The History and Art of Renaissance Florence
Florence, Italy
Freshman Seminar Abroad
January 1-22, 2012

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Freshman Seminars ..... 

...are engaging two-week courses in a cultural capital of the world like Florence that are designed to give students international experience.

...offer stimulating discussion and debate about current world topics.

...will help students develop critical thinking, writing, and study skills needed to meet the demands of college work.

...are opportunities to make new friends.

...offer the chance to earn two college credits.

Queens College Freshman Seminars allow first-year students to explore intriguing topics in multiple disciplines in small, study abroad classes. Students will meet Queens College faculty and staff, meet other incoming students, learn about life at college, and begin their social, academic, and even professional journeys....

For one week, we'll study the language and culture of Italy:

ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
Staff, Florence University of the Arts

Italian Language and Culture is an interdisciplinary course which concentrates on rapidly developing a basic command of Italian while introducing the student to various aspects of Italian history, culture and realities of contemporary Italy. Students will have opportunity for on-site learning with their instructors through a series of walking tours and visits in Florence. Prerequisites: There is no language requirement for this course which is aimed at beginners in the Italian language.
For two weeks, we'll study the History and Art of Renaissance Florence:

**THE HISTORY AND ART OF RENAISSANCE FLORENCE**  
**Prof. Gaudette, Queens College**

In this course, we’ll study the history and art of Florence in the 14th and 15th centuries, its most creative period, examining the city’s physical character, its economy and society, its political and religious life, and cultural achievements. We’ll visit some of Florence’s most famous art galleries and historical sites, learn about its food, music, and culture, and study the magnificent works its most celebrated artists: Michelangelo, Brunelleschi, Donatello, Ghiberti, and Botticelli, just to name a few.

Some highlights: seeing the Leaning Tower of Pisa, visiting the Uffizi Museum and the Accademia, touring Santa Croce and other sites that house important works of art, visiting the Museum of Galileo, climbing to the top of the Duomo, walking up to the Piazzale Michelangelo, eating the best pizza and gelato in Florence, and much, much more.

You will have two ways of expressing your views, orally through participation and in writing, and both will be graded and contribute toward your final grade. Writing assignments will be written into a journal.

**Required Reading: please purchase the below books by Brucker and Vasari before we leave for Italy to bring along with you**


In addition, a Course Readings Packet will be emailed as a pdf file to all students to be downloaded and/or printed out to be brought along with you. See below>

Course Requirements:

Participation: (20%) **The heart and soul of this Freshman Seminar Abroad is participation, in the classroom in Florence, and on all our excursions.** Be prepared to participate in each day’s class discussions, especially when assigned as class discussion facilitator.
At each class meeting, one student will be responsible for leading discussion of the readings assigned on the syllabus for that meeting as a **class facilitator**. A sign-up sheet will be passed around on the first day.

**Journal/Notebook: (50%)** The journal will consist of hand-written notes, thoughts, comments, postcards, museum receipts, strategies, and arguments. Think of it as a written record of all that you do, see, and learn about Italy and the Scientific Revolution in Florence. *Choose your notebook carefully! Get one that is a comfortable size for you, one you will not mind taking with you everywhere, one that makes you feel like writing! It should have at least 100 pages (you may find yourself writing more than you had ever imagined you would).*

**Final Exam: (30%)** The final exam will be held on the last day of classes in Florence.

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**The Course Readings Packet will be made up of chapters from the following books.**


