

# SEMESTER IN FLORENCE - SPRING 2010

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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### COLLEGE OF SAN MATEO

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#### **Instructor: Jeremy Ball**

Jeremy Ball is a professor of philosophy at the College of San Mateo. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in philosophy from UC Irvine and his Doctorate in Philosophy from Claremont Graduate University. His area of expertise is in Philosophy of Mind and the relationship between the changing definitions of "science" and possible solutions to the mind/body problem. Professor Ball served as the Academic Senate President at CSM and has been one on the principle architects of many college-wide learning initiatives. He has served as both the Honors program Coordinator and Phi Theta Kappa Advisor. For Professor Ball, the trip to Florence is a sort of pilgrimage; given the city's role in the renaissance and in the history of ideas, it, along with Athens, is arguably the most significant location for the development of human reason and of western culture. He is very excited about sharing this experience with the students who participate in this program.

#### **PHIL 100, Introduction to Philosophy**

(3 units) (Letter Grade)

**Recommended:** eligibility for ENGL 848, Introduction to Composition and Reading, or equivalent, and completion of READ 400, Academic Textbook Reading, or READ 405, College Analytical Reading, or equivalent, with a grade of C or higher

CSU/UC; AA/AS Area E5c – Humanities; CSU GE Area C2 – Humanities; IGETC Area 3B – Humanities CAN PHIL 2

To coincide with the reopening of The Institute and Museum of the History of Science, This class will track the history and the central figures of the philosophy of science from Aristotle, through the renaissance, to today. We will examine many of the philosophical questions that our changing definition of science has affected while hanging out in Florence, Italy, a place that is key to this history. This "hands-on-the-past" approach to learning philosophy will help students better understand the nature of philosophy and better understand the significance that Florence and Italy played in this history. Students in this seminar style class will be encouraged to explore philosophical topics of particular interest to them and to share their findings with others in the

class. Hopefully, many of our classes will be held on actual sights where many of the events in this history occurred.

#### **PHIL 103, Critical Thinking**

(3 units) (Letter Grade)

**Recommended:** completion of ENGL 100 Composition and Reading, or equivalent, and completion of READ 400, Academic Textbook Reading, or READ 405, College Analytical Reading, with grades of C or higher

CSU/UC; AA/AS Area E2c – Communication and Analytical Thinking; CSU GE Area A3 – Critical Thinking

This class is designed as a lower division class and will focus on basic reasoning skills. Critical thinking requires careful analysis of language and the conditions for accepting, rejecting, or suspending judgment on a claim. Unfortunately, we live in a culture that has a contradictory attitude toward these skills. On the one hand, we live in a democracy-to vote well, one must be able to think critically about the issues; unreasoned guesses hurt us all. On the other hand, we live in a market economy that spends billions in advertising. These advertisements must convince you need something that you have not needed up to this point. In short, the cultivate irrationality and invite impulse behavior. Our cultural examples of reasoning and argumentation (daytime talk shows, presidential debates, etc.) fall well short of everyone's standards. Differences of opinion often result in violence because the parties are simply unable to reason with each other. The need for such a class has never been as pressing. Florence, one of the key locations for the Renaissance and the rebirth of reason will be an ideal setting for class that explicitly studies clear reasoning.

#### **PHIL 244, Contemporary Social and Moral Issues**

(3 units) (Letter Grade)

**Recommended:** eligibility for ENGL 100 Composition and Reading, or equivalent, and completion of READ 400, Academic Textbook Reading, or READ 405, College Analytical Reading, with a grade of C or higher

CSU/UC; AA/AS Area E5c – Humanities; CSU GE Area C2 – Humanities; IGETC Area 3B – Humanities

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"So this is the house that Machiavelli built?" This class will explore many contemporary social and moral issues from the Perspective of Machiavelli's The Prince. Set in the home town of this political philosopher, we will use Machiavelli and many other theorists as lenses through which we will examine and talk about many issues confronting us as global citizens. Specifically, we will take a look at the role and influence of the mass media on democratic societies: the affect of technology on people's lives, and other similar relevant issues. In short, we will develop many of the classical moral and political theories and then apply these theories to current issues.

#### **SOSC 680\*, Italian Life and Culture**

(3 units) (Credit/No Credit or Letter Grade)

*CSU/UC#; AA/AS elective*

This is an introduction to Italian society and civilization through presentations by Italian guest lecturers and related field trips. It takes a social, historical, and cultural approach to the study of contemporary Italian society. Topics include government, political parties, Church-State relations, the Common Market and the Mafia, as well as literature, art, and general aspects of Italian life. Required for those students enrolled in the Semester in Florence who's AIFS applications are processed through College of San Mateo.

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#### **COSUMNES RIVER COLLEGE**

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#### **Instructor: Marci Selva**

Marci Selva has taught English literature, composition, and grammar at Sacramento City College since 1997 and has also taught at Yuba College in Marysville and at Sacramento State University. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Literature/Writing from UC San Diego and a Master of Arts in English (literature emphasis) from Sacramento State University. She particularly enjoys teaching medieval English literature, Shakespeare, world mythologies, and pre-college level composition. Marci is the co-author of a textbook, *Illumination: Lighting the Way to College Composition*, and, in addition to teaching, coordinates Sacramento City College's Workload 57 Program in conjunction with UC Davis.

A lover of languages, Marci has studied both Spanish and Italian and looks forward to putting her study of Italian to good use in Florence; she is also very eager to introduce her students to Italian culture through literature, art, and the Italian media.

#### **ENGLT 340, World Literature**

(3 units) (Credit/No Credit or Letter Grade)

**Prerequisite:** *eligibility for ENGWR 300  
College Composition or equivalent*

*CSU/UC; AA/AS Area I – Humanities and IV -  
Ethnic/Multicultural Studies; CSU Area C2 –  
Humanities; IGETC Area 3B – Humanities*

This course will acquaint students with a diverse range of literature from the Ancient World through the Renaissance and will provide a comparative study of works that have made important contributions to world literature, including major works of Italian literature by Dante, Boccaccio, and others that have influenced and informed subsequent works of authors from all over the world. Students will identify the commonalities and differences in the myths, epic poetry, philosophy, sacred texts, lyric poetry, prose, and drama of early Middle Eastern, Asian, African, South American, European, and North American literatures, recognize and explain developmental stages and important themes in representative works written from antiquity to the early modern period, and analyze multicultural issues the works address. Moreover, students will analyze literary expressions of values, ideas, and multicultural issues typical of major world cultures. Emphasis will be placed on Italy as the birthplace of the Renaissance and the significant contributions made to the literary canon by Italian writers and scholars. Various media, such as films and works of art, will be incorporated into the course, and field trips – to museums, theater performances, etc. -- may be included to enhance the students' educational experience.

#### **ENGLT 345, Mythologies of the World**

(3 units) (Credit/No Credit or Letter Grade)

**Prerequisite:** *eligibility for ENGWR 300,  
College Composition or equivalent*

*CSU/UC; AA/AS Area I – Humanities and IV –  
Ethnic/Multicultural Studies; CSU Area C2 –  
Humanities; IGETC Area 3B – Humanities*

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This course examines some of the myths underlying the western world view, and recognizes diversity and commonality in myths from Middle Eastern, Native North American, African, Asian, and South American cultures. Students will analyze, contrast, and compare myths on topics including the creation of the world, the hero's journey, Judaeo-Christian themes, explanation of natural phenomena, relationships between gods and mortals, and deeds of superhumans, destruction, death and afterlife. Emphasis will be placed on the mythological aspects of major works of Italian literature, including Dante's *Inferno* and Boccaccio's *The Decameron* and a comparative study of these works and other major literary works from all over the world. Various media, such as films, plays, and works of art, will be incorporated into the course, and field trips may be included to enhance the students' educational experience.

#### **ENGWR 300, College Composition**

(3 units) (Credit/No Credit or Letter Grade)

**Prerequisite:** completion of *ENGWR 101*, *College Writing*, or equivalent, with a grade of C or higher

*CSU/UC:* AA/AS II (a) – Language and Rationality; *CSU Area A2 – Written Communication; IGETC Area 1A – English Composition* CAN ENGL 2

This course is designed to help the student demonstrate, in both argumentative and expository prose, critical thinking, clear organization, precise diction, and appropriate style. Class assignments, including essays, research projects, and individual and group presentations, will give students the opportunity to research, analyze, and discuss a variety of topics related to Italian life and culture, including Italian art, media (film, radio, television, and print), language, and current social and political issues. Various materials, including films, newspapers, and magazines, as well as field trips, will be incorporated into the course and will serve as the basis for many assignments.

#### **SOSC 499\*, Italian Life and Culture**

(3 units) (Credit/No Credit or Letter Grade)

*CSU/UC#:* AA/AS elective

This is an introduction to Italian society and civilization through presentations by Italian guest

lecturers and related field trips. It takes a social, historical, and cultural approach to the study of contemporary Italian society. Topics include government, political parties, Church-State relations, the Common Market and the Mafia, as well as literature, art, and general aspects of Italian life. Required for those students enrolled in the Semester in Florence who's AIFS applications are processed through Cosumnes River College.

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### DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE

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#### **Instructor: Ken Alexander**

Ken Alexander teaches art history, studio art and graphic communications courses in the Los Medanos College Art Department, and both survey and specialized courses in the Humanities Department. He currently serves as chairman of both departments. He earned his A.A. degree at Diablo Valley College and both his B.A. and M.A. at California State University, Sacramento. After beginning his career as a graphic designer, illustrator and animator, he began teaching in 1982 and has not looked back since. Moving from part-time to full-time teaching in 1987, he first concentrated on building the Art Department from 11 to over 50 courses. In 2005, he created the LMC Humanities Department and its core curriculum. Ken is a dedicated traveler, having visited every western European country and having taught in 1999 in the Florence Study Abroad Program. Most recently, he has devoted his summers to long-distance walks in Britain, having covered well over 750 miles in four trips and visiting battlefields, castles and cathedrals along the way. He speaks English rather well, but rather less so Spanish, Italian, German and French (in descending order!) On this, his fifth trip to Italy in general and Florence in particular, he looks forward to the opportunity to share with you his knowledge of Florence and its art, architecture, literature, and philosophical, religious and political history, as well as where to go, where to shop and how to get there!

#### **ART 5, The Visual Arts**

(3 units) (Credit/No Credit or Letter Grade)

**Recommended:** eligibility for *ENGL 100*, *College Composition*, or equivalent

*CSU/UC:* AA/AS Creative Arts; *CSU GE Area C1 – Arts; IGETC Area 3A – Arts*

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Everywhere you look in Florence, you will encounter works of art... paintings (fresco, tempera and oil), sculptures (wood, stone and bronze) and mosaics, all within churches, palaces and other historical buildings that are works of art in themselves. This course will explain each of these mediums and the materials and techniques used in their creation. You will learn about the creative process and how artists have learned to use it to conceptualize and create these works that address the universal human concerns of birth, death and marriage, politics, religion, nature, everyday life, imagination and fantasy using the visual elements according to the principles of design. Learn how to evaluate art in personal and cultural terms. Learn how art can be (and why it should be) part of your life.

#### **ARTHS 196, History of Medieval and Renaissance Art**

(3 units) (Credit/No Credit or Letter Grade)

**Recommended:** eligibility for ENGL 116, College Reading Development/ ENGL 118, College Writing Development Freshman Composition and Reading, or equivalent

CSU/UC; AA/AS Area III – Arts and Humanities; CSU GE Area C1 – Arts; IGETC Area 3A – Arts

ARTHS 195+196=CAN ART 2,

ARTHS 196+197=CAN ART 4,

ARTHS 195+196+197=CAN ART SEQ A

The streets of Florence have echoed with the footsteps of Giotto, Brunelleschi, Masaccio, Donatello, Botticelli, Leonardo and Michelangelo. When one thinks of the Renaissance, places like Rome, Venice, Pisa and Milan come to mind, but most of all, Florence. Florence lives today and has seen it all, from the fall of the western Roman Empire to the rise of the city from a commune to an independent republic and finally, to an imperial duchy. Florence, the city where common businessmen made money, lent money, made more money, and used that money for the power it gave them, to rule themselves, adorn their palaces and regale their church and city with paintings, statues and buildings that have made their names, as well as the artists and architects they commissioned, live forever. So, walk in their footsteps, see their works, and learn how Medieval Florence became the “capital of the Renaissance.”

#### **HUMAN 111, Introduction to Humanities: Middle Ages and Renaissance (500 A.D. - 1700 A.D.)**

(3 units) (Credit/No Credit or Letter Grade)

**Recommended:** eligibility for ENGL 122, Freshman Composition and Reading, or equivalent

CSU/UC; AA/AS Area III – Arts and Humanities; CSU GE Area C2 – Humanities; IGETC Area 3B – Humanities

The Medieval period brings to mind images of kings, knights, popes, monks, castles, cathedrals and plagues but it is so much more than these. It marks a time in which people just like us struggled with the same issues that confront us today, but with demon-haunted imaginations and hearts that yearned for God, embodied in Dante's masterpiece, the *Divine Comedy*. Florence was devastated in the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century by the Black Plague, documented so powerfully (and amusingly) in Boccaccio's *Decameron*. With the advent of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Florentine merchant-bankers redefined themselves, their understanding of the past and their hopes for the future of their city with the “energizing myth” of Renaissance or “rebirth” stimulated by Humanist studies in Classical literature. All these sources would ultimately flow into the great flood of creative energy of Florence under the Medici. With the fall of the Medici and the eventual fall of the Florentine Republic in new “barbarian invasions,” Italy and Europe as a whole began to contend with a new attitude to political power embodied in *The Prince* by Machiavelli. You can be a witness to it all, as it happened and where it happened.

#### **SOCSC 162\*, Italian Life and Culture**

(3 units) (Credit/No Credit or Letter Grade)

**Recommended:** eligibility for ENGL 122, Freshman Composition and Reading, or equivalent

CSU; AA/AS Area IV – Social & Behavioral Sciences, CSU GE Area D7 – Social & Behavioral Sciences

This is an introduction to Italian society and civilization through presentations by Italian guest lecturers and related field trips. It takes a social, historical, and cultural approach to the study of contemporary Italian society. Topics include government, political parties, Church-State relations, the Common Market and the Mafia, as

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#### SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

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**Instructor: Terri Frongia**

Dr. Terri Frongia is a full-time instructor of Italian and Art History at Santa Rosa Junior College. She received a Bachelor's degree in Art History, and a MA and PhD in Comparative Literature/ Aesthetics from the University of California, where she studied English, Italian, French, and Spanish literatures and visual arts. The first member of her family to attend college, Ms. Frongia first learned Italian at the age of 19 when she won a scholarship to study at Loyola University in Rome. The experience literally changed the course of her life. Today she is married to an Italian, has three wonderful children, and "lives Italian" at home in Sonoma County. She has traveled to such diverse places as Mexico, Europe, Singapore, and Bali. She is thrilled to be sharing the unforgettable experience of living in "il bel paese" and the cradle of the Renaissance with the students in the Study Abroad program. Get ready for the time of your life!

**ART 2.2, Renaissance to Modern Art History and Appreciation**

(3 units) (Credit/No Credit or Letter Grade)

**Recommended:** eligibility for ENGL 100, or ESL 100, College Reading and Writing or equivalent

CSU/UC; AA/AS Area E – Humanities; CSU Area C1 – Arts; IGETC Area 3 – Arts

CAN ART 4, ART 2.1+ART 2.2=CAN ART SEQ A

From the Renaissance through the Neoclassical and Romantic periods, Italy was a source of innovation and inspiration in Western art. Florence, the "Birthplace of the Renaissance" is the ideal place for students to experience many of the greatest masterpieces in the world. As we explore the development and "pendulum swings" of the visual arts from the late 1300s to the mid 1800s, we will uncover cultural, philosophical, symbolic, and artistic influences on the works created. We will also trace the movement of Western artistic supremacy from Italy, which held

it for three centuries, to France, the center of Impressionism and incubator of modern art. Living in Florence permits us to visit many historical sites, museums, and architectural venues; therefore classes will be taught both inside and outside of the classroom. Thus we will be able to experience first-hand the majesty of Brunelleschi's Duomo, the vigor of Michelangelo's monumental "David" and Botticelli's breathtakingly beautiful allegories, the "Birth of Venus" and "La Primavera," to name but a few.

**HUMAN 7, Introduction to the Humanities**

(3 units)

(Letter Grade)

**Recommended:** eligibility for ENGL 1A, Reading and Composition, or equivalent

CSU/UC; AA/AS Area E – Humanities; CSU GE Area C2 – Humanities; IGETC Area 3B – Humanities

The flowering of the Renaissance was due largely to a revival in interest and understanding of the myths and arts of ancient Greece and Rome. We will take a journey through the humanities—the visual arts, drama, film, music, dance, literature, and philosophy/ religion—as we study some of these ancient stories and their interpretation during this period, interpretations often charged with erotic fantasy and political power. For example, we will explore how Venus, the goddess of beauty and erotic love, is interpreted spiritually and symbolically, thus transforming into an image of sacred love associated with the Virgin Mary. We will also see how ancient gods of war, such as Mars and Athena, take up their arms in the battle between the Christian virtues and vices, and how the tragic Greek poet, Orpheus, who descends to the Underworld to save his beloved dead wife, becomes the symbol of suffering artistic genius and redemption, as well as the subject of the very first opera.

**ITAL 39.2, Introduction to Italian Literature in Translation, 19th c. to Present**

(3 units)

(Letter Grade)

**Recommended:** eligibility for ENGL 1A, Reading and Composition, or equivalent

CSU/UC; AA/AS Area E – Humanities; CSU GE Area C2 – Humanities; IGETC Area 3B – Humanities

This course will introduce students to dramatic events from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day

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through Italian literature translated into English. In the 1800s, while the United States was fighting a war of slavery and division, the Italian peninsula was struggling to achieve its own liberation and unification. The first half of the 1900s brought Italy into the realm of poverty, emigration, racism, and world war, while the second half brought it economic boom, Mafiosi, terrorism, corruption, liberalism, and the "American cultural invasion" (Italenglish, anyone?). We'll explore the culture, lives, and loves of representative Italian authors—for example, the patriots Manzoni and Leopardi, the islanders Verga and Deledda (first Italian woman to win a Nobel in literature), the quirky mind-benders Calvino and Eco—as we range throughout the "20 Italies" (Italy's 20 distinctive regions) and a variety of poems, plays, short stories, novels, and films. No knowledge of Italian necessary.

#### **SOCS 48.14\*, Italian Life and Culture**

(3 units) (Credit/No Credit or Letter Grade)

**Recommended:** *eligibility for English 100, College Reading and Writing, or equivalent CSU/UC@; AA/AS Area elective*

This is an introduction to Italian society and civilization through presentations by Italian guest lecturers and related field trips. It takes a social, historical, and cultural approach to the study of contemporary Italian society. Topics include government, political parties, Church-State relations, the Common Market and the Mafia, as well as literature, art, and general aspects of Italian life. Required for those students enrolled in the Semester in Florence who's AIFS applications are processed through Santa Rosa Junior College.

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#### **Notes:**

- \* Students must enroll in the Italian Life and Culture course offered by the college which processes their AIFS application.
- ~ Prerequisite - Proof of satisfactory completion of prerequisite may be required before registration for this class will be allowed.
- # Transfer credit may be limited by UC, CSU or both.
- @ Transfer credit is contingent on evaluation of course outline by UC campus.

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#### **CONVERSATIONAL ITALIAN**

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In addition to your 12 units of college level courses you may elect to enroll in an optional Conversational Italian class designed to enhance your time in Italy. There will be no additional charge for this class.

#### **ITAL 1, Beginning Conversational Italian**

(0 units)

This course is designed for students at the elementary level in Italian. Conversations and discussions, both controlled and spontaneous, are used to develop basic conversational skills. Emphasis will include oral proficiency and development of Italian cultural awareness.

#### **ITAL 2, Intermediate Conversational Italian**

(0 units)

This course is designed for students with some experience in Italian. Students will continue the development of oral-aural skills in Italian through conversations and discussions, both controlled and spontaneous. Emphasis will include oral proficiency and development of Italian cultural awareness.