

The following courses are offered in Italy:

Survey of Art History II: ARTH 2020 (No Prerequisites)

The birth of Western art and the Renaissance is Italy. Rome, Siena, Florence and Venice house some of the most renowned artworks of all time. The content of this course directly correlates to these works of art. Classes will be held prior to or at various excursions serving as an almost living, learning laboratory. Seeing the work in person rather than in reproductions such as textbooks or slides will heighten the students understanding of scale, space, perspective and place that all influence a works lasting impact.

For more information about this course please [see the course syllabus](#).

Modern World History: HIST 1120 (No Prerequisites)

Italy is such an important historical country. In World Civilizations II, the major themes include the dominance of Christianity in Europe, the introduction of western influence throughout the world, the rise of nationalism and the rise of totalitarian governments. Italy plays a major role in all of these movements. World history will be examined through many of these themes, using Italy as an example. Students will study the strengths and weaknesses of Italy and the benefits and problems of nationalism as it relates to Italian unification and later, the rise of fascism. From this discussion of Italian nationalism, other world themes of nationalism will be introduced. In the same way, Italian fascism will serve as an introduction to the rise of totalitarian governments throughout the world. Similarly, the rise in immigration in the mid to late 1800s changed the face of the world, and Italy was an important part of this. Finally, Italy played a huge role in the development of tensions relating to both WWI and WWII and the development of a modern world.

Students will spend time in Rome, Siena, Florence, and Venice. All of these areas are vital to the creation of a strong Italian national identity. Italian leaders looked to the historical greatness of the Roman Empire, the rise of the Catholic Church, and the Renaissance to create a common Italian culture.

For more information about this course please [see the course syllabus](#).

Understanding Terrorism: CRMJ 2550 / SOCI 2550 (No Perquisites)

The program sites will offer opportunities for field work as well as classroom instruction. In Rome, students may visit the Museum of the Liberation of Rome (Museo Storico della Liberazione) which is located in the former Nazi SS headquarters, the Ardeatine caves where Nazis massacred over 350 Romans in retaliation for an insurgent attack by the WWII Italian Resistance, Mussolini's bunkers at the Villa Torlonia, the Cacere Mamertino where conquered leaders such as the Gaul Vercingetorix were held prior to execution by the Roman Empire, the Great Synagogue of Rome which houses a Jewish Museum and was itself the site of a terrorist attack by the Abu Nidal organization in 1982, and the Museo Criminologico. In Siena, students may visit the Museum of Torture and Fortress of Santa Barbara. In Florence, students may visit the Stibbert Museum, which contains a vast collection of armaments. In Venice, students may visit the Doge's Palace with its imposing dungeons and the Jewish Museum. Students will have ample time to experience the historical beauty and fun available in all four cities, as well.

For more information about this course please [see the course syllabus](#).

Introduction to Shakespeare: ENGL 2060

Prerequisites: ENGL 1020

More of William Shakespeare's plays take place in Italy than in any other country than England. Furthermore, Shakespeare was greatly indebted to Italy for the literary tradition of the sonnet, the dramatic traditions of Roman comedy and commedia dell'arte, the innovations in weaponry that allowed fast and dramatic swordfights which attracted audiences hungry for action scenes, and the books that served as direct source material for an impressive number of his plays. In short, Italy is key to Shakespeare's original and continued fame.

In Rome, students will discuss "Julius Caesar," "Coriolanus," and "Titus Andronicus" as they explore the sites of the ancient capital. If time allows, students may also visit Cinecittà Studios, where the tour includes the immersive, full-size set recreation of the Roman Forum in the time of Julius Caesar, giving them a better insight into Shakespeare's ideal setting and a fascinating comparison with what remains of the original site today. They will end the course in the Venice of Shylock and Othello, exploring the sites mentioned in those plays, and hopefully take a day trip through both Padua (home to Katherine Minola of "The Taming of the Shrew") and Verona, where they could look down from Juliet's balcony. Florence and Siena may not have as many locales directly related to Shakespeare's plays, but we will take time to visit locations like the Uffizi Gallery where we can learn about the art, architecture, and customs of Renaissance Italy that provide the plays' context and helped develop mainstream Elizabethan English ideas of Italy.

For more information about this course please [see the course syllabus](#).

Art Appreciation: ARTH 1030 (No Prerequisites)

On-site examples of art and architecture will be studied first-hand, (in some cases- as close as possible to the cultural context in which they were created) in Rome, Siena, Florence, and Venice. Tentative visits may include the Florence Academia, the Uffizi, the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, the San Marco monastery, the Galleria Borghese, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, and St. Mark's basilica. These sites will supplement course material by allowing students to focus on artworks and architecture spanning several movements (including Byzantine, Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque.)

For more information about this course please [see the course syllabus](#).