

HUMANITIES 299 1 UNIT
ITALIAN LIFE AND CULTURE
T 3:10-4:20 p.m.

Dr. Marion de Koning
Instructor of Record

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Office hours: as needed

This course is required for ALL students.

Syllabus Spring 2009, Florence, Italy

During our time in Italy, we certainly want to immerse ourselves as much as possible in the Italian culture. This course explores the many facets of Italian Life and Culture. Each session will focus on a specific topic, such as customs, the family, politics, the regions of Italy, food, history, music (opera) and other topics.

Course objectives:

In this course, you will become acquainted with a variety of aspects of Italian life and culture for a better understanding of- and appreciation for Italy and its long history.

Your responsibilities:

You must attend all sessions and participate by being alert and by asking questions and/or contributing with appropriate comments. Arriving late or leaving early will count as an absence. Absences in this program may have serious consequences, including being sent home from the program.

You are responsible for material covered during the lectures. There is no text book, so you must keep excellent notes which will be graded three times during the semester.

It is your responsibility to hand in assignments and class notes on time.

This class will be taught by an Italian instructor(s). I expect particularly courteous behavior on your part with sensitivity to cultural differences. Italian professors are used to being treated with the greatest respect and are used to being addressed as "Professor." Please follow the Professor's directions and you will be fine. This is also good advice for behavior in your Italian classes.

Points to be earned during the semester:

1. Class notes. These are to be handed in after every fourth session: 50 points each time.
2. There will be two quizzes; one midterm and a final quiz: 50 points each. Prepare at home.
3. One three page paper on a work of art/monument of your choice. Your choice may not be a duplicate of a paper or assignment handed in for any of the other classes: 50 points.
4. Class participation: 10 points each session. Your points will be based on active participation in the class.

Point scale:

45-50=A, 40-44=B, 35-39=C, 30-34=D, 29 or less=F.

You are required to participate in class discussions and to contribute with questions, constructive comments, and an attentive attitude. You are not allowed to use cell phones or any other (electronic) devices during class. All students are expected to behave in a manner that is polite and attentive. For information on student conduct, please see the Student Code of Conduct for the Cuyamaca/Grossmont District. You are expected to familiarize yourself with this code and behave accordingly; also see below.

Academic integrity:

"Cheating and plagiarism (using as one's own ideas, writings or materials of someone else without acknowledgement or written permission) can result in a variety of sanctions, Such penalties may range from an adjusted grade on a particular exam, paper, project, or assignment to a failing grade in the course. The instructor may also summarily suspend the student for the class meeting when the infraction occurs, as well as the following class meeting. For further clarification and information on these issues, please consult with your instructor or contact the office of the Assistant dean of Student Affairs," (Cuyamaca/Grossmont Catalogue).

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE REAL THING

OBSERVE, STOP, LOOK, AND LISTEN MJK 2009

This syllabus and reading list may be subject to change.

HUMANITIES 299 LIST OF TOPICS SPRING 2009 FLORENCE, ITALY!

This list may be subject to change

- Week 1 Introduction: Where are we on the map? How do we get there? Weather and seasons. Culture shock and other fun stuff.
- Week 2 Italian history: The history of Italy is long and complex. The focus will be on Tuscany and Florence.
- Week 3 Italian music and opera-where to go for great performances?
- Week 4 Regions of Italy: there are 20 of them, so it will be a quick overview with a focus on the specialties of each region, be it food, industry, or art.
HAND IN YOUR CLASS NOTES
- Week 5 Italian cuisine, its specialties, its history. Homesick for your "own" food? Where to go in Florence.
- Week 6 The Italian family and its customs: a day in the life of a modern Italian household. Vacation and holidays. What does the family do at Easter? On May 1? National festivities.
HAND IN YOUR MIDTERM ASSIGNMENT
- Week 7 More history of Italy. From the Romans to the Renaissance: an Italian perspective.
- Week 8 Still more history of Italy. Italy since WW II.
HAND IN YOUR CLASS NOTES
- Week 9 Fashion and design in Italy: from Versace to Ferragamo, Ferrari to Alessi.
- Week 10 Futurism and its history. This important art movement started in Italy and artists in Florence played a big part in its development.
- Week 11 Italian theatre, and film (Odeon). Pasolini and Zeffirelli, Fellini and other greats.
HAND IN YOUR CLASS NOTES. HAND IN YOUR FINAL QUIZZ
HAND IN YOUR THREE PAGE PAPER