

Academic Bulletin for Italy

CSU Florence Center

2025-26

Introduction

The Academic Bulletin is the CSU International Programs (CSU IP) “catalog” and provides academic information about the programs in Italy. This bulletin supersedes any previous bulletin published. This bulletin supersedes any previous bulletin(s) published.¹

CSU IP participants must read this publication in conjunction with the *Academic Guide for CSU IP Participants* (also known as the “*Academic Guide*”). The *Academic Guide* contains academic policies which will be applied to all CSU IP participants while abroad. Topics include but are not limited to CSU Registration, Enrollment Requirements, Minimum/Maximum Unit Load in a Semester, Attendance, Examinations, Assignment of Grades, Grading Symbols, Credit/No Credit Option, Course Withdrawals, and other policies. The *Academic Guide* also contains information on academic planning, how courses get credited to your degree, and the academic reporting process including when to expect your academic report at the end of your studies abroad.

To access the *Academic Guide*, go to our [website](#) and click the year which pertains to your study abroad period. For general information about the programs in Italy, refer to the CSU IP website under “[Programs](#).”

Academic Program Information

CSU IP Italy is in Florence where it operates its own study center known as the CSU Florence Center, which offers programs and coursework exclusively for CSU students. Program requirements are explained below.

Italian language: All CSU IP participants in Florence are required to take a mandatory Italian language course each semester. Italian language courses focus on the four language skills: speaking, reading, writing, and listening. Italian language courses are taught in Italian, and students receive letter grades only. Students who have had at least one college-level Italian course will take a placement test upon arrival in Florence and will be placed in the appropriate class based on the results of the test.

Continuing students are expected to progress to the next language level and are not permitted to repeat language courses they have passed with a grade of C or higher. Students who test above the level of Italian language courses offered are exempt from the language requirement.

Academic Programs: Students are placed in one of the three academic programs: Architecture, Liberal Studies, and Studio Art, as described below.

1. Architecture (yearlong program). Students take a prescribed set of Architecture courses and required Italian language courses supplemented by elective courses. Program requirements are listed in the following table.

Note that the required fall and spring Architecture courses are not sequential. In the course codes, “A” designates courses offered in fall and “B” designates courses offered in the spring. Refer to course descriptions for more information.

Semester of Study and Italian Language Experience	Program Requirements
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¹ This bulletin has been updated to clarify guidance regarding the assignment of the CSU grade of WU (Withdrawal Unauthorized). This clarification does not constitute a change in policy.

Fall semester for students with no Italian language experience or one semester of Italian language or equivalent	ITL 100 Elementary Italian language (6 units) ARC 401A/B Architecture Design Studio: Urban (5 units) ARC 403A/B Critical Architectural Narrative (2 units) ARC 408A/B Architectural Seminar (1 unit) Minimum total of 14 CSU semester units Students have the option of taking an elective course for a total enrollment of 15 to 17 units.
Fall and spring semester for students with two or more semesters of Italian language or equivalent	Intermediate or advanced Italian language (3 units) ARC 401A/B Architecture Design Studio: Landscape (5 units) ARC 403A/B Critical Architectural Narrative (2 units) ARC 408A/B Architectural Seminar (1 unit) One elective (3 units) Minimum total of 14 CSU semester units Students have the option of taking an extra elective course for a total enrollment of 15 to 17 units.

2. Liberal Studies. This program offers courses in humanities and social sciences disciplines. Humanities courses explore the arts, culture, language, literature, history, music, philosophy, and religion. Social science courses, primarily from the areas of communication studies, economics, political science, and sociology, delve into the historical and contemporary societal issues of Italy and wider Europe, providing a unique global perspective. By combining coursework with community engagement activities (refer to section on the CSU Florence Community Engagement Program on page 4), students develop a versatile skill set, including critical thinking, analysis, intercultural communication, research, writing, and presentation skills which can be applied towards a wide range of careers.

All students enroll in an Italian language course plus elective units to total 15 units as shown below.

Italian Language Experience	Program Requirements
No Italian language experience or one semester of Italian language or equivalent	ITL 100 Elementary Italian (6 units) Three electives (9 units) for a total minimum of 15 units
Two or more semesters of Italian language or equivalent	Intermediate or advanced Italian language (3 units) Four electives (12 units) for a total minimum of 15 units

Italian Studies Concentration in Spring. Within the Liberal Studies program, students attending the spring semester may focus on Italian Studies to gain more exposure to the Italian language. This concentration is available to students with at least one semester of Italian language (or equivalent) prior to the spring semester. Students take an Italian language at the appropriate level, the capstone course (HUM 325) plus either ART 417 or HUM 451 plus one additional elective of their choice. Assignments for the capstone course can be completed in Italian or English. Students are advised to discuss with their home campus advisor which option to choose if the course will be applied toward an Italian Studies major or minor.

Required capstone course:

- HUM 325 20th and 21st Century Italian Authors (taught in English)

Minimum of one elective from two courses below (both taught primarily in Italian):

- ART 417 Museum Studies: Florence, a City Museum, or
- HUM 451 Italian Cinema

3. Studio Art (yearlong program). In fall and spring semesters, students take courses at the CSU Florence Center as well as the *Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze* and/or the *Scuola del Nudo*.

All courses at the *Accademia* and *Scuola del Nudo* are taught in Italian. Therefore, CSU IP strongly recommends that all students take one, or if possible, two courses in Italian prior to their arrival in Florence. If Italian language is not

offered at the home CSU campus, search for courses offered through [CSU Fully Online](#), a community college or online language programs (e.g., Duolingo).

Students with little or no Italian language experience may still participate in this program, but they must be prepared to commit themselves to studying the language continuously throughout their program. To assist this group of students, a special section of elementary Italian will be offered in the fall. This section has more teaching hours and out-of-classroom work in the first half of the semester before course(s) at the *Accademia* begin, and decreased lecture hours for the remaining weeks of the semester. Art terms used at the *Accademia* will also be incorporated into language classes.

Below is the academic program at CSU for students enrolled in the Studio Art Program.

Fall semester:

Italian Language Experience	Program Requirements
No Italian language experience or one semester of Italian language or equivalent	ITL 100 Elementary Italian language (6 units) ART 150 Fundamentals of Art (1 unit) (seven-week course) Core course at the <i>Accademia or Scuola del Nudo</i> (6 units) One elective (3 units) Minimum total of 16 CSU semester units
Two or more semesters of Italian language or equivalent	Intermediate or Advanced Italian language (3 units) ART 150 Fundamentals of Art (1 unit) (seven-week course) Core course at the <i>Accademia or Scuola del Nudo</i> (6 units) Two electives (6 units)* Minimum total of 16 CSU semester units

Spring semester:

Italian Language Experience	Program Requirements
Two or more semesters of Italian language or equivalent	Intermediate or Advanced Italian language (3 units) ART 490 Professional Practices for the Studio Artist (3 units) Core course at the <i>Accademia or Scuola del Nudo</i> (6 units) One elective course (3 units)* Minimum total of 15 CSU semester units

*For elective courses, students may enroll in one additional three-unit course at the *Accademia* per semester or enroll in course(s) at the CSU Florence Center.

For detailed program requirements and course information, click on [Studio Art Program](#).

Learning Management System: The Learning Management System for CSU is Canvas. All registered students are required to use Canvas for CSU Florence Center courses. All students are required to login to the Chancellor’s Office Canvas system and to activate their account **before** coming to Italy by accessing the following link: csuco.instructure.com. Remember to use your CSU home campus email address when logging in.

Unit Enrollment: Students enroll in a minimum of 14 or 16 units each semester depending on their Italian language level. Students may select additional elective courses up to a maximum of 20 units. During the initial registration period prior to arrival, enrollment in elective courses will be limited to the minimum number of electives for the student’s program. This will be strictly enforced. Priority registration and other prerequisites may apply as referenced in course descriptions in subsequent pages. Students may enroll in additional electives during the add/drop period, the first two weeks of the semester.

Field Trips: The CSU IP Florence Program enhances classroom learning with mandatory field trips designed to connect directly with course themes. These immersive experiences extend beyond traditional archaeological sites (e.g., Pompeii, the Colosseum), museums, and art collections, exploring a wide spectrum of cultural institutions. The

specific destinations vary each year, but past trips have included the Museum of Cinema in Turin, the Florence American Cemetery, the Food and Agriculture Organization and/or the anti-mafia Extra Libera organization in Rome, and Machiavelli's house near Florence. CSU faculty and guest guides accompany these trips, offering lectures and presentations to enrich the on-site learning experience. Students may also participate by delivering on-site presentations as part of their coursework. *Mandatory field trips listed on a syllabus are integral to the corresponding course; absence without a medical excuse will be considered an unexcused absence.*

Class Site Visits and Special Lectures: In addition to the general field trips for all students, several classes in the Florence Program offer mandatory class site visits and special guest lectures that are an integral part of the courses. The price of admission tickets for entry to museums and other local institutions is not included in tuition costs, and students should expect to pay out-of-pocket for the activities. Course descriptions below include information about class site visits. Details for each site visit and the costs involved are listed individually on each class syllabus. **Class Site visits are often scheduled on Fridays and are mandatory.**

The CSU Florence Community Engagement Program: In Florence, students have the option to participate in many activities that help them understand the subtleties of Italian culture from various perspectives, outside of academic requirements. These activities include culture and conversation exchanges with Italian high school students and their families, providing English and/or Spanish teaching assistance/support in Italian schools or helping at a local women's shelter. These activities are on a volunteer basis and are great opportunities for students to immerse themselves in the local culture, connect with local people, improve their Italian language skills, learn first-hand about Florentine customs and traditions and assist them to develop useful skills that they can apply to the workforce.

The CSU Florence Italian Language Club: Established in 2023-24, this club creates a vibrant community through monthly film screenings, music nights and cultural events. Students engage in language practice, cultural exchange, and career exploration through activities like tutoring, interviews with Italian peers and visits to artists' studios.

Extra-Curricular Activities: Students. The CSU Florence Center organizes extra-curricular activities for its students such as cooking classes, olive oil and wine appreciation classes, and sporting events.

Academic Calendar

Below is the academic calendar for the CSU Florence Center for all students. Note that field trip dates and locations are subject to change. Check the next version of the academic bulletin provided by July 31, 2025, for any updates.

CSU Florence Center: Academic Calendar for Fall 2025	Dates
Student arrival at the CSU Florence Center	Monday, September 1
Fall orientation	Tuesday - Friday, September 2-5
Start of fall semester courses	Monday, September 8
Last day to add/drop a semester course	Thursday, September 18
CSU Field Trip # 1 – Etruscan Tuscany	Friday, September 19 - Saturday, September 20
Last day to withdraw from a course without a "W" grade	Thursday, September 25
Mid-term exams	Monday, October 20 – Thursday, October 23
Italian national holiday: All Saint's Day	Saturday, November 1
Last day to submit Credit/No Credit form	Wednesday, November 12
CSU Field Trip # 2 – Northern Italy	Friday, November 14 - Sunday, November 16
Thanksgiving Break (no class)	Thursday, November 27 - Sunday, November 30
CSU Group Holiday Dinner	Thursday, December 4
Italian national holiday: Feast of Immaculate Conception* (no class)	Monday, December 8

Final exams	Monday, December 15 – Thursday, December 18
End of the semester for CSU Florence Center	Thursday, December 18
IMPORTANT: Final exams are from December 15 to 18. Do not schedule departure before December 19.	
Holiday break for Studio Art students attending the <i>Accademia</i>	Saturday, December 20, 2025 - Tuesday, January 6, 2026. Classes at Accademia resume on January 7.

CSU Florence Center: Academic Calendar for Spring 2026	Dates
Student arrival at the CSU Florence Center (for new spring students only)	Monday, January 12, 2026
Orientation (for new students only)	Tuesday – Friday, January 13 - 16
Start of spring semester courses at CSU Florence Center (for all students)	Monday, January 19
Last day to add/drop a spring semester course	Thursday, January 29
CSU Field Trip #3 - Siena	Friday, January 30
Last day to withdraw from a course without a “W” grade	Thursday, February 5
Mid-term exams	Monday, March 2 – Thursday, March 5
Spring Break	Friday, March 6 – Sunday, March 15
CSU Field Trip #4 – Southern Italy	Thursday, March 26 - Sunday, March 29
Last day to submit Credit/No Credit form	Wednesday, April 1
Italian national holiday: Easter	Sunday, April 5
Italian national holiday: Easter Monday (no class)	Monday, April 6
Italian national holiday: Liberation Day	Saturday, April 25
CSU Group Farewell Dinner	Thursday, April 30
Italian national holiday: Labor Day (no class)	Friday, May 1
Final exams	Monday, May 4 – Thursday, May 7
End of the semester for CSU Florence Center	Thursday, May 7
Note: Final exams are from May 4 to May 7. Do not schedule departure before May 8.	

Studio art students also follow the academic calendar of the *Accademia* below:

Accademia Academic Calendar for 2025-26	Dates (Tentative)°
Registration for the <i>Accademia</i>	September 30
Start of the first semester at the <i>Accademia</i>	Monday, October 20
Holiday break	December 20 - January 6
First semester classes resume at the <i>Accademia</i>	Wednesday, January 7
End of the first semester at the <i>Accademia</i>	February 7
First semester <i>Accademia</i> final exams	February 12 - February 18
Start of the second semester at the <i>Accademia</i>	March 2
Spring break at the <i>Accademia</i>	April 2 - April 9
Italian national holiday: Liberation Day	Saturday, April 25
Italian national holiday: Labor Day	Friday, May 1
End of the second semester at the <i>Accademia</i>	June 13

Italian regional holiday (Florence): Patron Saint of Florence, St. John the Baptist	June 24
Second semester <i>Accademia</i> final exams	June 15 - June 30
Spring term end date for the <i>Accademia</i> (studio art only)	June 30
Students must plan to stay in Florence to complete final exams. Do not schedule departure before July 1.	

*The *Accademia* academic calendar with confirmed dates will not be available until early October.

Grading and Units

The grading system at the CSU Florence Center in Florence is comparable to the grading scale used at the CSU as follows:

CSU Florence Center Grade	CSU Grade
A	A
A-	A-
B+	B+
B	B
B-	B-
C+	C+
C	C
C-	C-
D+	D+
D	D
D-	D-
F	F
WU	WU

<i>Accademia</i> Grade	CSU Grade
28-30/30	A
27	A-
26	B+
25	B
24	B-
23	C+
21-22	C
20	C-
19	D
0-18	F

The CSU grade of WU (Withdrawal Unauthorized) may be given in some circumstances. Refer to the Academic Guide for additional grade information.

Unit Conversion Guidelines: For every credit earned at CSU Florence Center, a CSU IP student earns one CSU semester unit. To convert the value of CSU semester units into CSU quarter units, multiply the CSU semester units by 1.5.

Unit Load: Students may enroll in up to 20 units without submitting a General Petition Form. Students interested in enrolling in more than 20 units must complete the General Petition form within the first week of the semester.

Attendance Policy: Students are required to attend all scheduled classes, site visits, make-up sessions, and field trips, including Fridays and occasional weekends, as outlined in course syllabi on Canvas and the CSU Academic Calendar. Attendance policies are strictly enforced at the CSU Florence center. Absences can affect grades as explained below.

For semester courses meeting once a week (except for seven-week courses). More than two absences will lower the final grade as follows:

- Three absences will lower the final grade by one letter grade.
- Four or more absences may result in course failure.

For semester courses meeting twice a week. More than three absences will lower the final grade as follows:

- Four absences lower the final grade by one letter grade.
- Five absences will lower the final grade by two letter grades.
- Six or more absences may result in course failure.

For semester courses meeting more than twice a week. More than four absences will lower the final grade as follows:

- Five absences will lower the final grade by one letter grade.
- Six absences will lower the final grade by two letter grades.
- Seven or more absences may result in course failure.

For intensive seven-week courses (ART 150 and ART 160). Only one absence is permitted. More than one absence will result in course failure.

CSU Group Field Trips: Attendance in these trips is mandatory for all students. The locations of field trips provide valuable opportunities for students to experience Italy's history and culture firsthand. Students must attend all scheduled field trip activities. Absence from a field trip will count as an absence in your Italian language course. When field trip activities are directly related to specific courses and included in the course syllabus (e.g., art history, architecture, social sciences, etc.), absence from a field trip will additionally count as an absence in the specific course. Missing specific activities during a field trip could also negatively affect your attendance and participation grade in some of your courses. No refund will be provided for any missed group activity.

Refer to the [CSU Florence Attendance Policy](#) and course syllabi for additional information and policies with regards to attendance and class participation

Course Offerings at the CSU Florence Center

A complete course listing with course descriptions and unit values (noted in parenthesis) is provided below. Courses are subject to availability. Courses with an enrollment of four or fewer students are subject to cancellation for that term. Affected students will be contacted to identify alternatives.

Spring semester courses which are taught in Italian can be taken by students who have completed at least two semesters of Italian (or the equivalent of ITL 102).

Course syllabi are made available by the first day of class. Syllabi for courses offered in previous years can be found on the "Academic Information" section of the [brochure webpage](#).

Course Coding

100-299 Lower Division

ARC

Architecture

300-499 Upper Division	ART	Art and Art History
	HUM	Humanities
	ITL	Italian Language
	SSC	Social Science

All courses below are three units each except for those designated in parentheses.

Fall Semester Courses	Spring Semester Courses
<p>ARCHITECTURE (ARC) ARC 401A Architectural Design Studio: Urban (5)* ARC 403A Critical Architectural Narrative: Urban (2)* ARC 408A Architectural Seminar (1)*</p> <p>ARCHITECTURE (ARC) ELECTIVE ARC 406 Florentine Architecture</p> <p>ART AND ART HISTORY (ART) ART 150 Fundamentals of Art (1)** ART 160 Introduction to Drawing: Drawing in the City of Florence (1) ART 403 Early Renaissance Art in Italy ART 405 Italian Mannerist and Baroque Art and Architecture ART 406 Florentine Architecture ART 423 Leonardo Da Vinci: Art and Science</p> <p>HUMANITIES (HUM) HUM 322 Transnational Identities and Narratives in Contemporary Italian Literature HUM 330 Classical Mythology and Religion HUM 332 History of Ancient Rome: The Republic HUM 336 The Ancient City in Italy: Etruria, Western Greece and Rome HUM 360 Women, Gender, and the Body in Italian Society HUM 365 Love, Lust, and Damnation: Discovering Italian Opera and Performance HUM 499 Internship (for 2nd semester students only)</p> <p>ITALIAN LANGUAGE (ITL) ITL 100 Elementary Italian (6) ITL 201 Intermediate Italian I ITL 202 Intermediate Italian II ITL 301 Advanced Italian I ITL 302 Advanced Italian II ITL 330 <u>Advanced Syntax, Grammar and Lexical Studies</u></p> <p>SOCIAL SCIENCES (SSC) SSC 360 Women, Gender, and the Body in Italian Society SSC 375 Intercultural Communication, Identity, and Diversity SSC 410 The European Union</p>	<p>ARCHITECTURE (ARC) REQUIRED COURSES ARC 401B Architectural Design Studio: Landscape (5)* ARC 403B Critical Architectural Narrative: Landscape (2)* ARC 408B Architectural Seminar (1)*</p> <p>ARCHITECTURE (ARC) ELECTIVE ARC 410 Etruscan and Roman Architecture</p> <p>ART AND ART HISTORY (ART) ART 160 Introduction to Drawing: Drawing in the City of Florence (1) ART 390 Independent Study in Studio Art ** ART 401 Women in the Arts in Italy ART 404 Italian High Renaissance Art ART 410 20th Century Italian Art ART 417 Museum Studies: Florence, A City Museum ++ ART 490 Professional Practices for the Studio Artist**</p> <p>HUMANITIES (HUM) HUM 310 The Italian Renaissance HUM 320 Travel Writing and Literature HUM 325 20th and 21st Century Italian Authors HUM 334 History of Ancient Rome: The Empire HUM 410 Etruscan and Roman Architecture HUM 451 Italian Cinema ++ HUM 499 Internship (for 2ND semester students only)</p> <p>ITALIAN LANGUAGE (ITL) ITL 100 Elementary Italian (6) ITL 201 Intermediate Italian I ITL 202 Intermediate Italian II ITL 301 Advanced Italian I ITL 302 Advanced Italian II ITL 330 Advanced Syntax, Grammar, and Lexical Studies</p> <p>SOCIAL SCIENCES (SSC) SSC 308 Contemporary Issues in European Political Systems: Social Divisions, Populism and Migration SSC 313 Political and Economic History of Modern Europe SSC 405 Italian Politics and Society: Local and National Intersections SSC 420 The Italian Mafias</p>

SSC 420 The Italian Mafias	
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*Required courses for and only available to students enrolled in the Architecture program.

**Restricted course for yearlong studio art students only. Refer to course description.

++ Course taught in Italian. Refer to course descriptions for restrictions.

Course Descriptions

Unit values are indicated in parentheses next to each course title.

ARCHITECTURE (ARC) REQUIRED COURSES

ARC 401A Architectural Design Studio: Urban (5)

Prerequisite: Restricted to students in the Architecture Program. Students work independently or in groups on one or more architectural design assignments that are deeply rooted within the Florence urban context and critically confront with its conditions. In particular, the students will focus their attention on issues related to construction and renovation in historical contexts as dealt with by the contemporary architectural culture. Issues of urban planning and design within the current contemporary urban condition will be at the core of the discussions along with a reflection on the climate crisis's architectural consequences. The course includes field trips and site visits. Required course for Architecture students. Offered fall.

ARC 401B Architectural Design Studio: Landscape (5)

Prerequisite: Restricted to students in the Architecture Program. Students work independently or in groups on one or more architectural design assignments that are deeply rooted within the Tuscan countryside and critically confront with its conditions. In particular, the students will focus their attention on issues related to construction and renovation in historical contexts as dealt with by the contemporary architectural culture. Issues of landscape planning and design within the current contemporary urban condition will be at the core of the discussions along with a reflection on the climate crisis's architectural consequences. The course includes field trips and site visits. Required course for Architecture students. Offered spring.

ARC 403A Critical Architectural Narrative: Urban (2)

Prerequisite: Restricted to students in the Architecture Program. The students will work on the written, oral, and graphic communication of the theoretical propositions of their Architectural Design Studio - Urban project. This approach will be structured upon the understanding of the importance of language both in the conception and in the production of the architectural project. Required course for Architecture students. Offered fall.

ARC 403B Critical Architectural Narrative: Landscape (2)

Prerequisite: Restricted to students in the Architecture Program. The students will work on the written, oral, and graphic communication of the theoretical propositions of their Architectural Design Studio - Landscape project. This approach will be structured upon the understanding of the importance of language both in the conception and in the production of the architectural project. Required course for Architecture students. Offered spring.

ARC 408A Architectural Seminar (1)

Prerequisite: Restricted to students in the Architecture Program. Readings, class and guest lectures, seminars and workshops on various themes related to the project topics will generate a common cultural ground and reinforce the multidisciplinary approach of the Architectural Design Studio. The students will have the chance to continuously engage in the architectural debate, participating in class discussions with their peers, faculty, and guests. Required course for Architecture students. Offered fall.

ARC 408B Architectural Seminar (1)

Prerequisite: Restricted to students in the Architecture Program. Readings, class and guest lectures, seminars and workshops on various themes related to the project topics will generate a common cultural ground and reinforce the multidisciplinary approach of the Architectural Design Studio. The students will have the chance to continuously

engage in the architectural debate, participating in class discussions with their peers, faculty, and guests. Required course for Architecture students. Offered spring.

ARCHITECTURE (ARC): ELECTIVE COURSES

ARC 406 Florentine Architecture (3)

After a survey of Florentine architectural traditions about 1000-1530, attention focuses on Renaissance architecture's emergence. The achievements of Brunelleschi, Alberti, Palladio, Michelangelo, and Leonardo da Vinci are examined in detail. Special attention is also given to the development of important building types, such as the urban palace. **Limited to 35 students.** Offered fall. (Cross-listed as ART 406 for non-Architecture students.)

ARC 410 Etruscan and Roman Architecture (3)

This course focuses on Etruscan and Roman architecture with site visits to principal monuments of ancient Etruria and Rome. After a brief historical introduction, the course examines Etruscan architecture: town planning, domestic and religious buildings, cemeteries, and funerary architecture. It examines Etruscan techniques, materials, decorations, and influences on Roman architecture. The course also examines the development of Roman architecture, techniques, materials and methods from Etruscan Rome through the Republic, the Age of Augustus, and the Empire, including the architecture of the provinces. Offered spring. (Cross-listed as HUM 410 for non-Architecture students.)

ART AND ART HISTORY (ART)

ART 150 Fundamentals of Art (1)

This seven-week course starts the week following the orientation in the fall and is a required preparatory art course for studio art students who will be studying at the *Accademia*. Consisting of lectures and studio art practice, the course is a review of the fundamentals of art as it pertains to drawing and painting. Students will practice observational drawing including proportions, perspective, and the structure of the human form. Art-related terminology in Italian will be taught and used throughout the course. An academic orientation to the *Accademia* will also be given. Offered fall. Credit/No Credit grading only.

ART 160 Introduction to Drawing: Drawing in the City of Florence (1)

This introductory course explores drawing fundamentals through a variety of techniques and subjects in Florence, aiming to enhance both observational skills and the use of a diverse set of materials, such as pencils, charcoal, chalk, and colored pencils. Students will draw from direct observation both in and outside the classroom, in the city's piazzas, gardens and museums. They will look at works of art--drawings, paintings, sculptures and architecture--and learn to keep a sketchbook as well as how to build a digital portfolio. This course is offered in the last seven weeks of the fall semester, the first seven weeks of the spring semester, and the last seven weeks of the spring semester. **Limited to 12 students.** Not open to studio art students who are attending the *Accademia*. This course cannot be repeated for credit. Offered fall and spring. Credit/No Credit only.

ART 390 Independent Study in Studio Art (3)

Prerequisite: Restricted to yearlong students in the Studio Art Program with a declared major or minor in Studio Art. Open only in exceptional circumstances. Based on availability and by special permission from the Resident Director, the Studio Art Advisor, and CSU IP.

Students work on a personal project in a chosen media/technique to be approved by the Advisor. A detailed proposal and technical analysis related to the idea and progress of the project are required. Students engage in group discussions on their artwork with their peers and professor to refine their ongoing research and evolution of their project. Offered spring.

ART 401 Women in the Arts in Italy (3)

This course will cover imagery focused on women in Italian art and culture from the Middle Ages through the Renaissance and Baroque periods, including the Virgin Mary, female saints and martyrs, heroines, goddesses, sibyls, wives, and courtesans. It will also study outstanding female artists and patrons. In addition to the periods cited



above, the study of female artists and patrons will also include examples from the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries. The subjects discussed will be examined within their social and cultural context, and as reflections of the role of women in their respective time periods. The course will include visits on site to museums and monuments in Florence, as well as a possible day field trip to Bologna. **Limited to 20 students.** Priority registration will be given to academic year students or to students majoring or minoring in Art History. Offered spring.

ART 403 Early Renaissance Art in Italy (3)

This course offers a survey of Italian Renaissance art and architecture (c. 1300-1500), focusing on Florence. It examines major works of painting, sculpture, architecture, and decorative arts from social, political, aesthetic, and religious perspectives. It emphasizes style, patronage, and artistic techniques, with each class dedicated to a specific artist or topic through class lectures and site visits in Florence. **Limited to 20 students.** Offered fall.

ART 404 Italian High Renaissance Art (3)

This course offers a survey of Italian art in the period between 1470-1530, concentrating on the High Renaissance and its genesis in the major centers of Florence, Rome, and Northern Italy. The achievements of Leonardo, Raphael, and Michelangelo are examined in detail. **Limited to 20 students.** Priority registration will be given to academic year students or to students majoring or minoring in Art History. Offered spring.

ART 405 Italian Mannerist and Baroque Art and Architecture (3)

Survey of Italian Mannerist and Baroque art and architecture approximately 1520-1680. It begins with the anti-classical early Mannerist style, examined in the context of political and religious crises, and next covers the Baroque as it developed in reaction to the artificiality of late Mannerism. The course concludes with the High Baroque focused on Rome, where the style arose largely through Bernini and the patronage of the Church. It includes on-site lectures in Florence and site visits. **Limited to 20 students.** Offered fall.

ART 406 Florentine Architecture (3)

After a survey of Florentine architectural traditions circa 1000-1530, attention focuses on the emergence of Renaissance architecture. The achievements of Brunelleschi, Alberti, Palladio, Michelangelo, and Leonardo da Vinci are examined in detail. Special attention is also given to the development of important building types, such as the urban palace. **Limited to 35 students.** Offered fall. (Cross-listed as ARC 406 for Architecture students.)

ART 410 20th Century Italian Art (3)

The first section of this course surveys major Italian artists and movements of 20th Century Italy: Futurism, meta-physical art, Arte Povera, and Transavanguardia and their relationship compared to Europe and America. The second section focuses on contemporary art in Florence and the magnetic power of Tuscany on artists from around the world and their influence on the region. Includes occasional site visits. Offered spring.

ART 417 Museum Studies: Florence, A City Museum (3)

The course covers topics in museology, the history of collecting in Florence, and the history of Florence and its museums over the centuries. Class lectures focus on specific topics such as the birth and development of early collections, private and public goods, ownership and fruition of the collections, choices in displaying a collection, restoration activities. The course includes visits to significant Florentine museums, ranging from dynastic and state institutions to religious and private collections. **Taught in Italian**, the course favors an interactive approach among students and instructor, improving students' technical vocabulary in language and developing their capability to describe and discuss museum topics. Prerequisites: Six units of Italian language (or equivalent). **Limited to 20 students.** Priority registration will be given to academic year students or students majoring or minoring in Art History, Studio Art, or Italian/Italian Studies. Offered spring.

ART 423 Leonardo Da Vinci: Art and Science (3)

The life and work of the most famous Renaissance man, whose ideas and innovations extended into almost every area of human activity, will be thoroughly examined to connect his art to his science and his era to our present time. The mind of the “genius” will be analyzed throughout his notebooks and paintings, which will be discussed in light of the most recent documents and interpretations. His scientific approach will be compared to current studies. Class site visits will be organized in nearby Vinci (Leonardo’s birthplace). **Limited to 24 students.** Priority registration will be given to students majoring or minoring in art history. Offered fall.

ART 490 Professional Practices for the Studio Artist (3)

Prerequisite: Restricted to yearlong Studio Art students.

Based on the artwork produced at the *Accademia* and through mandatory participation in the year-end art show, this course concentrates on learning how to curate and professionally present a coherent body of work on printed and digital materials and publications; planning and presenting a group exhibition from the research stage to the physical set-up of the show, including all the coordination, logistical, and practical work to be done with others; creating a catalog, poster, and invitation for the year-end student art show; meeting with art critics and curators and developing critical analysis ability in discussing artworks, writing an artist statement, creating a portfolio, and talking about one’s work in public. All aspects of this course are aimed at helping students obtain professional experience toward their future career goals. This course is required for all yearlong Studio Art students. Offered spring.

HUMANITIES (HUM)

HUM 310 The Italian Renaissance (3)

This course offers a survey of Italian history from the age of Dante to the Counter-Reformation. It provides a basic understanding of the forces and processes that shaped the states and the societies of the peninsula in an era of extraordinary changes. It covers the main social, political, and economic phenomena and the principal cultural movements that shaped the country’s history. Offered spring. This course replaces SSC 301 History of the Italian Renaissance. Offered spring.

HUM 320 Travel Writing and Literature (3)

The basis of this course is the development of creative writing skills by focusing on the genre of travel writing. Students will read and discuss extracts from the great classics of travel writing as well as current travel journalism published in newspapers magazines and on-line. Most of all this class is a writing workshop, and students will be writing for nearly every class and often in class, too. Assignments will focus on helping the student find an individual voice, on developing ideas and honing them through revision and drafting, on writing for different audiences, and on the inclusion of photographs in their written work. Emphasis will also be placed on the student’s ability to evaluate and critique their own work and that of others. Offered spring.

HUM 322 Transnational Identities and Narratives in Contemporary Italian Literature (3)

An introduction to issues of difference, identity, intercultural communication, and literary representation through the careful analysis of texts drawn from a wide range of voices and multiple genres; it examines how *Otherness* has been imagined and depicted in literature by contemporary migrant Italian authors. Through questioning the underlying assumptions in Italian literature, we explore the processes of constructing and representing the *Otherness* and diversity in terms of gender, culture, ethnicity, social class, sexual orientation, religion, and nationality. Offered fall.

HUM 325 20th and 21st Century Italian Authors (3)

This course explores the emergence of the Italian identity through literature from 1900 to today. It looks at contemporary Italian novelists and how their works have defined Italian cultural and literary identity. Emphasis is given to important cultural debates in European literature highlighting the dialogue between Italian traditions and avant-garde perspectives. Introduces students to several women writers and poets and investigates gender issues in contemporary Italian literature. Analyzes various language styles and writing techniques of the works discussed to enhance students’ critical competence, language comprehension, and fluency. Requirements are regular written essays



and in-class oral presentations. Taught in English. Assignments can be completed in English or Italian. Course was previously numbered ITL 352. Offered spring.

HUM 330 Classical Mythology and Religion (3)

This course studies the religious systems and myths of ancient Greek, Roman, and Mediterranean cultures which have provided background for Western literary and cultural traditions for centuries. Focuses on mythology and religion in ancient Greece and Rome and the use of myth in Greek and Roman literature (Hesiod, Ovid among others). **Limited to 25 students.** Offered fall. Course was previously numbered HCL 302.

HUM 332 History of Ancient Rome: The Republic (3)

This course examines the political and social history of ancient Rome from its legendary origins to the outbreak of the Civil War in 49 BCE. The course covers major institutions and prominent figures of the Republic. Students read excerpts from major republican authors such as Sallust and Cicero and imperial historians of the Republic such as Livy. Offered fall. Course was previously numbered HCL 401.

HUM 334 History of Ancient Rome: The Empire (3)

This course studies the political and social history of ancient Rome from the time of Julius Caesar through the barbarian invasions to the time of Justinian. It examines the major institutions and prominent figures of the Roman Empire. Students read excerpts from major authors of the period such as Suetonius and Tacitus. Offered spring. Course was previously numbered HCL 402.

HUM 336 The Ancient City Italy: Etruria, Western Greece and Rome (3)

The course deals with the birth and evolution of cities in Ancient Italy, focusing on the concept of the city in the three main civilizations of Italy during the first millennium BCE: the Etruscans, the Greeks, and the Romans. The ancient city will be examined as an organized community where different social classes, political, and religious institutions developed places to fulfill their common needs. Therefore, the city in history, not only means social progress and organization but also architectural and urban planning: the evolution of communities into organized spaces. Each one of the three great civilizations of ancient Italy contributed to the birth and development of the most important social structure of all time, extending into our contemporary, cosmopolitan world. Offered fall. Course was previously numbered HCL 451.

HUM 360 Women, Gender, and the Body in Italian Society

This course explores the historical and theoretical dimensions of the body, sexuality, and gender in Italian culture and society from the Renaissance to the 21st century. By exploring literary, social, historical, and visual texts, we will explore how concepts of body, sex and gender have varied over time, shaped Italian social, historical and literary constructs, and legitimated violence. We will investigate how gendered bodies often served to justify social and political hierarchies, and how stereotypes have limited the expression of diverse gender identities and sexualities. The course will adopt an intersectional approach, by drawing from various disciplines such as history, literature, philosophy, visual and performing arts, and consider the experiences of marginalized groups, including non-white and non-heterosexual individuals, authors, activists, and performers. Cross-listed as SSC 360. Offered fall.



HUM 365 Love, Lust, and Damnation: Discovering Italian Opera and Performance (3)

This course focuses on Italian Opera as one of the most emotional, dramatic, and spectacular art-form, from its invention in Florence in the 17th century to the latest operas of the 20th century. Through an interdisciplinary approach, it examines the historical, sociological, musical, theatrical, literary, and technical elements of Italian Opera. It also provides a deep understanding of how the creative process is influenced by specific environments and marketing/business practices, investigates the complexity and the ambiguity of human voices that transcend gender prescription, and analyzes the cross-dressing phenomena of the 21st century productions. Attendance at a locally produced opera performance is required. Offered fall. This course replaces ITL 342 Italian Opera as Drama.



HUM 410 Etruscan and Roman Architecture (3)

This course focuses on Etruscan and Roman architecture with site visits to principal monuments of ancient Etruria and Rome. After a brief historical introduction, it examines Etruscan architecture: town planning, domestic and

religious buildings, cemeteries, and funerary architecture. It examines Etruscan techniques, materials, decorations, and influences on Roman architecture. It also examines the development of Roman architecture, techniques, materials and methods from Etruscan Rome through the Republic, the Age of Augustus, and the Empire, including the architecture of the provinces. Offered spring. (Cross-listed as ARC 410 for Architecture students.) Course was previously numbered HCL 405.

HUM 451 Italian Cinema (3)

This course analyzes significant Italian films from World War II to the present to analyze the complex relationship between cinema and society. Its topics include the representation of “power cinema,” censorship, violence in film, and the moral and ideological responsibility of cinema. Several films are viewed and discussed. **Taught in Italian.** Prerequisites: Six units of Italian language (or equivalent). Priority will be given to academic year students and students majoring or minoring in Italian/Italian Studies. Offered in spring. Course was previously numbered ITL 340.

HUM 499 Internship (1-3)

Prerequisite: Restricted to students who have completed one semester of study at the CSU Florence Center with a 3.0 or higher. Subject to availability and final approval from CSU IP. This course may be offered fall and/or spring.

Internships may be available through the Museum Events of Florence (Mus.E). Mus.E handles the enhancement of the Florentine Civic Museums and in general of the city of Florence. It organizes cultural projects, exhibitions, workshops, and events that will help the public enjoy heritage and art through a unique experience. [This is an excellent opportunity for students interested in art education, tourism, events management, museum studies, or Italian studies.]

Internships are subject to a competitive selection process and are arranged during the student’s first semester for the following semester through an application and interview process which must be completed before first semester ends. Interns serve at least 40 hours per semester for one unit (course number HUM 499.1), 80 hours for two units (course number HUM 499.2), and 120 hours for three units (course number HUM 499.3). Students are required to complete academic assignments and evaluations as part of this course. Internships must not interfere with other courses. Letter grading only.

A special insurance policy must be purchased by the student in Italy which costs approximately 120 euros. For additional information, refer to “Internships” in the “Academic Guide for CSU IP Participants” publication.

ITALIAN LANGUAGE (ITL)

All Italian language courses are taught in Italian and must be taken for a grade.

ITL 100 Elementary Italian (6)

This Italian language course is designed for students with no or limited prior Italian language experience of one semester or less. The primary objective is to provide a basic understanding of Italian grammar combined with conversation. By the end of the semester, students will be able to engage in basic everyday conversations with native Italian speakers, both orally and in writing. The course emphasizes a comprehensive approach, that includes the fundamental language skills: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Offered fall and spring. This course replaces ITL 101I, ITL 102, and ITL 125.

Studio art students attending the *Accademia* will be placed in a special section of Elementary Italian. This section will have more teaching hours and out-of-classroom work during the first half of the semester and decreased lectures hours and class-of-classroom work in the second half of the semester. Classes also include artistic and cultural Italian lexicon to prepare students for the *Accademia* or the *Scuola del Nudo* courses.

ITL 201 Intermediate Italian (3)

Continuation of ITL 100. Equivalent of third semester Italian on most CSU campuses. Offered fall and spring.



ITL 202 Intermediate Italian (3)

Continuation of ITL 201. Equivalent of fourth semester Italian on most CSU campuses. Offered fall and spring.

ITL 301 Advanced Italian (3)

Continuation of ITL 202. Vocabulary development and complex grammatical constructions. Translation of newspapers, magazines, films, and books. Offered fall and spring.

ITL 302 Advanced Italian (3)

Continuation of ITL 301. Study of advanced grammar. Includes readings for comprehension of complex passages and translations, oral reports, and written compositions. Offered fall and spring.

ITL 330 Advanced Syntax, Grammar, and Lexical Studies (3)

Continuation of ITL 302. In-depth study of Italian syntax and stylistics. Vocabulary development. Designed to develop deeper knowledge of various linguistic areas and usages through composition, translation, and study of Italian texts from literature, films, essays, and literary textual analysis. Offered fall and spring.

SOCIAL SCIENCES (SSC)

SSC 308 Contemporary Issues in European Political Systems: Social Divisions, Populism and Migration (3)

This course will provide students with the conceptual framework and the essential knowledge necessary for an understanding of the political systems of Western European democracies. Specific attention will be devoted to social divisions and to the historical determinants of Europe's social structure. Governmental models and the party systems will be illustrated in detail with a specific focus on the UK and France. Comparisons with the US, whenever possible, will be made. The course will also examine the issue of migration by looking at the ways in which the recent "refugee crisis" in Europe has been addressed in terms of concrete politics, narratives, and public debate. Offered spring.

SSC 313 Political and Economic History of Modern Europe (3)

This course examines European history during the 19th and 20th centuries. It studies the political and economic conditions leading to WWI and WWII, as well as the development and evolution of modern European ideas, intellect, and culture. The course replaces SSC 303 Political History of Modern Europe. Offered spring.

SSC 360 Women, Gender, and the Body in Italian Society

This course explores the historical and theoretical dimensions of the body, sexuality, and gender in Italian culture and society from the Renaissance to the 21st century. By exploring literary, social, historical, and visual texts, we will explore how concepts of body, sex and gender have varied over time, shaped Italian social, historical and literary constructs, and legitimated violence. We will investigate how gendered bodies often served to justify social and political hierarchies, and how stereotypes have limited the expression of diverse gender identities and sexualities. The course will adopt an intersectional approach, by drawing from various disciplines such as history, literature, philosophy, visual and performing arts, and consider the experiences of marginalized groups, including non-white and non-heterosexual individuals, authors, activists, and performers. Cross-listed as HUM 360. Offered fall.

SSC 375 Intercultural Communication, Identity, and Diversity (3)

This course focuses on identifying concepts associated with culture, identity, and diversity in different learning-living contexts. Particular attention will be devoted to Italy and Italian culture. Through a series of contextualized activities, students will focus on characteristics that construct cultural identity, thereby developing critical thinking. This class gives students the opportunity to reflect on their own culture and experiences, to ask questions, discuss, and interact with people from other cultures. Students will explore the roots of cultural similarities and differences, while overcoming stereotypes. Priority registration will be given to Liberal Studies students. Offered fall.



*Revised
Course*

SSC 405 Italian Politics and Society: Local and National Intersections (3)

This course provides students with the conceptual tools and knowledge necessary for understanding the Italian political system at both the national and local levels. It examines the major historical determinants of Italy's economic and societal structure, the interplay between local and national politics, and the role of major political actors and institutions. Topics include Italy's parliamentary system, political parties, elections, national and sub-national levels, EU membership, political culture, and the impact of localism on political processes and governance. Offered spring. This course replaces SSC 401.

SSC 410 The European Union (3)

This course covers the main EU (European Union) institutions: the Commission, Parliament, the Council, and the Court of Justice. It provides a historical overview and theoretical concepts of the integration process and important EU policies. It also examines the place of the EU in the world, in particular relations with the US and countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Offered fall.

SSC 420 The Italian Mafias (3)

What are and what do Italian mafias do? The course aims to provide an extensive and updated picture of how Italian mafias operate today: how they structure themselves, how they behave and how they adapt to changing economic opportunities and intensified attention from law enforcement and civil society. In particular, the course will address topics such as the origins and evolution of mafias, their infiltration into the legal economy, the role they play in illegal markets at national and international level (especially drug trafficking through ports), the relations between mafias, politics and corruption, and the role of anti-mafia movements. **Limited to 30 students.** Offered fall and spring for 2025-26 only. Course was previously numbered SSC 490A.