



**FLOR LITR 3323**  
**Advanced Italian Literature and History**

**At the Cultural Center for Foreigners, University of Florence**

**CAPA FLORENCE ADVANCED ITALIAN PROGRAM**

**Course Description**

The following contextual options are offered for academic credit. They are all taught in Italian by professors from the University of Florence. Each course consists of 12 lectures (1.5 hours each):

1. Italian Literature I 12 lectures
2. Italian Literature II 12 lectures
3. Italian History 12 lectures
4. History of Art I 12 lectures
5. History of Art II 12 lectures plus 8 lectures in Florentine museums (2 hours each)

Students may take options 1, 2 and 3 for a total of 54 contact hours or options 4 and 5 for 51 contact hours (including the museum visits). Both options earn 3 credits each. Students not taking an internship can do both combinations for a total of 6 credits.

**Italian Literature: From the Middle Age to the Contemporary Age**

The course sets out to explore, in the clearest possible way, some of the main authors and some of the most important topics that, due to their historical and aesthetical significance, contributed to the development of the Italian cultural identity. The course will include the reading and the critical analysis of some excerpts of the major works of our literary tradition.

The analysis will begin with essential preliminary philological-documentary considerations, and it will also include considerations related to literary genre and to the linguistic experimentation of the texts under scrutiny.

**History of Art: Italian Modern and Contemporary Art from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

The four centuries between the death of Michelangelo Buonarroti in 1564 and the first half of the 20th century witnessed one of the greatest artistic revolutions in the history of Western civilization. This course will survey painting, sculpture, and architecture in the major artistic centers of Italy: Florence, Rome, Naples, Venice, and Milan. It will cover works by many of the most important artists of the period, consider themes raised by these works, and give attention to the conditions in which they were originally produced and viewed.

The class begins with the art in the second half of the 16th century in Florence and Rome followed by the Baroque, the immediate successor of the second Renaissance. We will examine this period by Italy's regions. Next, the course moves on to explore the development of two opposing styles that emerged in the 18th century: Rococo and Neoclassical art. After the Macchiaioli Art Movement in Tuscany, the course culminates with Futurism and Metaphysical in the 20th century. Crucial to this course is the emergence of characteristics (artistic, social, political, scientific, philosophical, and religious) that anticipate the issues faced by Modern society.

The careers and achievements of many figures from this period are examined. In particular, a part of the course is dedicated to the art in Florence. Emphasis is placed on works of art and architecture with which the student can have a direct experience. Most discussions are conducted in front of the original paintings and sculptures or inside the works of architecture. A special importance will be given to key works of art, sites of production, techniques, patrons, and audiences. In particular, between the 16th and 20th century, the role of the artist was changed. Other topics of the course are: the comparisons between literary culture, art, and architecture of the major Italian cities and other European countries; the history of the landscape and garden in Italy; and the perception and emotion of the visual arts.

## **Requirements and Prerequisites**

Students must have at least four semesters of college-level Italian in order to participate in this course. All lectures are given in Italian and are intended for serious students of the language.

## **Learning Outcomes**

The study of History of Modern and Contemporary Art and Architecture opens up the everyday environment to individuals in different ways and for different reasons. The goal is to provide students a way to navigate the main themes of art and to recognize and comment on the most representative artworks of the different movements. During this course, students will gain knowledge of some of the most important painted, sculpted, and constructed works of Italian art. Students will examine and develop solid understandings of the following:

- Basic concepts of symbols and allegories in Italian art,
- Problems of proportions and universal harmony in architecture,
- Connections between sculpture, painting, and architecture,
- Analysis of the relevant technical aspects of art, painting, stone and bronze cast sculpture, construction and ornamental materials,
- Visual analysis and interpretation, and
- Social and cultural contexts of Art.

## **Class methodology**

The lectures held in Italian will employ an extremely clear and basic terminology. Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions, to ask questions and to approach the professor. Every lecture will be accompanied by an illustrative PowerPoint presentation to help students to memorize topics explained by the professor.

## **Assessment/Grading Policy**

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• <u>Class participation &amp; discussion</u>	10%
• <u>Final Oral Exam</u>	90%
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Overall grade	100%

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## **Course Materials**

### **Literature**

The suggested textbook for the students who want to deepen their knowledge of the topics covered during the course is the following one: G.TELLINI, *Letteratura Italiana. Un metodo di studio*, Firenze, le Monnier Università, 2011, 2014 (II ed.).

### **Art**

C. Bertelli, G. Briganti, A. Giuliano, *Storia dell'arte italiana*, Milano, Electa Mondadori.

R. Wittkower, *Arte e architettura in Italia, 1600-1750*, (ed italiana: Torino, Einaudi).

Other useful dossiers and encyclopedias: *Maestri del colore*, Fratelli Fabbri; *Classici dell'arte*, Rizzoli; *Maestri della scultura*, Fratelli Fabbri; *Storia dell'architettura italiana*, a cura di F. Dal Co, Electa, 2000-2006, in particolare i volumi: *Il primo Cinquecento*, *Il secondo Cinquecento*, *Il Seicento*, *Il Settecento*, *Storia visiva dell'architettura italiana, 1400-1700*, pp. 109 e seguenti.

## Weekly Course Schedule

### Italian Art Course Outline

- 📖 **Topic 1.** Michelangelo and Raphael in Florence and Rome
- 📖 **Topic 2.** Florence Under Cosimo I de' Medici, the Council of Trent, and the Counter Reformation
- 📖 **Topic 3.** Classicism and Naturalism in Italian Painting: the Carracci and Caravaggio
- 📖 **Topic 4.** Spectacle in Rome of Pope Urban VIII: sculptural and architectural innovations of Bernini and Borromini
- 📖 **Topic 5.** From Rococò to Neoclassicism: Giovambattista Tiepolo, Canaletto, and Antonio Canova
- 📖 **Topic 6.** The Macchiaioli in Tuscany and the relationship with the French Impressionists
- 📖 **Topic 7.** Two Italian avant-garde: Futurism and Metaphysical

### Italian Literature Course Outline

- 📖 **Topic 1.** Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy
- 📖 **Topic 2.** Francesco Petrarca and the Canzoniere
- 📖 **Topic 3.** Giovanni Boccaccio and the Decameron
- 📖 **Topic 4.** Cultural and literary movement of Humanism and Renaissance (Angelo Poliziano, Lorenzo de' Medici, Leon Battista Alberti, Michelangelo, Giorgio Vasari, Benvenuto Cellini, Niccolò Machiavelli, Francesco Guicciardini, Ludovico Ariosto, Torquato Tasso);
- 📖 **Topic 5.** Neoclassicism, Classicism, Romanticism (Ugo Foscolo, Giacomo Leopardi, Alessandro Manzoni);
- 📖 **Topic 6.** Poetry and novel of the newborn Italy (Giosue Carducci, Giovanni Verga, Giovanni Pascoli, Gabriele D'Annunzio, Italo Svevo, Luigi Pirandello);
- 📖 **Topic 7.** 20th century poetry (Umberto Saba, Giuseppe Ungaretti, Eugenio Montale, Aldo Palazzeschi)



## CULTURAL CENTRE FOR FOREIGNERS (CCF)

<b>CCF Dates</b>	<p><b>Spring:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ CCF Students begin approx 10 days after all other international students registered</li> <li>✎ For this reason they should not miss other classes but those during their Spring Break</li> </ul> <p><b>Fall:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ CCF Students begin the same date as all other international students registered</li> <li>✎ They will be missing only during Mid Term Break</li> </ul>	
<b>CCF Break</b>	<p><b>Spring:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ CCF Students take the Spring Break the same week than all other CCF students not registered for the CCF courses</li> <li>✎ They have to carefully pay attention to absences: as they already miss roughly the first days of teaching, they have to pay extra attention not to possibly miss any other class before and after the Spring Break</li> </ul> <p><b>Fall:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ CCF Students take the Fall Break the same week than all other CCF students not registered for the CCF courses</li> <li>✎ They will be missing only 5 days the most plus any other class missed for health reasons</li> </ul>	
<b>Attendance</b>	All students must attend 80% of classes, being allowed to miss no more than 20% of the overall amount of classes scheduled	
<b>Placement Test</b>	The first day of class: for CCF students the first day they will show up to the CCF accompanied by a CAPA Florence staff member	Type of test <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Composition on a very easy topic</li> <li>• Use of Italian (grammar and syntax)</li> </ul>
<b>Exams</b>	Written and oral exams for the following subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ Italian language</li> </ul> Oral Exams for the following subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ Italian Literature I and II</li> <li>✎ Italian History</li> <li>✎ History of Italian Art I and II</li> </ul>	
<b>Certificate issued</b>	<i>Final Certificate</i> issued on valuable on parchment-like paper bearing the official logo of the University of Florence  Sample of certificate issued:	



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
FIRENZE

Il Presidente del Centro di Cultura per Stranieri

**ATTESTA**

**John Peter Smith**

ha seguito regolarmente il **Corso Invernale 2013**  
e ha sostenuto i colloqui finali in:

- Lingua Italiana
  - Corso Inferiore - -
  - Corso Medio av. 30/30 e lode
  - Corso Superiore - -
- Letteratura I 28/30
- Letteratura II 30/30
- Storia Politica 28/30
- Storia dell'Arte I - -
- Storia dell'Arte II - -

Il Presidente

**Grades**

Grades awarded on a 30-point scale simply divided in two: non passing (0 to 17), and passing grades (18 to 30 cum laude).

The converted to the U.S. grading system according to the following correspondences:

U.S. Grade	Definition	Corresponding Italian grades
A-, A, A+	Excellent	27-30 con Lode
B-, B, B+	Good	24-26
C-, C, C+	Satisfactory	21-23
D-, D, D+	Barely passing	18-20
E or F	Fail	0-17