

## SEMESTER IN FLORENCE - SPRING 2011

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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#### COLLEGE OF SAN MATEO

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##### **Instructor: Lisa Palmer**

Lisa grew up in Seattle, Washington although she has lived in California for many years. She received her A. B. degree in English, with honors, from Stanford University, her M.A. in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University, and her PhD in Comparative Literature from UCLA. Her dissertation is on prominent Latina writers.

Lisa began teaching undergraduate English and humanities courses when she was a graduate student at UCLA, and she loves sharing her passion for reading and writing. She has taught in the San Mateo community college district for twelve years.

To put herself through university, Lisa worked as a model in New York and Europe, including a year as a 'fotomodella' in Milan. She's looking forward to returning to Italy, refreshing her Italian, exploring Florence, and eating lots of gelato. One of the most exciting and transformative months of her life was when she went to Europe on an educational program in high school. She looks forward to sharing this wonderful adventure with students who come to Florence this spring.

**Note:** Each of my courses will have two innovative requirements, an extra reading requirement and a supplemental (but fundamental) writing requirement. Students will be required to read and participate in online discussions of a text in advance, so that they will be prepared for Florence and have more time to immerse themselves in the experience. Also, students will be required to blog their semester abroad so they can share the experience with family and friends while creating a written record for themselves

##### **ENGL 110 – Composition, Literature, and Critical Thinking\*\***

(3 units) (Letter Grade)

**Prerequisite:** completion of ENGL 100, Reading and Composition, or equivalent, with a grade of "C" or higher

CSU/UC; AA/AS Area A - Language and Rationality, and C - Humanities; CSU GE Area A3 - Critical Thinking and C2 -

Humanities; IGETC Area 1B - Critical Thinking - English Composition

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CAN ENGL SEQ A = ENGL 100 + 110

Taking love in Italian literature as its theme, this course will begin with the love affair of Dante Alighieri and Francesca memorably described in the *Inferno*, the descriptions of appropriate courtier conduct described by Baldassare Castiglione (*Il Cortegiano*), move on to *Romeo and Juliet*, and incorporate visits to relevant sites such as Dante's home in Florence and the mythical home of Juliet, in Verona. We will also take in current theatrical productions and poetry readings to extend our understanding of this theme in contemporary Italian prose and poetry.

##### **LIT 101 – Modern Literature\*\***

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

**Recommended:** Eligibility for ENGL 110 Composition, Literature, and Critical Thinking

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

This course will take us out and about in Florence, visiting street theater and performance. We will study the history and current incarnations of Commedia dell'Arte, the great tradition of public, political, profane, and humorous Italian street performance. Students will study both classical forms of Commedia dell'Arte as well as the recent productions of Dario Fo and Franca Rame. We will also make a side-step to Luigi Pirandello, whose innovative work in the theater serves as a precursor to contemporary drama.

##### **Lit 252 – Women Writers: Multicultural Perspectives\*\***

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

**Prerequisite:** completion of ENGL 100 Reading and Composition, or equivalent with a grade of "C" or higher

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

This course examines the literary history of women writers living in Italy including Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861); Elsa Morante

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(1912-1985); and Natalia Ginzburg (1916-1991). We will study how their writing influenced and reflects the social and political situations of their times.

#### **SOSC 383\* – Italian Life and Culture**

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

*CSU/UC#; AA/AS Area E5b – Social Science*

This is an introduction to Italian society and civilization through presentations by Italian guest lecturers and related field trips. In addition 2 hours a week of "survival" Italian will be included. 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: Bill Doonan**

Bill Doonan is an archaeologist and professor of anthropology at Sacramento City College where he has worked for the past eleven years. Originally from the east coast, Bill received his Bachelor's degree from Brown University, and his Doctorate degree from Tulane University. Bill is an active field archaeologist who has worked extensively in Honduras, Costa Rica, and Peru. In addition, he spends part of each summer working as a lecturer on-board cruise ships. Bill is looking forward to spending the semester in lovely Florence and sharing the experience with his wife Carmen, and his sons Will and Huey (ages 5 and 3).

Bill is also the author of the mystery novel, [Grave Passage](#), which was published in September 2009 by The Glencannon Press in Palo Alto. [Grave Passage](#) recounts the adventures of an octogenarian detective who solves crimes on cruise ships.

#### **ANTH 300 – Physical Anthropology**

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

**Recommended:** completion of *ENGWR 51, Developmental Writing, or ESLR 50, Intermediate-Mid Reading, with a grade of "C" or better; or equivalent skills demonstrated through the assessment process*

*CSU/UC; AA/AS Area IV - Natural Sciences; CSU Area B2 - Life Science; IGETC Area 5B - Biological Sciences*

*CAN ANTH 4*

This course is an introduction to the science of physical anthropology. Topics to be covered will include: the field of anthropology; the scientific method; genetics and inheritance; natural selection; principles and mechanics of evolution; evidence of evolution; modern human variation; living primates; and the fossil evidence for human evolution.

No student of anthropology can ignore the importance of biological classification to the development of evolutionary thought, and Florence is where biological classification was first conceived. Even before Linnaeus outlined the kingdoms and orders we use today, the herbarium at the Botanical Museum at the University of Florence established the first rules for biological classification in 1563, and it's still open to students!

One of my favorite museums in the world is the History of Science Museum, which houses the telescope that Galileo used to reframe the trajectory of modern scientific thought. And we'll have the opportunity to see that telescope.

#### **ANTH 320 – Introduction to Archaeology and World Prehistory**

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

*CSU/UC; AA/AS Area V(b) - Social & Behavioral Sciences; CSU Area D2 - Social, Political & Economic Institutions and Behavior; IGETC Area 4A - Social & Behavioral Sciences*

This course is an introduction to the field of Archaeology and a survey of World Prehistory. Students will be introduced to the theories, concepts, and methods employed by archaeologists in the study of the human past. By examining the archaeological record of cultures in

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Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas, this course explores the trajectory of human cultures from the Upper Paleolithic onward, using a range of case studies from around the world.

Florence's Archaeology Museum is world class, housing antiquities from every corner of the Classical world, and the National Museum of Anthropology & Ethnology is one of the most important anthropology museums in all of Europe. We're also just a stone's throw away from Perugia where some of the finest examples of surviving Etruscan architecture stand. For students who want to travel a bit further, Pompeii and Herculaneum are worth a visit. So much of what we know about the Roman world comes from there.

#### **ANTH 330 – Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion** (3 units) (Pass/No Pass or Letter Grade)

*CSU/UC; AA/AS Area V(b) - Social & Behavioral Sciences and VI - Ethnic/Multicultural Studies; CSU Area D2 - Social, Political & Economic Institutions and Behavior; IGETC Area 4A - Social & Behavioral Sciences*

This is a cross-cultural study of the forms and functions and supernatural beliefs and associated rituals in various societies of Africa, Asia, aboriginal Australia, Oceania, South America, native North America and elsewhere. The emphasis of the course is on understanding beliefs and rituals within their social contexts, and on broad comparison to derive insight into the general functions of beliefs and rituals in human life.

Florence is the ideal place to vest our studies. The birthplace of Humanism, home to the Medici popes, it was here that Dominican priest Savonarola presided over the Bonfire of the Vanities so that Florentines would not be tempted to sin.

#### **SOSC 499\* – Italian Life and Culture** (3 units) (Pass/No Pass 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. In addition 2 hours a week of "survival" Italian will be included.

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: Ruth Miller**

Ruth Miller accepted a full-time teaching position in Diablo Valley College's Humanities department in 2002, after having taught at the school off and on since 1997. She has also taught at UC Santa Barbara, San Francisco State University, Sonoma State University, San Francisco City College and Skyline College. She has studied at Western Kentucky University, Studio Arts Center International (Florence, Italy), the San Francisco Art Institute (B.F.A., 1990), and San Francisco State University (M.A., 1997). She began her Ph.D. program in 1998 at UC Santa Barbara's History of Art and Architecture department. Miller has taught the full range of Humanities offerings at DVC, but her primary academic emphasis is in Modern and Contemporary art and culture. Miller has traveled extensively, has studied in Italy twice, and is a passionate advocate of both foreign study and travel. In her so-called free time, she can be found devising a way to finance a return to Africa or Papua New Guinea!

#### **HUMAN 105 – Introduction to Humanities: Arts & Ideas**

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

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

*CSU/UC; AA/AS Area III. B - Humanities; CSU Area C2 - Humanities; IGETC Area 3B - Humanities*

This is a non-chronological course that introduces students to the integration of creative arts and the world of ideas. Students will learn to analyze, interpret and relate masterworks selected from literature, music, painting, sculpture,

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photography, architecture, and film, to trends in philosophy, religion and political and scientific thought.

The class will examine arts and ideas from a variety of cultures drawn from various historical periods, but special attention will be given to the arts and culture of Italy. From Futurism to feminism, from Catholicism to communism to consumerism, Italian culture provides unique opportunities to examine the relations between its arts and ideas. At the same time, students will be encouraged to relate Italian cultural production to works and movements from other cultures. Students will analyze both the role of art and the role of the artist in selected works. Class themes include art as expression of tradition and continuity, art as an agent of social change and resistance, arts and censorship, public versus private art, popular culture as both reflection and forger of society, the role of architecture and design, advertising, and a section on Italian – U.S. artistic connections.

#### **HUMAN 111 – The Middle Ages and Renaissance (500 A.D. - 1700 A.D.)**

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

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

*CSU/UC; AA/AS Area III. B - Humanities; CSU Area C2 - Humanities; IGETC Area 3B - Humanities*

The focus of this class is what Florence is best known for – the visual arts (painting, drawing, sculpture), music, literature, drama, architecture, philosophy, religion, science and technology, as they developed from the Medieval through the Renaissance periods. Our primary focus will be the visual arts, and specific works will be examined in an integrative method, one which encourages students to forge connections between different art forms and the ideas that provided their cultural context. From the intimacy of portrait paintings to the bold pronouncements of public sculpture we will examine how the arts, architecture and urban fabric constitute a "portrait" of Florence. Students will benefit from the unique opportunity to examine the objects of their study directly on site, and classes will take place both in the classroom setting as well as in the surrounding environments of Florence. The

architecture, museums, galleries, gardens and other artistically significant sites in Florence will animate the historical subjects of this class.

#### **HUMAN 118 – Film, Fiction, and Criticism**

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

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

*CSU/UC; AA/AS Area III. B - Humanities; CSU Area C2 - Humanities; IGETC Area 3B - Humanities*

This class will examine literary works, films that have been made from those works, and the branch of philosophy called aesthetic criticism. More specifically, the class will focus on Italian films and fiction (with English subtitles or translations) drawn from a range of genres. The interdisciplinary and critical analysis of film and fiction will enhance our understanding of these forms, which are often considered in isolation. Students will gain an understanding of Italian film history, will learn how to analyze both the form and content of literary and cinematic works, and will consider ways in which both express aspects of Italian culture and both regional and national identity.

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

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

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

*CSU; AA/AS Elective, 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. In addition 2 hours a week of "survival" Italian will be included. 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 Diablo Valley College.

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#### SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

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##### **Instructor: Jeanette Ben Farhat**

Jeanette Ben Farhat is a full time instructor of Political Science at Santa Rosa Junior College. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Social Science at San Francisco State University and her Master's Degree in Political Science at the University of California at Berkeley. In addition, she has studied Italian in Italy and at SRJC and SFSU, and worked for the Italian Trade Commission in San Francisco. She's looking forward to exploring Italy's political development, from the early Roman Empire to the days of warring city-states through to the country's 20<sup>th</sup> century struggles with the Red Brigades, the Ordine Nuovo, the Mafia and the Camorra. She's also interested in the politics of food and is looking forward to being in the country that gave rise to the slow food movement and hosts the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization. She considers travel an important part of her education, agreeing with St. Augustine's sentiment that, "the world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page." She has travelled extensively throughout Europe (this will be her 8<sup>th</sup> trip to Italy), spent considerable time in Tunisia, and visited Egypt, India, Mexico, and Canada.

##### **HIST 4.1 – Western Civilization to 1648**

(3 units) (Pass/no pass or letter grade)

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

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

In this survey course, students will be introduced to the political, social, cultural, and economic events that shaped Western Civilization from its Near Eastern roots to the Thirty Years' War (1648). Major topics include Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations, Greece and Rome, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance and Reformation. We'll pay particular attention to these developments in Florence, from the fall of the Roman Empire, through the black plague and the battles between the Guelfs and Ghibellines during the Middle Ages, to the rise of humanism and the birth of the Renaissance.

We'll walk in the footsteps of literary giants like Dante and Boccaccio, visit the office of Machiavelli, the Godfather of "Realpolitik", explore the palaces, churches, and offices built by the Medici dynasty, and marvel at the innovations and contributions of artists, architects and scientists such as Michelangelo, Botticelli, Donatello, and Ghiberti, Brunelleschi, Da Vinci and Galileo.

##### **POLS 1 – Introduction to United States Government**

(3 units) (Pass/no pass or letter grade)

**Recommended:** completion of ENGL 100 or ESL100, College Reading and Writing, or equivalent with a grade of "C" or higher

CSU/UC; AA/AS Area D - Social & Behavioral Sciences and F - American Institutions; CSU GE Area D - Social & Behavioral Sciences and F - US History, Constitution & American Ideals; IGETC Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences  
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Explore the way the U.S. government functions through a comparative lens. This course offers a unique perspective on the American political process as we compare the American and Italian experience in negotiating the central questions in politics: Who governs? Who benefits? And how do the rules of a country's political game affect this? In this class, we will examine the interplay among the United States' main political institutions and evaluate how this influences the ability of the public to control policy and the country's ability to respond to pressing economic and social problems. Where appropriate, we'll compare this process to that in Italy and explore the similarities and differences between the U.S. and Italian political systems. Particular attention will be paid to the areas of political culture, public opinion, the media, political parties, and the legal/constitutional system as we contrast each country's response to public policy issues in the areas of health care, education, immigration, welfare, criminal justice, and foreign policy.

##### **POLS 25 – Introduction to International Relations**

(3 units) (Pass/no pass or letter grade)

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**Recommended:** eligibility for ENGL 1A, Reading and Composition, or equivalent  
CSU/UC; AA/AS Area D - Social & Behavioral Sciences; CSU GE Area D - Social & Behavioral Sciences; IGETC Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences

Studying international relations in Florence offers a unique vantage point from which to follow current debates on pressing international issues such as global warming, terrorism, free trade, refugee crises, world hunger, and the politics of food. This course has three aims: to introduce fundamental theories and problems in IR; to explore principal contemporary international issues; and to teach you to think and argue critically about issues of international relations. We begin the course by defining international relations and looking at some of the analytical tools, concepts, and theories IR scholars use to study the behavior of states in the international system. We'll pay particular attention to realist theories associated with thinkers like Machiavelli and explore critiques of realism. The second section of the course examines contemporary and future problems in the international system, including military conflict, economic development, and the environment. Finally, we will also investigate the feasibility of implementing policies that will improve the human condition in all nations.

#### 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. In addition 2 hours a week of "survival" Italian will be included. 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.

\*\* This is a Cañada College course offered through College of San Mateo.