/or notes will be provided by the instructor.

#### **FURTHER READINGS**

*(Books listed below are available in the FUA library)*

#### **ABOUT ITALY AND ITALIANS**

- Brucker, Gene A., *Renaissance Florence*, (University of California Press, 1983).
- Baranski, Zygmunt – West, Rebecca, *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Italian Culture* (Cambridge University Press, 2001).
- Barzini, Luigi, *The Italians*, (Touchstone 1996).
- Bondanella, Peter, *A History of Italian Cinema* (Continuum, 2009).
- Brand, Peter, *The Cambridge History of Italian Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 1999).
- Calcagno, Anne (ed.), *Italy* (Travelers Tales, 2001).
- Chaney Edward ed., *The Evolution of English Collecting* (Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 2003).
- Clarks, Martin, *Modern Italy* (Longman 1984).

- De Mauro, Tullio, *Linguistic Variety and Linguistic Minorities*, (Oxford University Press, 1996).
- D'Epiro, Peter – Pinkowish, Mary Desmond, *Sprezzatura, 50 ways Italian Genius shaped the World* (Anchor 2001)
- Duchartre, Pierre Louis - *The Italian Comedy* (Dover Publications, 1966).
- Duggan, Christopher, *A Concise History of Italy* (Cambridge University Press 1994).
- Linda Falcone, *Italians Dance and I'm a Wallflower* (The Florentine Press 2006).
- Field, Carol, *Celebrating Italy* (William Morrow & Co, 1990).
- Field, Carol, *Hill Towns of Italy* (Chronicle Books, 1997).
- Field, Carol, *In Nonna's Kitchen* (Morrow Cookbooks, 1997)
- Forgacs, David & Lumley, Robert, *Italian Cultural Studies: an Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 1996).
- Ginsborg, Paul, *A History of Contemporary Italy*, (Palgrave Macmillan, 2003).
- Ginsborg, Paul, *Italy and Its Discontents: Family, Civil Society, State* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2006).
- Ginsborg, Paul, Silvio Berlusconi: *Television, Power and Patrimony* (Verso, 2005).
- Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von, *Italian Journey: 1786-1788* (Penguin Classics, 1992).
- Hibbert, Christopher, *The Rise and the Fall of the House of Medici*, (Penguin Books, 1979).
- Holmes John, *The Oxford Illustrated History of Italy* (Oxford University Press, 2001).
- Hofmann, Paul, *That Fine Italian Hand* (Henry Holt, 1990).
- Jones, Tobias, *The Dark Heart of Italy* (Faber and Faber, 2003).
- Kendon, Adam, *Introduction: Andrea de Jorio and his Work on Gesture*, A translation of: De Jorio, Andrea, *La mimica degli antichi investigata nel gestire napoletano, General Expression of the Ancients in the light of Neapolitan Gesturing*, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2000).
- Levi, Carl (ed.), *Italian Regionalism* (Berg 1996).
- Mc Adam, Alta, *The Blue Guide Florence* (Blue Guide; Ninth Edition edition, 2005).
- McCarthy, Mary, *The Stones of Florence* (Mariner Books, 2002).
- Mignone, Mario, *Italy Today : At the Crossroads of the New Millennium* (Peter Lang Publishing, 1998).
- Moe, Nelson, *The View from Vesuvius: Italian Culture and the Southern Question* (University of California Press, 2002).
- Moliterno, Gino, *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Italian Culture* (Routledge, 2003).
- Munari, Bruno, *Speak Italian: The Fine Art of the Gesture* (Chronicle Books, 2005).
- Parks, Tim, *A Season with Verona* (CCV 2001).
- Parks, Tim, *Italian Neighbors* (CCV, 2003).
- Parks, Tim, *Italian Ways: on and off the rails from Milan to Palermo* (Harvill Secker 2013).
- Parks Tim, *An Italian Education* (CCV, 2001).
- Passerini, Luisa, *Gender Relations. Italian Cultural Studies*, Ed. Forgacs and Lumley, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996), pp.144-157.
- Pratt, Jeff, *Catholic Culture*, Ed. Forgacs and Lumley, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996).
- Richards, Charles, *The New Italians* (Penguin Books Ltd, 1995).
- Sassoon, Donald, *Contemporary Italy* (Pearson 1986).
- Severgnini, Beppe, *An Italian in America* (Rizzoli Intl Pubn 2001).
- Severgnini, Beppe, *Ciao America! An Italian Discovers the U.S.* (Broadway, 2003)
- Trease, Geoffrey, *The Grand Tour* (Yale University Press, 1991).
- Wagner, Kenneth, and Magistrale, Tony, *Writing across Culture: an Introduction to study abroad and the writing process* (New York, 1995).
- *Speak the Culture Italy*, (Thorogood, 2010).

- *The Rough Guide to Italy* by Rob Andrews, Ros Belford, Jules Brown, and Jonathan Buckley (2009).

## LITERATURE

- Calvino, Italo, *Fiabe Italiane* (Mondadori, 1993).
- Jackson, Harry, *30 Years of Working in Versilia*, Comune Di Camaiore 1985.
- Leavitt, David, *Florence, A Delicate Case*, (Bloomsbury 2002)
- Leavitt, David, Mark Mitchell, *In Maremma: Life and a House in Southern Tuscany*, Counterpoint LLC 2011.
- Tomasi di Lampedusa, Giuseppe, *The Leopard*, Vintage 2007.
- Twain, Mark, *The Innocents Abroad*, Wordsworth 2010.

## FOOD TRADITIONS

- Artusi, Pellegrino, *The art of eating well*, Random House 1996.
- Capatti Alberto - Montanari, Massimo, *Italian Cuisine, A Cultural History* (Columbia University Press, N.Y. 1999)
- Belfrage, Nicholas, *The Finest Wines of Tuscany and Central Italy: A Regional and Village Guide to the Best Wines and Their Producers*, Fine Wine Editions 2009.
- Dickie, John, *Delizia! The epic history of the Italians and their food*, Hodder & Stoughton 2007.
- Field, Carol, *Celebrating Italy*, Harper 1997 (*Carnival in Italy*, p. 343-352).

## FLORENCE - ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- Borsook, Eve, *The Companion Guide to Florence*, Collins 1979.
- Goy, Richard, *Florence. The City and its Architecture*, Phaidon 2002.
- Macadam, Alta, *Florence*, Blue Guides 2005.
- Martucci, Roberto, Giovannetti, Bruno, *Florence*, Canal & Stamperia Editrice 1997.
- Trachtenberg, Martin, *Dominion of the Eye. Urbanism, Art and Power in Early Modern Florence*, Cambridge 1997.

## LIBRARIES IN FLORENCE

The FUA library is located in Corso Tintori 21. Please consult the posted schedules for official opening times. Also note that the library is for consultation only and it is not possible to borrow materials. The library is equipped with a scanner and internet access so that you may save or email a digital copy of the pages needed.

Students are also encouraged to take advantage of Florence's libraries and research centers:

### **Biblioteca Palagio di Parte Guelfa**

Located in Piazzetta di Parte Guelfa between Piazza della Repubblica and Ponte Vecchio.

Please consult the library website for hours of operation:

[http://www.biblioteche.comune.fi.it/biblioteca\\_palagio\\_di\\_parte\\_guelfa/](http://www.biblioteche.comune.fi.it/biblioteca_palagio_di_parte_guelfa/)

### **Biblioteca delle Oblate**

Located in via dell'Oriuolo 26. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:

[www.bibliotecadelleoblate.it](http://www.bibliotecadelleoblate.it)

### **The Harold Acton Library at the British Institute of Florence**

Located in Lungarno Guicciardini 9. Please consult the library website for hours of operation and student (fee-based) membership information: [www.britishinstitute.it/en](http://www.britishinstitute.it/en)

## **6. FIELD LEARNING**

This course does not include a field learning activity.

May include the following visits (please consult the course website):

- Architectural walking tour: Visit to Santa Maria del Fiore, Piazza della Signoria, Ponte Vecchio, Palazzo Pitti.
- Visit to the Hill top of Florence, walk to Piazzale Michelangelo, the church of San Miniato and the Monumental Cemetery.
- Visit to Oltrarno, the church of Santo Spirito and the adjacent piazza.
- Visit to the traditional markets of Florence and to artisan workshops.
- According to the theatre season, a night at the opera or at a concert could be organized for the students. In this case there might be an additional fee. See point 8.

## **7. COURSE MATERIALS**

No additional course materials are necessary.

## **8. COURSE FEES**

Course fees cover course-related field learning activities, visits, and support the instructor's teaching methodologies. Book costs are not included in the course fee. The exact amount will be communicated by the instructor on the first day of class.

## **9. EVALUATION – GRADING SYSTEM**

10% Attendance

20% Participation and Assignments

20% Midterm exam, Field Learning Project (if applicable), Special/Research Project (if applicable)

20% Reflection Journal

10% Presentation

20% Final Exam

A = 93-100 %, A- = 90-92%, B+= 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B-=80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C=73-76%, C-=70-72%, D = 60-69%, F= 0-59%, W = Official Withdrawal, W/F = Failure to withdraw by the designated date.

## **10. ATTENDANCE – PARTICIPATION**

Academic integrity and mutual respect between instructor and student are central to the FUA academic policy and reflected in the attendance regulations. Student presence is mandatory and counts toward the final grade.

On the **second absence** the attendance and participation grade will be impacted. Please note that missing certain field learning activities may count for more than one absence.

On the **third absence** the instructor may lower the final grade by one letter grade. (Example: Final grade average of 93% or A will become a B).

**The fourth absence constitutes automatic failure of the course. Students with excessive absences will be asked to withdraw with a W (if before the deadline) or leave the course with a WF.**

### **Late Arrival and Early Departure**

Arriving late or departing early from class is not acceptable. Two late arrivals or early departures or a combination will result in an unexcused absence. Travel is not an exceptional circumstance.

**Travel (or delays due to travel) is NEVER an excuse for absence from class.**

It is always the student's responsibility to know how many absences he or she has in a course. If in doubt, speak with your instructor!

**Participation:** Satisfactory participation will be the result of contributing to class discussions by putting forth insightful and constructive questions, comments and observations. Overall effort, cooperation during group work and in-class activities, responsible behavior, and completion of assignments will be assessed. All of the above criteria also applies to Field Learning and site visits.

## 11. EXAMS – PAPER

**Reflection Journals** count for 30% of the final grade. Students are responsible for a weekly writing exercise based on their experience in Florence, observations about the city, the traditions etc. This should not be a travelogue or diary account, but rather a selection of specific subjects to write about in their journal. Journals do vary in size and thus each page is 250 words. In addition, if a student's perspective of what they wrote in a past week changes, that could be the topic of a later entry and how their opinion changed.

**Mid term and Final exams each count** for 20% of the final course grade.

Format: Multiple-choice questionnaire. Students will have to answer 50 multiple-choice questions, deciding which one of the given answers is correct. The date and time of the exams cannot be changed for any reason.

## 12. LESSONS

### Lesson 1

Meet	In Class
Lecture	Course introduction - Italy: Geography and History I. Short history of Italy. From the Greek civilization to the Unification of Italy: Key dates. Walking tour: The Roman heritage in Florence. Discussion: Stereotypes about Italy and Italians.
Language	Introductions and greetings. Countries and nationalities. Adjectives and nouns of nationalities.
Readings	Readings Geography from <i>Speak the Culture: Italy</i> , Thorogood 2010 (pp. 5-16) History from <i>Speak the Culture: Italy</i> , Thorogood 2010 (pp. 19-40) <i>Mignone, Mario, Italy Today, Lang Publishing 1998, Introduction (pp.1-19)</i>
Objectives	Becoming familiar with the basics of geography and history of Italy. Identifying the common stereotypes about Italians and Italian culture.

### Lesson 2

Meet	In Class and on site
Lecture	Geography and History II: from the Unification to contemporary Italy. The Southern Question – Emigration and social transformation. The Second World War and the birth of the Republic. The Italian Constitution and the political system. Walking Tour: Piazzale Michelangelo.
Language	In a bar, in a restaurant. Numbers: Quantities and prices. Numbers and dates.
Readings	Selected readings from the course pack: Anna Cento Bull, <i>Social and Political Cultures in Italy from 1860 to the Present Day</i> - From: Baranski, Zygmunt – West, Rebecca, <i>The Cambridge Companion to Modern Italian Culture</i> , Cambridge University Press, 2001 (pp- 35-61).
Objectives	Understanding the historical roots of contemporary Italy.

### Lesson 3

Meet	On site lecture
Lecture	Florence from the Unification of Italy to the present day. The second World War, the Liberation of Florence and the Aftermath. Visit to the most significant sites of the period when Florence was the capital of the new Italian state. Walking tour on the sites of WW2” and on-site lectures.
Assignments	Hand in assignment 1
Language	In a shop, in a department store. Numbers: Using the Euro, asking for prices.
Readings	Readings David Forgacs: Cultural Consumption, 1940s to 1990s, in Forgacs, David - Lumley, Robert, <i>Italian Cultural Studies: an Introduction</i> , (Oxford University Press 1996 (pp. 273-290).
Objectives	Understanding the changes in Italian politics and society in second half of the 20th century.

#### Lesson 4

Meet	In Class and on site
Lecture	Intro to Italian Art: Renaissance Art in Florence. History of the Medici family. Architectural walking tour in Florence to the most significant sites and buildings of the Renaissance.
Readings	Readings Christopher Hibbert, <i>Florence and the Florentines - The Rise of the Medici</i> , in Hibbert, Christopher, <i>The Rise and the Fall of the House of Medici</i> , Penguin 1979 (pp. 19-40). Mark Twain, <i>Florence from The Innocents abroad</i> , Wordsworth 2010 (pp. 155-169).
Language	Expressing tastes about art and architecture. Vocabulary: the family.
Objectives	Analyzing the heritage of Renaissance spirit in contemporary Italian Culture. Exploring if the Italian sense for beauty and creativity is still alive in the Italian Contemporary Art, Architecture and Design.

#### Lesson 5

Meet	In class and on site
Lecture	Gastronomical tour of Italy: Food Culture in Italian Festivities. Visit to a traditional Florentine market.
Assignments	Hand assignment 1
Language	Talking about daily habits 2. Meals, daily and festivity food. Vocabulary: food and cooking.
Readings	Readings Excerpts from: John Dickie, <i>Delizia! The epic history of the Italians and their food</i> , Hodder & Stoughton 2007: Tuscany. Don't tell the peasants... (pp. 1-10). Florence, 1891: Pellegrino Artusi (pp. 211-232).
Objectives	Analyzing the relationship between Italians and their food, daily habits, markets, the importance of local products in the Italian cuisine, the rituals and the meaning of food in Italian traditions and celebrations.

#### Lesson 6

Meet	In Class and on site.
Lecture	Cosa Nostra. History of the Italian Mafia. Italian Mafia in the world. On site lecture in Via dei Georgofili, place of a Mafia attack in 1993.
Assignments	Hand in assignment 2

Language	Present tense: talking about daily habits 1.
Readings	Readings Paul Ginsborg, <i>Corruption and the Mafia</i> in Ginsborg, Paul, <i>Italy and Its Discontents: Family, Civil Society, State</i> , Palgrave-Macmillan 2006 (pp. 179-212).
Objectives	Discover and analyze the role of the Mafia power in contemporary Italy.

#### Lesson 7

Meet	In Class
Lecture	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>

#### Lesson 8

Meet	<b>BREAK</b>
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#### Lesson 9

Meet	In class
Lecture	Economy 1. Made in Italy, Fashion Industry. "Il Miracolo Economico". How Italy, after the Second World War, became the seventh industrial power in the world. Florence in the Seventies and the Eighties: La Dolce Vita fiorentina. The cultural life of the Eighties: Florence capital of post-modern Italy.
Assignments	Hand in assignment 3
Language	Talking about jobs. Vocabulary related to the world of work. The family: what do people do in your family? Conversation using the Present tense.
Readings	Readings Paul Ginsborg, <i>The Italian Economy: Constraints and Achievements</i> , in Ginsborg, Paul, <i>Italy and Its Discontents: Family, Civil Society, State</i> , Palgrave-Macmillan 2006 (pp. 1-29).
Objectives	Analyze the factors that led to the economic miracle and the role of Italy in the international economy.

#### Lesson 10

Meet	On site visit
Lecture	Economy 2 Visit to Oltrarno and to an artisan lab. On site lecture: The role of artisanship and small family-run companies in the Italian economy.
Language	Asking and giving directions. Students will be given a map of the town and will be asked to give directions to reach the area of Oltrarno.
Readings	Readings Mario Mignone, <i>Industrial Change and Social Transformation</i> , in Mignone, Mario, <i>Italy Today</i> , Lang 1998 (pp. 155-172).
Objectives	Characterize the Italian small family businesses and explain the effects of the globalization on this type of business.

#### Lesson 11

Meet	In class and on site.
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Lecture	Italy and Florence in Italian literature and cinema. Not for tourists: Florence seen through the eyes of the Florentine writer Vasco Pratolini (1913-1991). The ordinary life and sentiments of working-class people in Florence. Walking tour to the sites described in the books of Vasco Pratolini.
Language	Describing a picture / a situation. Telling the story of a film or a book using the past tense. Grammar: Past Tense (Passato prossimo).
Readings	Readings: Robert Hellenga, <i>Imagining the Flood</i> , in Calcagno, Anne (ed.), <i>Travelers Tales Italy</i> , Solas 2001 (pp. 65-72).
Objectives	Characterize the culture of Florentine people.

#### Lesson 12

Meet	In class
Lecture	Media: the Italian Identity through television, radio, newspapers, internet. Viewing of portions of videos and discussion.
Assignment	Hand in assignment 4
Language	Talking about past events 2.
Readings	Readings Excerpts from the website or RAI, Radiotelevisione Italiana.
Objectives	Analyzing the Italian contemporary culture in the context of a globalized world.

#### Lesson 13

Meet	In class
Lecture	The state of modern Italy. Italian family and Gender Relations in Italian Society. The Italian Education System.
Language	Talking about past events 2.
Readings	Readings Paul Ginsborg, <i>Families and Consumption</i> , in Ginsborg, Paul, <i>Italy and Its Discontents: Family, Civil Society, State</i> , Palgrave-Macmillan 2006 (pp. 68-93). Mario Mignone, <i>Democratizing the Educational System</i> , in Mignone, Mario, <i>Italy Today : At the Crossroads of the New Millennium</i> , Lang 1998 (pp. 227-250).
Objectives	Identify the changes in the family relationships and the role of the family in contemporary Italian society.

#### Lesson 14

Meet	In class
Lecture	FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATION General Review Final discussion about stereotypes on Italian culture. Confirmations and changes in perspective.
Language	General Review

#### Lesson 15

Meet	In class
Lecture	<b>Final Exam</b>

