

RU IN ROME SUMMER 2018

Cultural Tour of Italy: Rome Edition (1.5 credits)

ITALIAN 01:560:248

This course is exclusively based on independent experience-based learning, and its assessment (exams, papers, and photo essays) will be conducted on Sakai. Using Rome as their classroom, students will complete independent walking tours, readings, and other assignments aimed at exposing them to Rome's formidable history, and allowing them to observe its role in present-day Italian and global culture.

SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Students are responsible for staying informed about any changes to the syllabus. When in doubt, consult your instructor.

Reference Texts Available with RU Library Access (via Sakai):

<https://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/encyclopedias>

Europe, 1450 to 1789: Encyclopedia of the Early Modern World. Jonathan Dewald, ed. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2004.

Europe 1789-1914: Encyclopedia of the Age of Industry and Empire. John Merriman and Jay Winter, eds. Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2006.

Europe Since 1914: Encyclopedia of the Age of War and Reconstruction. John Merriman and Jay Winter, eds. Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2006.

Encyclopedia of European Social History. Peter N. Stearns, ed. Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2001.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND REQUIREMENTS

20% - PRE-DEPARTURE EXAM

30% - 3 ASSIGNMENTS (PHOTO AND CAPTION; SHORT ESSAY)

50% - 5 PHOTO ESSAYS

PRE-DEPARTURE ASSIGNMENTS

Online EXAM JUNE 25, 2018

20% OF FINAL GRADE

REQUIRED FILMS (streaming access on Sakai):

La dolce vita, dir. Federico Fellini (1960)

La grande bellezza (The Great Beauty), dir. Paolo Sorrentino (2013)

REQUIRED READING AND RESEARCH (all specific reading assignments available on Sakai)

1. Study the numerous maps of Rome on Sakai ("Rome Maps") and be prepared to answer questions about them.

2. Read the following articles:

- Beppe Severgnini, *La bella figura: A Field Guide to the Italian Mind*, 2005

(excerpt)

- Jumpa Lahiri, "Teach Yourself Italian." *New Yorker Magazine*, 2015.

3. Research the following items and events using **reliable** sites such as Encyclopedia Britannica (not Wikipedia) and other reference materials available on from RU Library (see reference list above). Be prepared to answer questions about each item on a quiz or exam.

a. Founding myth. Describe and date Rome's founding myth.

b. Seven Hills of Rome: names and general locations

c. Tiber River

- d. Aurelian Wall, along with doors, or *porte* (Porta Pia, Porta Flaminia, etc.)
- e. SPQR--What does it stand for, where is it found, and what does it mean?
- f. The First 14 Rioni (neighborhoods) of Rome
- g. Risorgimento ca. 1820-1861
- h. The Breach of Porta Pia - 20 September 1870
- i. Roma capitale (Rome becomes capital of modern Italy) - February 1871
- j. Fascist Regime - 1922-1943
- k. Mussolini's March on Rome - 30 October 1922
- l. Fascist declaration of Empire in East Africa - May 1936
- j. Hitler visits Rome - May 1938
- k. Forced evacuation of Rome's Jewish Ghetto - 16-18 October 1943
- l. Allied liberation of Rome – September 1944

EXAM. June 25, 2018. 20% of FINAL GRADE

Multiple choice, fill in the blank exam covers all pre-departure assignments and materials (films, readings, and independent research).

ROME THROUGH THE AGES

IN COUNTRY URBAN OBSERVATION AND DOCUMENTATION ASSIGNMENTS

3 ASSIGNMENTS (PHOTO AND CAPTION; SHORT ESSAY): 30%

5 PHOTO ESSAYS: 50%

1. Founding myth.

ASSIGNMENT 1. 10% Find at least one icon representing the myth on the streets of Rome. Take a photo and write a 500-word paragraph describing the icon's placement, setting, and modern-day use. How is it incorporated into today's civic life, if at all?

2. Identify, locate (when appropriate), and describe the following urban features.

ASSIGNMENT 2. 10% Find one example of each, and take a photograph, paying close attention to its setting and any curiosities in its display/use. Write brief captions for each of your 5 images.

- a. Seven Hills of Rome
- b. Tiber River
- c. Aurelian Wall (along with the doors, *porte*)
- d. SPQR
- e. Placards of the original 14 Rioni (neighborhoods) of Rome (visible on buildings in historic center)

3. STUDY THE FOLLOWING SETS OF INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOW TO CREATE A PHOTO ESSAY (links on Sakai). Your photo essays **MUST** conform to the rules outlined in one or more of these sources.

<http://www.collectivelens.com/blog/creating-photo-essay/>

<https://www.lightstalking.com/create-meaningful-photography-essay-5-steps/>

<https://thecraft.shorthand.com/compiling-an-engaging-photo-essay/>

4. VISIT ST. PETER'S BASILICA AND SQUARE

Before you go: Research St. Peter's basilica and square.

<http://www.vaticanstate.va/content/vaticanstate/en/monumenti/basilica-di-s-pietro.html>

Which famous artists designed and built the basilica and square, when, and for what purpose? How are these spaces utilized today?

PHOTO ESSAY 1. 10% Select one feature that stands out the most to you about either the basilica or the square, and use it to make an original observation. Create a photo essay detailing your findings and impressions.

5. SELECT AND VISIT A 'PORTA' IN THE AURELIAN WALLS (eg: Porta Pia; Porta Flaminia; Porta Maggiore).

Before you go: Research the 'door' you've chosen.

What was its function originally, who designed and built it, and what is its function today? How is it used? Do you notice any 'creative' uses, or is it simply a point of passage from inside to outside the walls?

PHOTO ESSAY 2. 10% Use these questions to guide you to a 'thesis statement.' Create a photo essay detailing your findings and impressions, including your thesis statement.

6. VISIT THE JEWISH GHETTO OF ROME

Before you go: Read Elsa Morante's *A History* and complete the reading guide (available on Sakai; ignore the "discussion questions"). Research the history of Rome's Jewish Ghetto, particularly during World War II.

Who were the residents of the ghetto? What became of them in October of 1943? What is the purpose/function of the Jewish Ghetto today, as you observe it?

PHOTO ESSAY 3. 10% Use these questions to guide you to a 'thesis statement.' Create a photo essay detailing your findings and impressions, including your thesis statement.

7. VISIT THE COLOSSEUM AND THE 'SQUARE COLOSSEUM' (Palazzo della civiltà italiana) in EUR

Before you go: research the history of the Colosseum and the building of the 'Square Colosseum' (Palazzo della civiltà italiana) in EUR. Observe and describe both structures in detail.

When was each built, and what purpose did each serve? How does each structure reflect the time period in which it emerged? How is each structure utilized today? Note any inscriptions or significant details.

PHOTO ESSAY 4. 10% Use these questions to guide you to a 'thesis statement' comparing the two structures. Create a photo essay detailing your findings and impressions, including your thesis statement.

8. VISIT A NEIGHBORHOOD 'BAR' that is frequented by more locals than tourists at least 5 times around the same time each morning (between 8 and 9am). Spend at least 10 quiet minutes observing your surroundings each day.

Describe why you selected this location over others. Describe your fellow patrons – who frequents this bar (students? Professionals? Government officials? etc.), and what do they order? Describe their rapport with other patrons or bar staff. What cultural differences can you observe between the American 'coffee shop' or 'café' and the Italian 'bar'? What preliminary conclusions can you draw about Italian culture based on your observation of the bar?

PHOTO ESSAY 5. 10% Use these questions to guide you to a 'thesis statement' about Italian bar culture. Create a photo essay detailing your findings and impressions, including your thesis statement.

ROME AS PALIMPSEST. FINAL ESSAY. (Due in Dropbox on Sakai August 1, 2018).

Consult 3 reputable English-language dictionaries online (Oxford English Dictionary; Merriam Webster, etc.), and record three distinct definitions of the term *palimpsest*.

ASSIGNMENT 3. 10% Write a 5-6 page (1,500 word) essay about why many scholars have used the word *palimpsest* to describe Rome, and how the term relates to your experiences (detailed above) of Rome's art, architecture, and street life.

Attendance, Participation, and Disabilities Policies

Students are expected to attend all classes. In case students with disabilities should require any special type of assistance and would like to request accommodations, they must follow the procedures outlined at: <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>

Plagiarism

Active collaboration with classmates is encouraged in class discussion and preparation. You may share notes and ideas with other students. However, you may not collaborate with anyone else when taking the examinations. Written work and research must result from your own individual effort. In order to avoid plagiarism (the representation of the words or ideas of another as one's own), every quotation must be identified by quotation marks or by appropriate indentation and must be properly cited in the text or in a footnote. Always acknowledge your sources clearly and completely when you paraphrase or summarize material from another source (in print, electronic or other medium) in whole or in part in. If you are in doubt, please consult the policy on plagiarism and academic integrity at Rutgers and do not hesitate to ask your instructor.