

ITALIAN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

ITAL 310: The Florence Experience V: Advanced Italian

Credits: 4

Instructor: Italian Staff

Schedule: TBA

Prerequisite: Three or four semesters of Italian

Site visit fee: \$ 35.00

Course Description:

The Florence Experience V is an interdisciplinary course which builds on four semesters of previous work. It focuses on achieving an advanced level in cultural and linguistic-communicative competences regarding a wide range of complex, longer oral and written texts. The course aims at developing such competences in order to enable students to express themselves fluently in a wide range of subjects and spontaneously participate in interaction with native speakers, while introducing them to various, relevant aspects of contemporary Florentine life and Italian culture. The course offers students an interdisciplinary experience in language learning made possible only by direct immersion in the target culture. Since language and culture are deeply connected (language IS culture and culture IS language), each class will introduce students to linguistic skills such as communicative structures, grammar structures, vocabulary and pronunciation, but will, at the same time, provide them with a deeper knowledge of Italian culture.

The city of Florence becomes a cultural laboratory: with its world-famous fashion concerns, its beautiful theaters and lively markets, its young writers, songwriters and actors, and its characteristic stores and artisans' workshops, it is a composite of contemporary Italian culture to be explored by the student.

In addition to classroom work based on the standard content of the fifth semester of language study, the course includes a series of on-site encounters, which will range from interviews with various exponents of Florentine society, to encounters with young Florentine actors who will offer interactive performances; field-trips and treasure hunts at the most vivacious markets in town, and encounters with students of the University of Florence. Students will encounter the author Camilla Trinchieri, who will conduct with them an interactive dialogue about her recent book *Il prezzo del silenzio*. Students will have to read the novel during the first part of the semester, and they will successively meet the author. Camilla Trinchieri will also hold a 6-hour workshop on creative writing (in Italian).

Course descriptions may be subject to occasional minor modifications at the discretion of the instructor.

- a) Textbook: S. Branciforte – A. Grassi, *Parliamo italiano!*, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston – New York, 2002 (seconda edizione)
- c) Supplementary Text (Reader)*: selected readings and class activities excerpted from contemporary Italian literary texts and other language textbooks, in addition to activities and handouts created by the instructor.
- d) Readings: Camilla Trinchieri, *Il prezzo del silenzio*, Marcos y Marcos – Milano 2008

During orientation at the Institute, students will receive a list of textbooks they are required to purchase. Students should not purchase any texts before orientation.