Beyond Cinque Terre; Capturing Images in Italian Lifestyle.

SYLLABUS

1. DESCRIPTION
The study of the culture of Italy helps the student to acquire a deep awareness of both the cultural unit and diversity of the people of Italy. Major themes of Italian Culture and thought are presented in historical context and brought to life through guided tours and visits to churches, museums, palaces as well as other significant sites to understand present-day Italy.

The program will start in Rome. It will then move north through spectacular villas, and gardens, visiting some of the best wine producers in Tuscany. Next visit is to the territory of Versilia (Lucca), on the northwestern coast of Tuscany. This area covers an area of about 160 square kilometers. The cultural development and lifestyle of Versilia will be analyzed through lectures and site visits. The diversity of cultural patterns in different learning contexts - home, school, work, media, gender relations, and intercultural settings - are described analyzed and compared. We will study how culture creates meaning for its members and how are values interpreted by immigrants, visitors, tourists. New conditions for learning and present concerns (equality, immigration, the European dimension, globalization and sustainable development) create new lifestyles which are discussed within the framework of a multicultural society with its current problems and possibilities. The aim of the course is to teach students how to become active visitors and not passive tourists and how to learn from a culture and how to understand the deeper strata beyond stereotypes.

2. OBJECTIVE
To promote a basic knowledge, and understanding of contemporary Italy through the study of culture and lifestyles in Tuscany.

On completion of the course students will be able to:
• outline the cultural development in Tuscany and Italy including the development of tourism during the last century
• identify, analyze and compare the diversity of Italian cultural patterns and lifestyles in different learning contexts - home, school, work, vacation, media, gender relations,
intercultural settings
• analyze and describe how culture creates meaning for its members and how values are interpreted by visitors
• show insight regarding how recent conditions for vacation and present concerns (equality, immigration, the European dimension, globalization and sustainable development) create new lifestyles within the framework of a multicultural society
• identify and discuss current challenges.
• conduct a critical analysis of Italian culture and identify key issues, themes, style, and form.
• demonstrate ability to grasp abstract concepts, synthesizing them, and then applying them to a variety of contexts.

The fieldtrip and proposed itinerary consider stratification from the following points of view:

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<td>a) Fish Markets</td>
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<td>b) Boats</td>
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<td>e) Marble Quarries</td>
<td>e) Shopping/Restaurants</td>
<td>e) Bicycling</td>
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3. REQUIREMENTS
There are no particular prerequisites; students must be expected to carry out the following responsibilities:
• Individual study of the notes, the readings, the handouts etc. during personal time outside of organized fieldtrip activities is required in order to complete daily assignments
• A responsible and active class participation is expected at all times and activities
• Cell phone use is not permitted during organized activities
• Please also consider important notes on attendance, participation and assignments (as described in pertinent paragraphs).

4. METHOD
• The cultural development and lifestyle of Versilia will be analyzed through on-site learning, consisting of lectures and visits. Daily critique sessions will be held.
• Discussions: Students will become familiar with analytic methodology and critical terms in order to participate in class discussions, and effectively sustain views. Compulsory class preparation through web sites

5. TEXT BOOK – FURTHER READINGS – INTERNET RESOURCES
The following websites are mandatory for research before or during the fieldtrip:

1- The Coast
a) Fish Markets
b) Boats
c) Food (local recipes)
http://www.myhouseandgarden.com/recipe%20file.htm
http://foodandfotosbydavid.blogspot.com/2009/07/forte-de-marmi-observations.html

2- Art/Architecture
a) Roman Sites
b) Environmental Art
c) Villas and Gardens
d) Beach Clubs
e) Marble Quarries
http://archiviostorico.corriere.it/2006/agosto/21/vertice_sul_centro_Milano_bagni_co_8_060821008.shtml
(In Italian)
http://www.aboutversilia.com/art-and-culture.html
http://www.vacanzeinversilia.com/eng/cave.html
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Villa_Lante
http://www.parcodeimostri.com/eng/storia.asp
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Forum
http://penelope.uchicago.edu/~grout/encyclopaedia_romana/romanforum/romanforum.html

3- Up on the Hills
a) Artists
b) Art/History
c) Wine and Winery
d) Lifestyle
e) Shopping/ Restaurants
http://www.michelesatta.com/catalogo_eng.shtml

4- Life-Style
A) Day Life
a) Balconies
b) The Beach
c) Shopping/Hotels
d) Bicycling

B) Night Life
1) City Centers- Where and how the locals meet.
2) Cities @ night

Subjects of Special Interest:
1. Dress Code
2. La Bussola and the 60’s
http://www.bussolaversilia.it/
http://www.wayitalia.net/rooten/906_924.html
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mina_(singer)
3. La Capannina di Franceschi and Italian VIPs http://www.lacapanninadifranceschi.it/
5. Gran Caffe’ Regina Margherita in Viareggio (Liberty style architecture) http://www.ristorantemargherita.it/storia.htm (in Italian)
8. The Ocean Boardwalk

General Information on Versilia
http://www.aboutversilia.com/
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Versilia
http://en.zerodelta.net/speciali/guide/la-versilia/
http://en.zerodelta.net/speciali/guide/la-versilia/
http://www.welcometuscany.it/tuscan/tuscan_beaches_coasts/versilia/versilia.htm
http://www.emmeti.it/Welcome/Toscana/Versilia/index.uk.html
http://www.toscanatoscana.it/eng/versilia.htm

6. VISITS – TRIPS
Please consult the day by day schedule for fieldtrip schedule. Most, but not all of the costs of the planned activities are included in this course tuition. A few activities, such as a meal on certain dates, are not included and the expense must be covered by the student.

7. MATERIAL LIST
This course is RESEARCH-BASED and final projects must be turned in by each participant in
order to receive credit. Depending on the student's background, ie photography, writing, etc, students must bring the appropriate materials necessary to carry out such research onsite (digital cameras, notebooks, laptops). Students who are taking this course on a singular basis (ie, no relationship to a longer program such as the Summer Travel Guide Project), must turn in a travel journal.

8. ADDITIONAL FEES:
Any expenses not already covered by tuition (some meals, etc, see point 6) will be covered by the student.

9. EVALUATION – GRADING SYSTEM
10% Attendance to planned research activities
20% Class Participation – Assignments
35% Daily Critique Sessions
35% Final Project and Oral Presentation

A = 93-100 %, A- = 90-92%, B+= 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B-=80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C=73-76%, C-=70-72%, D = 60-69%, F= 0-59%, W = Official Withdrawal, W/F = Failure to withdraw by the designated date.

10. ATTENDANCE – PARTICIPATION
Academic integrity and mutual respect between instructor and students are central to Palazzi’s academic policies. This is reflected in the attendance policy. Attendance is mandatory and counts towards the final grade. Roll will be taken at the beginning and end of each planned research activity. Coming late and leaving earlier affects the attendance and participation grade. It is important that students come to class on time. Two delays will be considered one absence.

Each absence will negatively impact your final grade (attendance).

After the second absence the instructor will notify the student he/she is at risk.

After the third absence, the instructor may lower the final grade by one letter grade at the end of the term. (Example: 90/A- = B-)

After the fourth absence the student will receive an automatic Failure.

It is always the student's responsibility to know how many absences they have in a course. Travel for non academic/program-related purposes is NEVER an excuse for absence from class.

Participation: A positive grade in participation will be the result of cooperation during group work, being responsible in class, taking care of working table, respect of kitchen rules and completion of homework assignments.

11. EXAMS – PROJECTS
This course is primarily a research-based course that will be graded according to participation in activities, daily critique sessions, and the research to be turned in for the final project.

Format:
- Critique sessions will be led by the faculty on both an individual and group basis. These sessions will consist of a detailed review and critique of the day by day research that will produced throughout the fieldtrip.
- Final Travel Journal Project: Students will keep a daily journal. In the journal they will record observations, comments, and reflections on the events of the day. It is not meant to be a diary (i.e. what happened), but an exploration of reflections on your experiences (how or why it happened). Students should of course comment on the various topics of interest and how it helps them understand Tuscany, Italy and its culture. In addition, they may reflect on their interaction with modern Italian culture. In other words, students should comment not only on the “content of the course,” but also reflect on the “whole” experience.
  - Students must turn in the journals by the date specified by the instructor. All students’ journals might be published on the school webpage.
  - An essay of 500 words for each of the six areas visited. Each essay has to be broken down into sections as illustrated in the guidelines.
  - Five photos which best describe their perception of each area
  - A passport picture and a short bio (max 100 words)
- Oral presentations: Students will choose the topics with the professors. They will research and present to the class their analyses. The rest of the class will give feedback to the presenter

Remember that the dates of the exams cannot be changed for any reason, so please organize your personal schedules accordingly.

12. LESSONS

Day 1 Sunday
- Arrive in Rome (independently).
- Meet students at the hotel for check-in procedures
- Welcome dinner, then free time
Day 2  Monday

- Breakfast  
- Orientation and hotel check-out  
- Morning guided tour of the Colosseum and Forum, the centre of political, commercial and judicial life in ancient Rome  
- Sightseeing bus tour around the city, covering all the main attractions  
- Free time for lunch  

Afternoon transfer by bus to Tuscany  
Hotel Check-in  

Online readings:  
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Forum  
http://penelope.uchicago.edu/~grout/encyclopaedia_romana/romanforum/romanforum.html  

Day 3  Tuesday  

Breakfast and hotel check-out  
- Visit the Bosco di Bomarzo, which originality is represented by the “Sacred Wood of Bomarzo”, that the popular fancy rebaptized as Monster’s Park.  
- In the afternoon visit to Villa Lante in Bagnania. This is the consummate example of the best period in the history of garden design: the Manneris phase of the Italian renaissance.  

Transfer to the Bolgheri Area and Hotel Check-in  

Day 4  Wednesday  

Hotel Check-out and Visit to the Michele Satta wineyard with tasting  
Transfer to Versilia and Hotel check-in  

Day 5  Thursday  

Hill Towns, Marble Arts, Contemporary Art, and Modern History  
Location: Carrara, Pietrasanta and Saravezza  
Readings: Review relative pages from internet resources  

Day 6  Friday  

Lifestyle, Artigianato, Fashion at Forte dei Marmi, Coastal Culture, Beachtowns, Boardwalks  
Location: Forte dei Marmi, Cinquale  
Readings: Review relative pages from internet resources  
Daily Critique Session #1  

Day 8  Saturday  

Viareggio and its Architecture, Business & Tourism, Carnevale  
Location: Viareggio  
Readings: Review relative pages from internet resources  
Daily Critique Session #2  

Final Review and Presentations
Day 9 Sunday Hotel Check-out and departure to Florence

ALTERNATIVE LESSON
Should the Instructor be indisposed or otherwise unable to attend, a substitute teacher will conduct a pre-prepared alternative lesson at the regular course time. This could take the form of the following: Supervised project work/Completion of ongoing project.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE COST:

- Some lunches
- Some Dinners
- Extra drinks at dinner
- Transportation in Rome (bus/metro tickets)

REMEMBER TO BRING:

- Sunscreen
- Bathing suit
- Comfortable shoes (sneakers) and a wind jacket for the excursions