Florence University of the Arts (FUA) is an academic institution for study abroad in Florence, Italy. FUA collaborates with The American University of Florence (AUF), an international university offering US-style undergraduate and graduate degrees, in a cooperation to offer study abroad programs with a diverse breadth and depth of academic curriculum.

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SCHOOL OF LIFE STUDIES AND HUMAN SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY; ITALIAN CULTURAL STUDIES; ITALIAN LANGUAGE
COURSE TITLE: DISCOVERING FLORENCE: SECRET LANGUAGE WALKS
COURSE CODE: LSSODF150; GSANDF150; ISISDF150; ISITDF150
3 semester credits

1. DESCRIPTION

This course seeks to offer an overview of the Italian culture through the exploration of the city of Florence. Students will become familiar with the main Italian and Florentine cultural aspects through the observation of street names, studied as an intangible cultural heritage. In particular, students will learn about Italian social dynamics and traditions related to education, business, social life, healthcare, politics, religion, and sports. The course is held entirely outside as it makes use of the city as its learning environment. Students are therefore encouraged to observe the sites through active participation and develop a critical gaze. The course is further enriched by basic notions of Italian language, with exercises based on grammar, vocabulary, and communicative functions.

The approach of this course is based on experiencing the city of Florence as the academic space for learning and engagement. Classes are not held in a traditional, frontal-style setting; each lesson is carefully mapped for curricular content and featured locations: lectures, observations, exercises, analysis, and reflections on presented topics are held in relevant sites that are accounted for in the academic planning, syllabus, and related course material. Coursework and submissions will be regularly assessed on the MyFUA platform through daily assignments in addition to exams, papers, and projects. Learning through the on-site classroom approach fosters a deeper understanding of the cultural environment of Florence and how it is related to the subject of study represented by the course, and allows the overall experience to contribute to the students' academic and personal enrichment.

2. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
- Identify and critically reflect upon the main aspects of Italian society.
- Demonstrate awareness of the various historical and urban transformations of the city of Florence.
- Recognize the correlation between past changes and present-day arrangements and challenges.
- Discern Florentine flora and fauna.
- Identify how cultural heritage of street names and urban spaces fosters a sense of community.
- Express knowledge of basic grammar and vocabulary pertaining to various social scenarios.

3. REQUIREMENTS

There are no prerequisites for this course.

4. METHOD

This course consists of lectures, discussions, and site visits within the local community. Mediums for

instruction used will include, but are not limited to, interactive and hands-on activities which challenge thought processes, academic texts and studies, and experiential and/or field learning activities where applicable. As described in point 1, lessons are not held in traditional classroom settings but are based on the city of Florence as the academic space for learning and engagement. Please review the course description for the structural approach and method of coursework.

5. TEXTBOOK – FURTHER READINGS – RESOURCES
TEXTBOOK (Copy available at the university library):

- Cassi, Laura. "Geographical aspects of place names research. An overview," in Cantile, Andrea & Kerfoot, Helen (eds.), *Place Names as Intangible Cultural Heritage*. International Scientific Symposium Firenze. 2015. Available online here:
  https://www.igmi.org/++theme++igm/toponomastica/proceedings_2016.pdf.
- Cochrane, Harry. "Gatecrashing: Florence's old gates," in *The Florentine*, 2022. Available online here: https://www.theflorentine.net/2022/02/02/gatecrashing-florence-historic-porte/.
- Dal Lago, Alessandro and De Biasi Rocco. "Italian football fans Culture and organization." *Football, violence and social identity*. Routledge, 2004. 71-86. Available online here:
  https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b7ea2794cde7a79e7c00582/t/62e2b6b74ee1416c6b37e4bb/1659025080527/football-violence-and-social-identity.pdf#page=80
- De Belvis, Antonio Giulio et al. "Italy: Health system review," in *Health Systems in Transition*, 24(4), 2022. Pdf available online here:
  https://eurohealthobservatory.who.int/publications/i/italy-health-system-review-2022.
- Elab, *The Education System in Italy*, 2022-2023. Available online here:
  https://www.elabedu.eu/study-in-italy/.
- Evanson, Nina. "Family," in *Italian Culture*, 2017. Available online here:
  https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/italian-culture/italian-culture-family.
- Fonzo, Erminio. "Italian Fascism and the Olympic Games." *Paper presented at the Second Annual Conference of the Center for Sociocultural Sport and Olympic Research*. Vol. 15. Available online here:
  https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Erminio-Fonzo/publication/332015183_Italian_Fascism_and_Olympic_Games/links/5c9c950a299bf111694bdbc4/Italian-Fascism-and-Olympic-Games.pdf.
- Guccerelli, Demetrio. *Stradario storico biografico della città di Firenze*, Multigrafica Editrice, 1985. Available at the University library in Corso dei Tintori 21.
- Hewlett, Cecilia. "Locating Contadini in the Renaissance City: Food Circulation and Mobility in the Marketplace." *I Tatti Studies in the Italian Renaissance 19.1 (2016): 93-113.* Available online here: https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/26558271.pdf.
- Jordan, Peter. "Geographical Names as Part of the Cultural Heritage: Some General Thoughts," in Cantile, Andrea & Kerfoot, Helen (eds.), *Place Names as Intangible Cultural Heritage*. International Scientific Symposium Firenze. 2015. Available online here:
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2CWWvPUmy4.
- McCarthy, Patrick. *Italy Since 1945*, Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Ogilvie, Sheilagh. "The Economics of Guilds," in *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 28(4), 2014. Available online here: https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdf/10.1257%2Fjep.28.4.169.
- Padget, John. *Open Elite? Social Mobility, Marriage and Family in Florence, 1282-1494*, Renaissance Quarterly, 2010. Pdf available online here: https://core.ac.uk/reader/60524430.

LIBRARY

Course participants may access the campus library. Please consult the posted schedules for official opening times. Texts may be consulted on-site, and scanning/internet services available.

6. COURSE MATERIALS
No additional course materials are necessary.

7. COURSE FEES
Course fees cover course-related field learning activities, visits, and support the instructor's teaching methodologies. Book costs are not included in the course fee. If this course requires a fee, the exact amount is communicated prior to enrollment.

8. GRADING AND EVALUATION & ATTENDANCE
10% Attendance

10% Participation

15% Assignments

20% Midterm Assessment

20% Reflection Journal

25% Final Exam

The above grade breakdown percentages reflect the grading scale standards in the "Grading and Evaluation System" section of the catalog.

Attendance
Class participation is mandatory. Based on the hours defined in the Academic Catalog's attendance policy, students may miss up to 2 class encounters delivered as lecture hours. A third absence constitutes a course failure.

Please note that absence hours may vary according to the learning methodology, as per the academic catalog policy on credit hours: https://catalog.fua.it/standard_regulation

9. EXAMS / PROJECTS / ASSIGNMENTS

Midterm Assessment: The midterm assessment accounts for 20% of the final course grade. It consists of a group project. Students create a historical and/or geographic itinerary and map it accurately using a geo-mapping site of choice (e.g. Google Maps). Each student of the group selects one relevant stop and writes 500 words on the latter, adding pictures to a final document to be submitted on the course portal at the end of the course. Students are evaluated based on their individual entry together with the cooperative final result, which should comprise a coherent itinerary with specific learning objectives.
Final Exam: The final exam accounts for 25% of the final course grade. The content of the exam will be based on the books and on the websites listed in the bibliography below. Please make sure you have read these resources thoroughly before taking the exam.
Exam format: the exam is divided into three sections:
- Part I: Fill-in the blank exercises, matching and fill-in the tab exercises focused on the language component, for a total of 20 points.
- Part II: Short-answer questions. Each correct and complete answer (concise explanations, main ideas, key words, names, etc.) is worth 5 points, for a total of 50 points.
- Part III: Essay questions; each correct and complete answer is worth 15 points (based on content, vocabulary, detail, etc.) for a total of 30 points.

The final exam is cumulative.

Reflection Journal: The reflection journal accounts for 20% of the final course grade. Students will engage in a weekly writing exercise based on their experience in Florence, observations about the city, traditions and language insights related to the course topic explored during lectures. Each entry is between 200/250 words.

Assignments: This course requires at least 3 assignments as per the course outline in the syllabus. Further details are provided in the course portal.

10. COURSE OUTLINE

Lesson 1	
Meet	Ganzo, Via de' Macci 85/r
Lecture	Toponyms as a Cultural Heritage: Street Names in Florence. Inns and Cellars: Wine and Bar Culture in Italy.
Language Component	Grammar: verbs *essere* and *avere*, *vorrei* structure. Vocabulary: greetings, food and beverage. Communicative function: order at the restaurant.
Objectives	Gain knowledge of the cultural heritage featured by toponyms and place names in a community. Gain knowledge about historical taverns and their role as social aggregators in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Identify typical food and beverage and Italian diet habits. Be able to order at the restaurant.
Visit	Via Vinegia; Via della Mosca; Via Osteria del Guanto; Chiasso del Buco.
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Jordan, *Geographical Names as Part of The Cultural Heritage: Some General Thoughts*, in *Place Names as Intangible Cultural Heritage*. Assignment #1 assigned, due by next class meet: • Research a typical Florentine dish and prepare a 6-9 slide presentation. Illustrate its ingredients (in Italian), preparation, the historical context of its introduction, and its current significance for the city.

Lesson 2	
Meet	Ganzo, Via de' Macci 85/r
Lecture	The Historical Significance of the Italian Market.
Language Component	Grammar: *mi piace/mi piacciono* structures, irregular verb *bere*. Vocabulary: shops and stalls, clothes and materials. Communicative function: shop at the market and prepare a shopping list.
Objectives	Understand the role played by the old market in the city life and how it fostered a sense of community. Gain knowledge about typical products from the Florentine countryside. Identify the product supply and demand in ancient and contemporary Florence.
Visit	Via dei Magazzini; Via dell'Acqua; Piazza dell'Olio; Piazza del Pesce; Piazza del Grano.
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Hewlett, *Locating Contadini in the Renaissance City: Food Circulation and Mobility in the Marketplace*.

Lesson 3	
Meet	Ganzo, Via de' Macci 85/r
Lecture	Contemporary Jobs and Italian Employment System.

Language Component	Grammar: definite articles, regular verbs in -ARE, -ERE, -IRE.
	Vocabulary: common verbs and expressions with verb *fare*.
Objectives	Identify the most common jobs in Italy and understand the Italian employment system.
	Recognize the main sectors of the Florentine economy.
	Gain an understanding of the role played by work sectors in Florentine city life.
Visit	Piazza Santa Trinita; Piazza del Carmine; Via dei Tessitori; Via dell'Anconella.
Readings/ Assignments	McCarthy, *Italy Since 1945*, pp. 42-68.
	Assignment #2 assigned, due by next class meet:
	• Research an ancient Florentine economic sector whose activity still resonates in the city's street names. Provide an overview of 400-500 words on this activity and the importance it held for the city of Florence.

Lesson 4	
Meet	Ganzo, Via de' Macci 85/r
Lecture	Education and Culture: Florentine Educational Institutions and the Italian School System.
Language Component	Grammar: formal pronoun *Lei*.
	Vocabulary: school subjects and class objects.
	Communicative function: introduce yourself.
Objectives	Gain knowledge about the structure of the Italian school system and the cultural imprinting of different types of school.
	Gain an understanding of the differences between American and Italian higher education.
	Gain knowledge of when universities spread throughout Italy and Europe.
	Understand
Visit	Via dello Studio; Via della Colonna, Via Laura; Piazza San Marco.
Readings/ Assignments	Read: ELab, *The Education System in Italy*.
	FINAL PROJECT OVERVIEW.

Lesson 5	
Meet	Ganzo, Via de' Macci 85/r
Lecture	Geography of Florence: Rivers and Hills Around Florence.
Language Component	Grammar: impersonal and atmospheric verbs.
	Vocabulary: weather and degrees system.
	Communicative function: describing and giving information about weather.
Objectives	Understand how geographical features shape the collective imagination.
	Identify the geographic features of the city.
	Identify benefits and issues deriving from the geography and the relation between a community and its territory.
Visit	Via dell'Ortone; Via del Campofiore; Lungarno del Tempio; Pescaia di San Niccolò.
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Cassi, *Geographical aspects of place names research. An overview*, in *Place Names as Intangible Cultural Heritage*.
	MIDTERM ASSESSMENT ASSIGNED, due prior to next class meet.

Lesson 6	
Meet	Ganzo, Via de' Macci 85/r
Lecture	Historical Florentine Families.

Language Component	Grammar: possessive adjectives.
	Vocabulary: family ties.
	Communicative function: talk about your family and describe relationships with people.
Objectives	Gain knowledge about influential Florentine families and how they fostered arts in public and private spaces of the city.
	Gain knowledge about the memorialization of the past and the patronage of arts by powerful people in Florence.
	Identify the spaces dwelled in by important families and the influence they exerted by controlling those places.
	Identify the role and the cultural relevance embodied by the Italian family.
	Be able to talk about your family.
Visit	Via dell'Oriuolo, Canto dei Bischeri; Via de' Benci; Piazza dei Peruzzi; Piazza degli Strozzi; Via de' Bardi.
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Evanson, *Family*.

Lesson 7	
Meet	Ganzo, Via de' Macci 85/r
Lecture	The New City: Authentic City Life Outside City Walls.
Language Component	Grammar: irregular verb *andare*.
	Vocabulary: streets and directions.
	Language component: ask and give directions.
Objectives	Identify the new city conformation after Poggi's Plan implementation.
	Gain knowledge of the new centers of Florentine city life.
	Identify the surviving traces of the old city layouts.
	Understand how new challenges and needs shaped Florentine urban texture.
	Be able to ask and give directions in Italian.
Visit	Borgo la Croce; Piazza Beccaria; Via Gioberti; Via Capo di Mondo.
Readings	Read: Cochrane, *Gatecrashing: Florence's old gates*.
	Assignment #3 assigned, due by next lesson:
	• Working in groups, you will visit a residential neighborhood in Florence. Prepare a presentation of 6-9 slides, detailing historical aspects and identifying key community gathering places.

Lesson 8	
Meet	Ganzo, Via de' Macci 85/r
Lecture	Churches and Social Life in Florence.
Language Component	Vocabulary: colors and art vocabulary.
	Communicative function: make a technical sheet.
Objectives	Identify the social significance of Florentine churches.
	Identify the significance of religion through its traces within the city.
	Understand where Florentine social life takes place and how a sense of identity is fostered within the urban fabric.
Visit	Via delle Casine, Tabernacolo di Sant'Onofrio; Via di San Giuseppe, Chiesa Parrocchiale di San Giuseppe, Oratorio della Santa Maria Vergine della Croce al Tempio; Piazza del Limbo.
Readings	Read: Cochrane, *Gatecrashing: Florence's old gates*.

Lesson 9	
Meet	Ganzo, Via de' Macci 85/r
Lecture	Italian Sports and Fans Culture in Italy.
Language Component	Grammar: verbs *giocare* and *suonare*. Vocabulary: numbers from 1 to 100, sport vocabulary. Communicative function: talking about hobbies and free time.
Objectives	Gain knowledge of the sport culture in Italy and the social meaning of sport. Learn about the *tifosi* culture in Italy. Identify the most popular sports in Italy. Be able to talk about free time.
Visit/Lab	Piazza d'Azeglio; Via Mannelli, Stazione di Campo di Marte; Viale Manfredo Fanti, Stadio Artemio Franchi; Viale Pierluigi Nervi.
Readings	Read: Dal Lago and De Biasi, *Italian Football Fans Culture and Organization*. Read: Fonzo, *Italian Fascism and the Olympic Games*. FINAL PROJECT DUE

Lesson 10	
Meet	Ganzo, Via de' Macci 85/r
Lecture	The Italian healthcare system.
Language Component	Vocabulary: diseases and parts of the body. Communicative function: expressing diseases and not feeling good.
Objectives	Gain knowledge of the Italian healthcare system. Identify the Florentine medical institutions. Learn useful Italian phone numbers to be used in case of emergency.
Visit/Lab	Borgo Pinti; Via degli Artisti, Cimitero della Misericordia; Via Madonna della Tosse; Largo Adone Zoli, Chiesa della Madonna della Tosse.
Readings	Read: De Belvis, Antonio Giulio et al. *Italy: Health system review*, pp. 13-22.

Lesson 11 Final Exam	
Meet	Course platform
Lecture	FINAL EXAM