

Elon Center in Florence, Italy:

Course Descriptions

The courses listed below are offered every academic semester (unless otherwise indicated, and as long as minimum enrollment is met).

- [ARH 310 IS/ELR: Art History in Florence](#)
- [ENG 368 IS/ELR: Modern Italian Literature](#)
- [COR 380 IS/ELR: Core Seminar](#)
- [HST 380 IS/ELR: History of Contemporary Italy](#)
- [POL 350 IS/ELR: Italian Politics and Government](#)
- [Italian Language \(REQUIRED\)](#)
- [Dance Seminar](#)
- [Music Program](#)

Note: Although it is indicated in parentheses how these courses have counted for credits toward graduation in the past, please consult your advisor to learn how the courses will apply toward your particular degree program.

****All students are required to take either 4 or 8 credits of Italian Language during the program, and 16 credits total.**** (8 credits of Italian will mean more classroom time--a great way to become FLUENT!)

Students can only transfer a maximum of three courses toward the Italian Studies minor from their semester in Florence.

Things to remember about courses taken abroad:

- Courses may not be taken on an audit or pass/fail basis.
- Grades count toward an Elon GPA.

[ARH 310 IS/ELR: Art History in Florence - 4 credits](#)

(Credit for Civilization or Advanced Studies if outside your major; credit for Italian Studies minor)*

This course begins with the rebirth of the major arts of architecture, sculpture, and painting in the late Middle Ages in Florence, Pisa, and Siena, and then focuses primarily on the art of Florence in the early Renaissance, concluding with a consideration of the High Renaissance both in Florence and Rome, and the beginnings of Mannerism. The majority of the course is taught in the museums and monuments of Florence to exploit fully the possibility of onsite study. There are required field trips to Pisa, Siena, Arezzo, and Rome. In all phases of the course, the art will be related to the historical and cultural context in which it developed and of which it is a reflection. Among the artists covered are: Cimabue, Duccio, Giotto, Simone Martini, Pietro and Ambrogio Lorenzetti, Masaccio, Donatello, Ghiberti, Brunelleschi, Alberti Paolo Uccello, Andrea del Castagno, Fra Angelico, Filippo Lippi, Verrocchio, Botticelli,

Ghirlandaio, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Andrea del Sarto, and Pontormo. Course requirements include a written midterm, final examinations, and a term paper.

ENG 368 IS/ELR: Modern Italian Literature - 4 credits

(Credit for Expression as Literature or Advanced Studies if outside your major)

This course will introduce students to Italian literature of the twentieth century using the theory of the avant-garde as a critical jumping-off point from which to study the movements within and the various resistances to Italian literary tradition that marked this turbulent period. To accentuate the stylistic and formal qualities of avant-garde literature, students will have the chance to choose between two different texts representing some of the movements that we will examine. I hope that this will enhance our in-class discussions and provide us with the opportunity to have a deeper understanding of the greater complexities of literary movements as a whole.

COR 380 IS/ELR: Core Seminar - 4 credits *(The topic of the seminar changes each semester with the faculty member in residence.)*

(Credit for upper level GST; credit for Italian Studies minor - subject to approval of the coordinator each semester).*

GST for Spring 2016 - Taught by Gabie Smith (Psychology)

GST 380 IS - La Dolce Vita: How Sweet Is It? (ELR) - 4 s.h.

Because of the way it's been portrayed in the media, Florence is considered by most Americans to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world, one linked to good art, good food, good views—essentially the good life. It's the birthplace of the Renaissance, the home to Michelangelo's David, and a city rich in history, architecture, literature, and music. These images and preconceptions of Florence that most of us hold, though accurate in one sense, are also one-dimensional, based on clichés and fantasies that have been exported to tourists. In the same way that Federico Fellini challenges his viewers to look critically at the "sweet life" when they view his film *La Dolce Vita*, our course does the same. With Florence as its subject, this upper-level seminar will help students break through the tourist bubble in order to critically examine the many dimensions and complexities of Florence and what it means to live there as an American student for a semester.

GST for Fall 2016 – Taught by Anne Simpkins (Art)

COR 380 IS - The Expression of Identity in Multicultural Florence (ELR) - 4 s.h.

Contemporary Florence is diversified by masses of international tourists, and students who arrive to study and reflect on its historical beauty. Through a series of experiences, field activities, readings, and research, students will explore various "Cultural Texts." Cultural Texts in the nomenclature of Anthropology refers to observable experiences that inform research. These texts demonstrate, express and embody the shared culture, or belief system of many identity groups. Examples of these cultural texts include architectural design, artistic expression, self-presentation, food, consumerism, life experience, life stage, and spiritual practice. This course is writing

intensive. Open to students in third or fourth year of study. Application and acceptance required. *Counts toward the Italian Studies minor.*

HST 380 IS/ELR: History of Contemporary Italy - 4 credits

(Credit for Civilization or Advanced Studies if outside your major; credit for Italian Studies minor)*

This course provides a review of modern and contemporary Italian history from the end of the Napoleonic wars up to the present day. The first part of the course will cover the Risorgimento and the movement towards national unity as well as the impact of the First World War and Fascism; the second part of the course will focus on World War II and the postwar republican era. The aim is to offer the student both a complete introduction to Italian history and a familiarization with the issues and themes of contemporary Italian history.

The course pursues these goals through lectures, readings, site trips, films and discussions. Some general texts offer a background on the historical development of towns while other readings will offer a choice of interpretations of actual cities and of their representations.

POL 350 IS/ELR: Italian Politics and Government - 4 credits

(Credit for Society or Advanced Studies if outside your major; credit in Political Science/International Studies major/minors)

The aim of this course is to explore the Italian political system and political parties as well as some politics related phenomena, such as the Italian media system, the Italian organized crime and the Italian unconventional political actors and informal political participation. Along the semester, the course is divided into three parts. The introductory lectures analyze the process of state-building in Italy and the consolidation of democracy in the early post-World War Two years. The focus will be on the rise and consolidation of mass political parties (Christian Democratic Party and Communist Party), the role of Italian unconventional political actors and the season of political terrorism. The second part of the course explains the current Italian political system. Starting from the Italian Constitution, lectures deal with the Italian government, parliament and the president; the judiciary power; the electoral system and the media system. The third part discusses the political upheavals that have characterized Italy since the early 1990s. Starting from the "Tangentopoli" political scandal, the remaining lectures deal with the origins and developments of the current Italian party system, the role of organized crime in contemporary Italy and the interaction between Italy and the European Union. The lecture program will also include slots for the showing of videos dealing with aspects of contemporary Italian government, politics, and issues in government and society.

Italian Language – 4 or 8 credits (REQUIRED)

(Depending on the level of Italian previously taken and the end of course test score – credit for Foreign Language requirement completion; credit for Civilization; credit for a Italian Studies minor; or elective credit)*

Italian Language will be taken at the appropriate level based on prior courses at Elon and is a requirement of the Elon in Florence Program.

Dance Seminar - 10 credits

(Credit for Expression)

Starting Spring 2013, a Dance Seminar will be offered every spring semester. Students interested in taking dance will be required to take the following four dance courses:

- DAN 214 IS Modern IV
 - DAN 216 IS Ballet IV
 - DAN 302 IS Dance History II
 - DAN 320 IS Special Topic: Dance in Florence
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Music Program

Students interested in the jazz music program must have permission from Elon's Music Department Chair in order to participate. The music courses listed below are just a sample of what one may find abroad. Please contact the program manager or Elon's Music Department Chair for more information.

- MUS 155 Piano Class II
- MUS 432-B Private Instruction Saxophone
- MUS 104 Jazz Ensemble
- MUS 219 Jazz Combo
- MUS 106-A Saxophone Quartet
- MUS 491 Independent Study: Jazz in Europe
- MUS 491 Independent Study: Music Business in Europe

Credit/non-credit private [Art Studio Lessons](#) and [music instruction](#) are available for additional fees.