

FLORENCE, ITALY
FALL TERM 2010
September 24 – December 11, 2010

Students should choose a minimum of 12 credits from among the following course options. Note that **HUM 199D** and **ITA 101** are required courses and a full load consists of 12 to 14 credits.

HUM 199D Italian Cultural Experiences (2 Credits)

Taught by the AIFS faculty in Florence. Two hours per week are either lectures on Italian culture, or, more often, field trips to historic and artistic sites in and around Florence.

ITA 101 First Year Italian (and one higher level course if needed, 4 credits)

The above courses are taught by the AIFS faculty in Florence. Designed for the beginner. Emphasizes active communication in Italian. Develops students' basic skills in listening, reading, writing and speaking.

INSTRUCTOR BIOS

Bill Buck, Central Oregon Community College, bbuck@cocc.edu

A faculty emeritus with 20 years experience teaching students in literature and writing brings his experience in recruiting, orienting and guiding students. He successfully completed the AIFS London program in 2000 and considers it a highlight of his travels. Bill understands first-hand some of the challenges students face: the balance between structure and the freedom to explore; the moments of disorientation in a new culture; the judgment needed when students have a lodging or personal issue; missed tubes, wrong buses, wrong theater. Tour guiding has taught him the keys to thriving in new locations: adaptability, flexibility, and thinking on one's feet. To complement the reading material, students will enjoy the peripatetic approach on some class days, visiting locales associated with their readings. The books have been chosen with portability in mind.

ENG 108, Introduction to World Literature (4 credits) - After a brief introduction to late medieval literature, from St Francis and Jacopone to the Provençal influence, students will read selections from major Italian literary and cultural writers associated with the Renaissance in Florence: Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio, Machiavelli, Cellini, and Vasari. Includes selections from the writers of the Neo-Platonist Academy associated with Cosimo de Medici, notably Ficino and Pico Della Mirandola. Finally selections from Castiglione's *Book of the Courtier* reflect the wider Italian Renaissance and its link to patronage, literary salons, worldly churchmen, and discussions of love real and ideal.

ENG 201, Introduction to Shakespeare (4 credits) - Google "Shakespeare and Italy" and you will get 3.5 million hits. As popular Shakespearean writer Norrie Epstein noted, "Italy was popular, since it embodied everything sexy and foreign to the more sedate English." Many of Shakespeare's best-known early plays are set in Italy: *Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Merchant of Venice*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Othello*, staged in 1603, the midpoint of Shakespeare's dramatic career. After a review of the Italian sources and closer readings of passages related to Italian locales and themes, students will view scenes from movies that stress the

Italian influence, such as Zeffirelli's lush *Shrew* and his *Romeo and Juliet*, and Branagh's *Much Ado* with its sunny Tuscan scenes. We will also consider how Tuscan settings, Italian opera and production factors influence the 1999 *A Midsummer Night's Dream* starring Kevin Kline, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Stanley Tucci. Finally we will view the Fishburne *Othello* and its *chiaroscuro* cinematic treatment of Venice and its secretive society, signifying the motives of Iago, predicament of Othello, and fate of Desdemona. Throughout the course, we highlight plays' scenes where Italian references, characters, and ideas are most prominent, as well as refer to selected Shakespearean experts who interpret the rich Italian connection in Shakespeare.

WR 240, Creative Nonfiction (4 credits) - Florence students will be introduced to writing creative nonfiction, adapting the personal essay to multiple purposes, especially travel writing, memoir, biography, and autobiography. Through journal exercises, critical reading of published authors, and collaborative responses to venues in Florence, students will craft essays that reflect their experience. They will practice prose techniques adapted to the Florentine setting: describing a place; narrating a selected sequence of events; analyzing a scene through reflection, comparison, or imagination; and researching through reading, interviewing, and visiting famous sites or surprising byways. Their goal is to produce nonfiction pieces that put together their preconceptions, responses, and the interpretation of their reflection and study. As a starting point, the primary class text will be Alice Powers' *Italy in Mind: From Lord Byron and Edith Wharton to Susan Sontag and Michael Ondaatje—Two Centuries of Writers Celebrate their Love Affairs with Italy*. This 1997 anthology is both accessible and relevant to students.

Adjunct Instructor Angela Oberer

With a Ph.D. from the Technical University of Berlin, Angela has been teaching art history courses in Florence and Perugia since 2003. In 2001, she earned a Kress Foundation Scholarship to do research at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. She has lectured on the Cosa Nostra for the AIFS programs and on the Italian Renaissance for the British Institute in Florence. Since 2008, she has also served as President of the non-profit Vima Lupwa Homes for children in Zambia.

ART 205 Introduction to Art History (4 credits). Examines visual art and architecture as a reflection of human interaction with the socio-political and physical environment. Objectives center on viewing, analyzing and comparing many art forms in an historical context. This course in Florence will integrate close looks at original works of art and architecture related to the periods and cultures addressed. A day trip to Siena will illustrate the bridge between the Medieval Period and the Renaissance. After that, we will tour Florence extensively, as it is the center for Renaissance art and architecture in Italy. Expect architecture tours to include the Florence Cathedral (il Duomo) and Baptistry. Museum tours of the Uffizi and Academia Galleries will solidify your understanding of Renaissance art. We may also arrange an excursion to Rome (extra charge) to include viewing Renaissance art like Michelangelo's Sistine Ceiling, and Baroque art and architecture in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City.