

**Course Information: AHST 3315: Art and Culture in Renaissance Florence  
First Summer Session, 2017. June 10 - July 10.  
Schloss Brunnenburg, Dorf Tirol 39019, Merano (BZ), Italy.  
Professor Elizabeth Ranieri.**

**N.B. Syllabus subject to change.**

### **Course description**

A consideration of the cultural importance of Renaissance Florence looking at its, art, architecture, history, and literature.

### **Professor Elizabeth Ranieri Contact Information**

Since I'll be in the faculty apartment at the castle, about two hundred feet from the croft (student residence), and we'll be meeting frequently, I'll be easy to see. I will be at the castle on weekends. Students and university officials will also have the numbers of the telephone in the faculty apartment and my European cell phone number, for emergency contact.

The international access code from the United States is 011. The country code for Italy is 39. For emergencies only, I can be reached at my Italian cell phone at 011 39 338 3574631. That number will be good only May 20-July 15. I can be reached at the faculty apartment in the castle at 011 39 0473 923010. Under no circumstances should people call the private numbers at the castle.

**Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions: none.**

The course is meant for personal enrichment. I'll work closely with any student to get them up to speed about ideas and methods in the arts and humanities. Because the course is a seminar, there will be many opportunities for personal and academic growth. Participation in discussion is expected.

### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

- 1) Students will understand the interdisciplinary nature of the School of Arts and Humanities. This will be shown in the reading and discussion.
- 2) Students will understand a significant city for European literature, art, music, and history. This will be measured by the quizzes about our reading and discussion.
- 3) Students will keep a journal. This could be a series of reflections on the four-week experience or a specific project tied to the locale, or to a visit to Florence, or even a weblog if you show it to me and explain it. This outcome will be measured by my assessment of your journal.

### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

Dante, *Inferno*. Translated by Allen Mandelbaum.  
Machiavelli, *Selected Works*

A. Richard Turner *Renaissance Florence: The Invention of a New Art*, Pearson/Prentice Hall. 0-13-193833-9.

I recommend you purchase “Streetwise Florence,” a foldup laminated map.

### **Student Responsibility for Texts**

I generally order my books from Amazon. Order them well in advance. **Students are required to bring the books to Italy.** The bookstores will not carry them. I suggest carrying at least the heavier books as part of your carry-on luggage to avoid extra baggage weight charges.

### **Course Materials**

**Two** spiral notebooks for your journal. They will be for your journal and your class notes. Get something reasonably portable. The castle has wireless internet, so you may wish to bring a laptop (not required, but students in 2011 found having at least a mini-notebook or netbook very useful). An electric adapter if you have electrical devices.

### **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

#### **Course requirements**

There will be a daily short-answer quiz, consisting of five questions each worth up to two points and two additional questions on the back, which will be the same each day. The top ten quiz grades, graded on a curve, will count 40% towards your final grade. The four lowest of your quiz grades, including missed quizzes, will be dropped, and the remaining quiz grades added and placed on a curve for your final quiz grade. **No makeup quizzes are given.** Your journal will count 40% towards your final grade. Since the course is a seminar, thoughtful class participation will count 20% towards your final grade.

#### **Course calendar**

*Meals (breakfast and lunch) are served on class days. Breakfast food will be left each morning in the student kitchen. Classes are 10am-noon, followed by a half-hour break. A large group meal will be served in the student dining room. We will eat from 12:30-1:30pm (or later if you like). We will use that group meal for further discussion. A vegetarian option is available. Supper is on your own. You can use the student kitchen to cook or go up to the village. Breakfasts and noon dinners will only be served on the fourteen class days. Supper will be available on the arrival day (June 5) and breakfast on the departure day (July 3). For the rest, you're on your own.*

#### *Week 1*

Saturday, June 10. Arrival. Supper.

Readings in Dante, Machiavelli, and Turner will be divided over the fourteen class days.

Monday, June 12. Course Introduction: 10am-noon. Quiz.

Tuesday, June 13. Quiz.

Wednesday, June 14. Quiz.

Thursday, June 15. Quiz.

Friday, June 16-Sunday June 18. You are free to leave after 1:30pm on Thursday. Three-day weekend. Students may use this time to hike in the mountains, catch up on their reading for the next week, write their journals, or travel. My suggestion is that you use this time to explore the Merano-Bolzano area, visit local castles, churches, and museums, and get a sense of your environs. But you are free to do whatever interests you, particularly if it relates to your journal. There are no meals provided on these long weekends, but the student kitchen is free for your use. There are two grocery stores in Dorf Tirol and an excellent produce stand and a deli and a bakery. Laundry will be done in a reasonably timely manner by the folks at the castle though you are responsible for hanging it out to dry.

### *Week 2*

Monday, June 19. Quiz.

Tuesday, June 20. Quiz.

Wednesday, June 21. Quiz. **Journal 1 due.**

Thursday, June 22-Sunday, June 25. You are free to leave after 1:30pm on Wednesday. Four-day weekend. Students are free to use this time as they wish. This might be the time for more extended travel though once again there is plenty to do in the area. Feel free to consult me about your plans. Don't neglect your reading and your journals! You might consider a trip to Venice.

### *Week 3*

Monday, June 26. Quiz. **Journal 1 returned.**

Tuesday, June 27. Quiz.

Wednesday, June 28. Quiz.

Thursday, June 29-Sunday, July 2. You are free to leave after 1:30pm on Wednesday. Four-day weekend. I recommend, but do not require, that students spend this time in Florence. By now, the course has prepared you for an optimal experience.

### *Week 4*

Monday, July 3. Quiz. **Journal 2 due.**

Tuesday, July 4. Quiz.

Wednesday, July 5. Quiz.

Thursday, July 6. Quiz. **Journal 2 returned.**

Friday, July 7. Begin cleaning and packing.

Saturday, July 8. Cleaning, packing, and perhaps a party.

Sunday, July 9. Departure. Breakfast will be provided.

### **Attendance. Registration, and Residence Policy**

Attendance is required. You may miss up to four classes without incurring any serious penalty, but more frequent absences jeopardize your final grade. Tardiness disrupts the learning environment. Frequent tardiness will be penalized by the lowering of your grade entirely at the discretion of the instructor. Rooms at the croft at the castle are for registered and participating students only. You may invite friends to visit you at the castle but under no circumstances will they be permitted to stay overnight.

## **Conduct**

In the 18th century the French defined liberty as the freedom to do anything that doesn't hurt other people. Behavior that distracts others or disrupts the learning environment hurts other people and won't be tolerated. Penalties for infractions are entirely at the discretion of the instructor.

***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change.***

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