

Florence, Italy

University of Michigan

Student Handbook

Academic Year 2009-2010

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Congratulations on your acceptance into the Michigan – Wisconsin – Duke academic year or semester-long program in Florence, Italy. For all questions regarding curricular, academic and financial issues regarding tuition and scholarships, please refer to the program officer at your institution. In case of an emergency, you should inform the program director in Florence and/or your contact on the home campus.

This manual is intended to supplement the information provided in the general handbooks provided by U-M, Wisconsin, and Duke study abroad offices, and we suggest you take all manuals with you abroad to consult as necessary.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

As one of approximately 60 students enrolled in the Florence program each semester, you will be participating in an academic program designed to provide an introduction to the culture, history, and literature of Italy throughout the centuries. In this program, you will be taking courses and living at the Villa Corsi-Salviati, which dates back to the Renaissance, located outside Florence in Sesto Fiorentino.

The program in Florence is, first and foremost, an academic program. Students are required to take four courses, taught by professors from Wisconsin, Duke, Michigan, and by local Florentine academics, and can expect to earn 14 to 16 credits for the semester. All courses, except for the Italian language offerings, are taught in English. Classes are taught with academic standards and requirements comparable to what you have become accustomed to at your home university. The very critical differences from a semester at your home university are, of course, that the classes all focus on Italy and modern Europe and that the program schedules excursions and other site visits to many of the places, buildings, and works of art that are central to this program.

The Florence program is unusual in that it is, in essence, a living-and-learning community, with students, faculty, and director all living at the Villa Corsi-Salviati. Student rooms are mostly doubles and triples, with a few singles and quads. In addition to classroom and living areas, the Villa also houses a dining room, a small library and computer facilities.

This manual is intended to provide an introduction to the program, with information about what to expect (what the program expects from you), as well as pre-departure suggestions and requirements. Please read through it carefully at the earliest possible date: you need to be as knowledgeable as possible about the program, and about what you need to do as you prepare to travel to Florence.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The academic program in Florence consists of two one-semester programs, with most students attending for a single semester. Course offerings change each term, although some courses, such as Renaissance art history and Italian language, are offered each semester. The focus of the classes is on Italy during the Renaissance and in the modern era, and on modern Europe, and the courses are designed to take advantage of the program's location on the outskirts of Florence.

Classes in Florence begin in early September and early January, with the add/drop deadline coming approximately three weeks later. (The Resident Director will make students aware of this date when they first arrive at the Villa.) Each term there is a week-long break, in late October-early November during the Fall term, and in late February-early March in the Winter/Spring term. In addition, as part of the academic program, there are two weekend excursions, usually to Siena, Venice and Rome, for all program participants each semester. Classes conclude in mid-December and mid-April, followed by a short exam period. Students must arrive in time to participate in the full orientation, and may not leave before their final exams are completed and the program officially ends.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

FALL SEMESTER 2009

Faculty Arrive	Monday, August 31
Students Arrive*	Wednesday, September 2
Orientation	Thursday – Friday September 3-4
Term Begins.....	Monday, September 7
Add/Drop Deadline.....	Monday, September 21
CERF form (UW only) and Pass/Fail (UW and U-M only) Deadline.....	Monday, September 28
Venice Trip (1-night).....	Friday, September 18
Fall Break Begins**	Friday, October 23
Classes Resume 8AM.....	Monday, November 2
Rome Trip (2 nights)	Thursday – Friday, November 12-13
Exam Period	Wednesday – Friday, December 16-18
Students Leave (end of program***).	Saturday, December 19
Faculty Leave.....	Monday, December 21

WINTER SEMESTER 2010

Faculty Arrive	Wednesday, January 6
Students Arrive*	Friday, January 8
Orientation	Saturday – Sunday, January 9-10
Term Begins.....	Monday, January 11
Add/Drop Deadline.....	Monday, January 25
CERF form (UW only) and Pass/Fail (UW and U-M only) Deadline.....	Monday, February 1
Rome Trip (2 nights)	Thursday – Friday, February 4-5
Spring Break Begins**	Friday, February 19
Classes Resume 8AM.....	Monday, March 1
Venice Trip.....	Friday, March 26
Exam Period	Wednesday – Friday, April 21-23
Students Leave (end of program***).	Saturday, April 24
Faculty Leave.....	Monday, April 26

* Students are required to arrive the day before Orientation. Please schedule to arrive at the Villa between 10:30am and 7:00pm.

** During Fall and Spring breaks, the Villa closes on Saturday at 6 p.m. and reopens on Friday at 9 a.m. Students will need to find alternative accommodations for that period.

*** Students must check out of their rooms by 10am, and leave the Villa by 12 noon.

COURSE SELECTION AND OFFERINGS

Students choose from among nine or ten courses offered each term, selecting four including Italian language, which is required of all program participants. Students earn four credits for each class, except for advanced Italian, for which students earn three credits, earning a total of 16 semester credits upon successful completion of the program. Students who take 3 classes plus an advanced Italian class earn a total of 15 credits upon successful completion of the program. All students, with the exception of those in the architecture design studio (see below), are expected to carry a full load of four classes and will not be granted permission to take less than a full load while in Florence.

Special note for Architecture students: Architecture students must enroll for a total of 16 credits. Typically, they will take the six-credit design studio, two-credit Italian for Architects language course, four-credit Thesis Seminar, and one additional program course. If a student is exempt from the thesis seminar course, the architecture student may take three classes.

Most classes are held twice a week, with each meeting lasting 90 minutes; two hours when site visits are included. The Italian language classes meet for 50 minutes four days a week, Monday through Thursday. Classes are scheduled to overlap as little as possible, although in recent years an increase in offerings has made overlapping inevitable.

Typically, classes meet on Monday and Wednesday, or Tuesday and Thursday. For some courses, such as those in art history, site visits and other required class-related activities may be scheduled at other times. The schedule is intended to provide blocks of time that enable site visit (and re-visit) of special interest in and around Florence and Tuscany. Students should note, however, that they are expected to attend class meetings and that attendance will be factored into their final grades; faculty members will inform students of the program's attendance policy at the beginning of the semester. Student may exceed no more than two unexcused absences per class, and are strongly urged to reserve these in case of illness or other emergencies.

Students select classes prior to traveling to Florence and, based on class descriptions, can purchase books before departure. (Michigan's Office of International Programs will send via email to all participants the semester schedule and course selection sheets; this will happen in April/May for Fall semester students and in late November for Winter/Spring semester participants.) Here are rules governing enrolling in courses:

- There is usually a limit of 20 students per course.
- Students may choose to drop a course and add another in the first weeks of the term if space is available.
- Michigan and Wisconsin students may also take courses pass/fail; in doing so, they are subject to the same rules and restrictions as prevail at their home campuses.
- Duke students may not take courses on a pass/fail basis.

For additional information concerning academic policies and regulations at their home universities, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Duke students should consult their study abroad offices or refer to general study abroad handbooks and guidelines received prior to departure.

FACULTY AND COURSE OFFERINGS

FALL 2009

Neal Robinson, Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning, University of Michigan ***Architecture Design Studio (6 credits)***

A graduate-level studio design course characterized by architectural concerns that are thorough in their conception, development, and execution. The studio embraces a singular spatial focus. Examples include: social, historical and theoretical formations, computation and design, urban design, formal and material explorations, building performance and construction. For U-M graduate architecture students.

Neal Robinson, Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning, University of Michigan ***Graduate Thesis Seminar (4 credits)***

This thesis seminar in architecture proceeds by formulating a set of questions, establishing a critical position in relationship to those questions, exploring possibilities, and presenting a well-developed response to those questions. It involves criticism, research, and design. A critical project serves as the vehicle through which a thesis statement is explored. For U-M graduate architecture students.

Vincenzo Binetti, Associate Professor of Italian, University of Michigan ***The City as a Metaphor: Representations of Urban Space in Italian Literature and Film (4 credits)***

This course will analyze representations of chosen Italian cities in modern Italian literature, culture, and films. The course will have an interdisciplinary aspect, as it will include the study of history, art, politics and philosophy, as well as literature. In this course we will investigate the problematic relationship

between the representation of urban space and communities in nineteenth and twentieth-century Italian cultural production and the developing definition of national identity before and after Italian unification -- that is to say, the *Risorgimento* (around 1860), the Reconstruction (shortly after the end of the second World War and the fall of the fascist regime) and the Second Republic (from the early 1990s on).

Readings of texts by Luigi Pirandello, Cesare Pavese, Sibilla Aleramo, Italo Calvino, and Enrico Brizzi. Screenings, among others, by Federico Fellini, Vittorio De Sica, Michelangelo Antonioni, Giuseppe Tornatore, Mario Martone, Paolo and Vittorio Taviani, and Nanni Moretti.

Vincenzo Binetti, Associate Professor of Italian, University of Michigan
Studies in Modern Italian Literature and Culture (4 credits)

This course will address issues of national identity, politics, literature and culture in Italy from the end of the Second World War to the present. In this course we will investigate, through a close critical analysis of specific literary and visual texts, how preconceived and often stereotypical notions of “italianità” are eventually problematized and (re)negotiated, thus allowing for the uncovering of “other” marginal phenomena that emerged in opposition to the prevailing hegemonic, nationalistic culture and ideology.

Readings of novels by Elio Vittorini, Cesare Pavese, Giorgio Bassani, Dacia Maraini and Andrea De Carlo. Screenings, among others, by Marco Tullio Giordana, Gianni Amelio, Gabriele Salvatores, Roberto Benigni, Vittorio De Sica, and Bernardo Bertolucci.

Enoch Brater, Professor of English and Theater, University of Michigan (Program Director)
Shakespeare’s Italy (4 credits)

This course is designed to explore the profound influence Italy and Italian sources have had on the shape of Shakespeare’s dramatic accomplishment. In order to do so, the class will focus on five central concerns:

1. The “reinvention” of Rome based on Shakespeare’s re-reading of Plutarch and Seutonius in *Julius Caesar*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Antony and Cleopatra* and *Coriolanus*.
2. The direct borrowings from Italian romance writers, such as Cinthio, from whom Shakespeare derives several narratives, especially the one he develops in *Othello*. The “return” to Italy of such a narrative in the hands of Verdi.
3. The incorporation of additional sites and sources in comedies, tragedies and romances such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *The Tempest*.
4. The idea of the Italian “renaissance” as embodied in *Hamlet*.
5. The development of a new lyrical language for drama and poetry (Shakespeare’s sonnets) based on the “dolce stile nuovo” of Dante and Petrarch.

Students in this course will be encouraged to visit the sites where these plays are said to have taken place (included on the program’s trip to Rome) and consider as well other representations of the figures who appear in Shakespeare’s writing (Brutus and Lucrezia, for example) as they have been imagined by other artists in the sculpture and painting of the period. The course will conclude with students performing scenes from the plays we have studied.

Required readings: *The Riverside Shakespeare**

*Copies of this book are available to 16 students to borrow for the semester for a small deposit. First come, first served. We will contact all students regarding this after we receive course selection forms.

Josephine Rogers Mariotti

Florentine Renaissance Art: From Lorenzo il Magnifico to Cosimo I: 1469-1539 (4 credits)

The course proposes to survey the development of the arts in Florence from the time of Lorenzo di Piero de’ Medici (the Magnificent) to the reign of Cosimo I, the second Duke and the first Grand Duke of Tuscany. We will begin with a survey of the major workshops of late 15th century Florence: Pollaiuolo,

Verrocchio, Botticelli, Perugino, and Ghirlandaio, whose culture and activities constitute the training ground of the masters of the High Renaissance. These include Leonardo, Raphael, Filippino Lippi, Fra Bartolomeo, Andrea del Sarto and Michelangelo, whose life-span covers the entire period under exam, and whose art will serve as a guideline throughout the course: Michelangelo's early activity in Florence, his decorative cycles in the Vatican in Rome, and his later activity. The 'rival' prince of the papal court, Raphael Sanzio, will likewise be our focus, as both become paragons of a 'golden age' of classicism, dramatically interrupted by the 'Sack of Rome' of 1527.

The 'post-peak' era to follow begins with the experimental and expressively charged art of Pontormo, Rosso Fiorentino and other Tuscan masters who, along with the followers of Raphael and Michelangelo in Rome, are the protagonists of a transformation in style and content termed as 'Mannerism' or 'Maniera,' a label we will endeavor to define. The development of a self-conscious 'stylish style' in the 16th century brings us to admire the 'court art' of Duke Cosimo I de' Medici, whose artists include some of the epoch greatest protagonists: Agnolo Bronzino, Benvenuto Cellini, Francesco Salviati, Parmigianino and Giambologna. More than monographic coverage of each artistic persona, our goal is to reconstruct the stylistic and cultural interactions and environment in which the artists and patrons operated.

In-class sessions alternate with visits to monuments and museums in and around Florence, allowing students to integrate their academic studies with direct experience of the works and artists under study.

Required readings: Coursepack available at the Villa.

Josephine Rogers Mariotti

The Origins and Birth of the Renaissance Style in the Arts (4 credits)

Florence offers the unique opportunity of studying "in situ" the works of the great masters of the Renaissance. This course will therefore focus on the birth of the Renaissance style, strictly defined as the artistic movement originating in Florence at the beginning of the Quattrocento (1400s), tracing its development up to the initial stages of the following century, the Cinquecento (1500s). Beginning with early precedents – the so-called proto-renaissance: Nicola Pisano, Giotto di Bondone – we will see that episodes dating as early as the mid-1200s share with the later age basic figurative principles that will emerge in full in the "new style" of the 15th century. How this relates to the coeval humanist movement will be one of our major considerations in the conviction that the history of artistic form is an expression of the history of the human spirit.

Our goal shall be to continue in these types of cultural and contextual comparisons throughout the entire survey of the lives and works of the significant personalities in the history of the figurative arts within the 15th century. Florence's contacts and cultural exchanges with other major centers in Italy will necessarily be part of our interest and will, in some cases, be complemented by organized excursions to places outside Florence.

In-class sessions will alternate with visits to monuments and museums in and around Florence and other nearby sites allowing students to integrate their academic studies with direct experience of artists and their creations.

Required readings: Coursepack available at the Villa.

William O'Barr, Professor of Cultural Anthropology, Duke University

Advertising in Italian Society (4 credits)

This course examines the reflection of Italian society through its various representations in advertising from the early 20th century to the present. Special attention will be devoted to the origins of the Italian national advertising tradition in the early 20th century, advertising and Italian modernism, advertising in the fascist period and during World War II, the American influence on advertising following the war, and advertising during the economic boom and the rise of consumerism in Italy. We will examine the distinctive aspects of contemporary advertising in Italy by comparing it briefly to advertising traditions in select other countries. Some specific topics to be covered include: Italian masculinity and femininity as

portrayed in ads, advertising to children, global campaigns that originate in Italy (e.g., Benetton, Dolce and Gabbana), mythologies created by ads (e.g., Mulino Bianco, the Vespa), the advertising poster of the early 20th century, and the advertising of Italy and Italian food (both within Italy and abroad).

Readings consist of selected book chapters and articles, both scholarly and from the popular press and trade journals. The course will include field study of selected advertising venues: markets, Italian television and Internet, and shops that market souvenirs of Italy and Florence. Students will write and submit several short essays throughout the course. Evaluation will be based on class participation and the essays.

William O'Barr, Professor of Cultural Anthropology, Duke University

Italian Encounters: Foreigners and Their Experiences of Florence, Venice, and the Italian Peninsula (4 credits)

This course focuses on the long history of visits of foreigners to the Italian peninsula. It uses the records they created (travel diaries, novels, and later photographs and film) to explore their various descriptions and representations of Italy. Specific attention will be given to materials about Florence and Venice. We will examine differences among travelers, tourists, pilgrims, refugees, guest workers, and others as to how they have experienced Italy. Two special aspects of this course will be (1) each student's journal about his/her own experiences of living in Italy, and (2) a field trip to Venice where we will examine the nature of contemporary tourism and compare it to tourists in Florence.

Readings include selections from travel diaries and accounts, texts by E.M. Forster, Frances Mayes, Charles Dickens, Benjamin Disraeli, Tim Parks, Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett, Jan Morris. Films include Minghella's *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, Campion's *The Portrait of a Lady*, Zeffirelli's *Tea with Mussolini*, Ivory's *A Room with a View*, and Lean's *Summertime*.

Evaluation will be based on class participation and a series of short essays submitted at regular intervals throughout the semester.

Ettore Recchi, Associate Professor of Political Science and Sociology, University of Florence

European Societies (4 credits)

This course seeks to illustrate long- and short-term dynamics of social change in Western Europe. Starting from a historical overview of national identities and the post-WW II integration process, the basic puzzle 'What does it mean to be a European?' will be addressed. As a general objective, the course is designed to stimulate students to have a comprehensive view of the conflicting political and societal forces driving contemporary Europe towards unification on the one hand and further territorial and cultural divisions on the other. Organized in three teaching units: a) National identities in Western Europe: a long-term historical perspective; b) The European integration process and the European Union; c) A comparative analysis of European societies.

Required Readings: Coursepack to be purchased in Florence.

Students are required to participate regularly and do a presentation on one of the course subjects. Participation, presentation, and two tests (mid-term and final) will form the basis for the final evaluation.

Italian Language Requirement

Previous study of Italian is not required in order to participate, as all non-language courses are taught in English. All program participants will be required to take one Italian language course and are encouraged to study Italian prior to the program in order to facilitate their integration into the Italian culture.

Italian language courses are taught by **Silvia Sammiceli** and **Lucrezia Sarcinelli**.

1. First Semester Italian (4 credits)
2. Second Semester Italian (4 credits)
3. Third Semester Italian (4 credits)
4. Fourth Semester Italian (4 credits)
5. Advanced Italian (3 credits)

Required text:

First- and Second- Semester Italian: Riga, Carla L. et al. Ciao! 6th Edition. Heinle & Heinle Publishers, Inc. (*Workbook not required*) Coursepack with workbook material to be purchased in Florence

Third, Fourth, and Advanced Italian Classes: Textbook: “*La Lingua del Sì*.” Available at the Villa.

WINTER/SPRING 2010

Enoch Brater, Professor of English and Theater, Univ of Michigan (Program Director)
Shakespeare’s Italy (4 credits)

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3. The incorporation of additional sites and sources in comedies, tragedies and romances such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *The Tempest*.
4. The idea of the Italian “renaissance” as embodied in *Hamlet*.
5. The development of a new lyrical language for drama and poetry (Shakespeare’s sonnets) based on the “dolce stile nuovo” of Dante and Petrarch.

Students in this course will be encouraged to visit the sites where these plays are said to have taken place (included on the program’s trip to Rome) and consider as well other representations of the figures who appear in Shakespeare’s writing (Brutus and Lucrezia, for example) as they have been imagined by other artists in the sculpture and painting of the period. The course will conclude with students performing scenes from the plays we have studied on the outdoor theater space on the villa lawn.

Required readings: *The Riverside Shakespeare**

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Prof. Stefano Socci, Theatre and Film History, Fine Arts Academy of Brera, Milan, and Fine Arts Academy of Florence

Italian Cinema: Masterworks from Neorealism to the Present (4 credits)

This course examines the historical, social and cultural roots of Italian Cinema, starting with the silent movies (*Cabiria*, 1913), and traces its development from Neorealism to the present. The course covers leading directors as Antonioni, Bertolucci, De Santis, De Sica, Fellini, Leone, Moretti, Pasolini, Rossellini, Taviani, Visconti. The course also offers an outline of main genres in Italian Cinema: drama, melodrama, comedy, spaghetti western, peplum (sandal movie). The main purposes of this course are: (1) to introduce students to major Italian movies from Neorealism to the present; (2) to examine some of the basic principles of film criticism; and (3) to show how Italian history is described by Italian directors.

Required readings: Peter E. Bondanella, *Italian cinema: from neorealism to the present**
Millicent Joy Marcus, *Italian film in the light of neorealism**
*Books available at Villa library; students do not need to purchase books.)

Josephine Rogers Mariotti

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In-class sessions alternate with visits to monuments and museums in and around Florence, allowing students to integrate their academic studies with direct experience of the works and artists under study.

Required readings: Coursepack available at the Villa.

Josephine Rogers Mariotti

The Origins and Birth of the Renaissance Style in the Arts (4 credits)

Florence offers the unique opportunity of studying "in situ" the works of the great masters of the Renaissance. This course will therefore focus on the birth of the Renaissance style, strictly defined as the artistic movement originating in Florence at the beginning of the Quattrocento (1400s), tracing its development up to the initial stages of the following century, the Cinquecento (1500s). Beginning with early precedents – the so-called proto-renaissance: Nicola Pisano, Giotto di Bondone – we will see that episodes dating as early as the mid-1200s share with the later age basic figurative principles that will emerge in full in the "new style" of the 15th century. How this relates to the coeval humanist movement will be one of our major considerations in the conviction that the history of artistic form is an expression of the history of the human spirit.

Our goal shall be to continue in these types of cultural and contextual comparisons throughout the entire survey of the lives and works of the significant personalities in the history of the figurative arts within the 15th century. Florence's contacts and cultural exchanges with other major centers in Italy will necessarily be part of our interest and will, in some cases, be complemented by organized excursions to places outside Florence.

In-class sessions will alternate with visits to monuments and museums in and around Florence and other nearby sites allowing students to integrate their academic studies with direct experience of artists and their creations.

Required readings: Coursepack available at the Villa.

Michael H. Shank, Professor of History of Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Galileo Galilei: Life and Times, Works and Interpretations (4 credits)

The Winter/Spring semester of 2010 marks the 400th anniversary of Galileo's publication of his *Sidereal Messenger*, the first book of telescopic astronomy. In this festive year, both in the popular imagination and in the history of science, Galileo Galilei will cast an even longer shadow than he normally does. This course offers the unusual opportunity of learning on-site about his impact on science and religion, and on the history of physics and astronomy. We will emphasize the role of his context (Pisa, Padua, and Florence), and look into the many interpretations of both his scientific work and his trial. The course format combines lecture and discussion.

Michael H. Shank, Professor of History of Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison
The Mathematical Sciences and the Arts the Age of Piero della Francesca (4 credits)

In the fifteenth century, the Italian peninsula was a particularly rich environment for both the arts and the mathematical sciences, both separately and together. This course will explore the interface between the two, with particular attention to the interaction of geometry and perspectiva (optics) to form linear perspective; the interface between art and astrology; and developments in astronomy on the eve of the Copernican Revolution. The course will highlight, among other contexts, Florence and Urbino; Piero della Francesca and his contemporaries; the astronomers Regiomontanus and Copernicus and their circles in Bologna, Padua, Rome, and Venice. The approach will be integrative and cross-disciplinary. The course format combines lecture and discussion.

Scott Spector, Associate Professor of History, German, Judaic Studies, Univ of Michigan
Inventing the Renaissance: The Modern European Historical and Aesthetic Imagination (4 credits)

"History," declared historian of the Italian Renaissance Jacob Burckhardt, "is what one age finds of interest in another." The common image of the Italian Renaissance as the moment of radical break from a European "dark ages" to the modern era is relatively young. Why did it take a half-millennium--until the last half of the nineteenth century--for this image of the Renaissance to arise, for its history to be written? The place of the Renaissance in the modern European imagination is the subject of this colloquium, which will span disciplines from art to history and national traditions from German to Spanish. The modern European stake in the period identified with its own "re-birth" may ultimately have more to say about our own times than the turn from the Middle Ages. This course is an introduction to a critique of historiography—an inquiry into the origins and dynamics of history-writing--where the ideological stakes of writers in uncertain times can be interpreted from their creative innovations. The question to keep in mind with regard to each of these thinkers is the task they set themselves--in re-presenting the Renaissance what they hoped to recover, and what they sought to create anew.

Students will be graded on the basis of short response papers to the readings, regular class participation, and one 12-page final paper.

Scott Spector, Associate Professor of History, German, Judaic Studies, Univ of Michigan
Comparative European Fascist Cultures: Germany and Italy (4 credits)

The later 1920s and 1930s was a period in which extreme right-wing authoritarian and populist movements threatened many countries in Europe, but found their most spectacular and dangerous manifestations in Italy's Fascist and Germany's National Socialist movements. The political contexts leading to the success of these movements will be important to review, but our focus in this course will be on how these violent ideologies sought to appeal to their populaces: what was the content of their messages, and how were those messages received? How was the symbolic role of "*Il Duce*" Mussolini similar and different from that of the "*Führer*" Hitler? What different and similar places did such concepts as nation, history, war, and race play in their world-views? The general definition of fascism is disputed, and part of our course will explore the literature that compares various European authoritarian movements and the roots of their ideas. We will also explore literature, art, feature films, and propaganda strategies of the two countries and ways of analyzing them.

Students will be graded on the basis of short response papers to the readings, regular class participation, and essay assignments.

Italian Language Requirement

Previous study of Italian is not required in order to participate, as all non-language courses are taught in English. All program participants will be required to take one Italian language course and are encouraged to study Italian prior to the program in order to facilitate their integration into the Italian culture.

Italian language courses are taught by **Silvia Sammiceli** and **Lucrezia Sarcinelli**.

1. First Semester Italian (4 credits)
2. Second Semester Italian (4 credits)
3. Third Semester Italian (4 credits)
4. Fourth Semester Italian (4 credits)
5. Advanced Italian (3 credits)

Required text:

First- and Second- Semester Italian: Riga, Carla L. et al. *Ciao!* 6th Edition. Heinle & Heinle Publishers, Inc. (*Workbook not required*). Coursepack with workbook material to be purchased in Florence

Third, Fourth, and Advanced Italian Classes: Textbook: "*La Lingua del Sì*." Available at the Villa.

PURCHASING BOOKS AND OTHER COURSE-RELATED MATERIALS

The course descriptions included with this manual and emails from your study abroad advisor provide information about the readings and other materials you will need for your classes in Florence. We recommend that you purchase books for your classes before leaving for Florence once your class choices have been verified.

Where to purchase books:

Ann Arbor	Michigan Union Bookstore (Barnes & Noble) Location: Ground Floor, Michigan Union Address: 530 State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109 Hours: Mon – Fri 9am to 6pm, Sat 10am to 5pm Phone: 734-995-8877 Website: www.umichigan.bkstore.com
Madison	The University Bookstore Location: State Street Mall, west of Lake Street, across from the Memorial Library. Address: 711 State Street, Madison, WI 53703 Hours: Mon – Thu 9:00 am to 7pm, Fri-Sat 9am to 5:30pm, Sun 12 pm to 5 pm Phone: 608-257-3784 Website: http://text.uwbookstore.com/home.aspx
Durham	Duke Textbook Store Location: Bryan Center Address: Duke University, Box 90850, Durham, NC 27708-0850 Hours: Mon – Fri, 8:30am to 5:30pm, Sat 10am to 4:45pm Phone : 919-684-6793 Website: www.dukestores.duke.edu/textbook.html

In Florence, it is possible to purchase some books at the Paperback Exchange, although not all books may be available. After arrival, please check with Rosita Cirri, the Administrative Assistant at the Villa, for more information about this English-language bookstore.

It is NOT recommended to have books sent to Italy. Surface mail is extremely slow and undependable; airmail is extremely expensive. At the end of your stay, when time of arrival does not matter, you can ship your books home. However, it is crucial you have your books at the beginning of the semester and the only sure way is to carry them with you.

Coursepacks, on the other hand, are available for purchase in Italy, so you do not need to purchase them before leaving the U.S.

COMPUTER & LIBRARY FACILITIES

COMPUTERS

The Villa is set up for wireless internet. There are various computer facilities for students at the Villa (8 PC's and two printers). All computers are equipped with Internet access and word processing and can be used to access e-mail. Students use their regular home university email accounts.

LIBRARY

Academic facilities at the Villa include a library of approximately 3000 volumes, shelved in three interconnected rooms. The collection is intended to support the course offerings at the Villa each term, and while it is not as extensive a collection as at the home campuses, it contains basic primary and secondary source materials. There are also multiple copies of some of the texts used in classes. In addition, the library is furnished with tables and chairs and provides study space.

CLASSROOMS

There are several rooms reserved for classes, including, in the fall, a studio for Architecture students. In addition, a room in the basement has been equipped for classes in which videos are shown.

GRADES & CREDITS

Courses are capped at 20 students per course. In order to ensure that all students in the program have access to an art history class while in Florence, only art history majors will normally be allowed to enroll in both art history classes, though it is not recommended because of the demanding class requirements.

There are as many sections of Italian language courses as necessary to provide instruction to all students.

In the fall semester, the Architecture Studio and the Italian for Architects course are only open to graduate students from Architecture.

All students (except for Architecture students in the Fall) are required to take four courses. Rules for how students are enrolled and how credits count will vary from one university to another, so please inform yourself of your home school's requirements and guidelines.

SPECIAL ACADEMIC RULES/GUIDELINES AND REGISTRATION

You will choose the courses you wish to take before leaving for Florence (so that you can also buy the books assigned for each course). Before or during orientation, your academic advisor will provide you with information about how to enroll in the Florence program.

Students participating in the Florence program both semesters will need to enroll separately for each semester. They will also have to maintain a minimum C grade point average during their first semester at the villa; students who fail to do so will not be allowed to continue in the program in the second semester.

U-M students must register for the Florence Study Abroad program itself before leaving, since individual courses will not be listed in the U-M schedule of classes. Register on Wolverine Access before the beginning of each term in Florence, by choosing the following course title, number and section.

FALL TERM..... STDABRD 453 section 001 12 credits (LS&A students)
WINTER TERM..... STDABRD 453 section 001 12 credits (LS&A students)

*The actual courses, credits, and grades will be part of your U-M record, with exact course credits replacing the 12 “place-holder” credits you registered for. **These grades will be factored into to your U-M GPA.***

Make sure you do not have any financial hold on your account that would prevent you from registering; you will also be responsible for any late registration charges that result from financial or other holds.

If you are a **UW-Madison student**, you will automatically be enrolled in a Study Abroad placeholder course for 18 credits for the term that you are abroad. **These grades will be factored into to your UW-Madison GPA.**

UW-Madison students will submit a CERF (course equivalent request form) to International Academic Programs with the courses they are taking in Florence and what UW course equivalents they are requesting. Pre-established UW course equivalents are distributed to students before they register. For more details on the CERF process, please see your UW-Madison supplemental handbook. Please also refer to your IAP general handbook for pass/fail and other academic policies.

LIVING AT THE VILLA

The Villa Corsi-Salviati and its grounds are both imposing and welcoming. Of Renaissance foundation, the Villa has been superbly maintained and successfully but discreetly updated. Begun over 500 years ago, the Villa has been added to and renovated over the years, and our program leases a portion, but not all, of the buildings and grounds. It is one of the great houses of Florence and its gardens are various and command wonderful views.

Living at the Villa is both a **privilege** and a **responsibility**. The privilege is that one lives in a home finer than almost any that others have lived in at any time, in any place. The responsibility is to keep it that way—for our own enjoyment and for the enjoyment of those who follow us. The Villa was not built as a university set for classrooms and group living, but as a family country residence. We have been permitted to adapt to our uses the home of a culturally and historically important Florentine family. Naturally, certain restrictions are placed on its use, and the Villa enjoys the special protection of the Fine Arts Commission of Italy. You will learn more about the Villa and living there at orientation meetings but in general your own judgment should warn you when you are about to damage the physical or aesthetic character of the Villa. Your good taste should indicate, for example, that laundry is not to be hung out of windows to dry or that posters should not to be tacked or taped to the walls. Please check and then check again to make certain what may or may not be done in this splendid house.

The property has been extensively renovated by the present owners specifically for the Michigan-Wisconsin-Duke program. You will be housed primarily in double and triple rooms (and one or two quadruples); there are also a few singles. The property also contains classrooms, a small library and study space, computer facilities, a dining hall and kitchen, and reception rooms.

The Villa Corsi-Salviati is situated in Sesto Fiorentino on the outskirts of Florence. Literally, as the name indicates, it is at the sixth Roman mile (about 10 kilometers) from the center of the ancient city of Florence on the Roman Via Cassia (now the Via A. Gramsci). Originally a workers' community, today Sesto is a bustling town, engaged primarily in the production of porcelain and maiolica, with a cinema, cafes, restaurants, shops, and other amenities. Also in the immediate area are several other magnificent Villas and gardens which are open to the public, including the Medici Villas of Castello and Petraia. The area of Monte Morello, immediately to the north of the Villa Corsi-Salviati, offers the opportunity for beautiful walks.

The Villa Corsi-Salviati and Sesto are on a direct bus line to the center of Florence (the bus lets you off at Santa Maria Novella, the central railway station), with easily accessible and frequent service. The bus ride is about 30 minutes although it can take longer during rush hour. You might want to purchase a monthly bus pass for your convenience.

There is a fast train with regular daytime service from the nearby Zambra station that takes about 13 minutes to arrive at SMN. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROPER CARE OF THE VILLA

A general comment will help indicate the spirit in which we all might best participate in this unique living experience. The Villa is not an impersonal public place, nor is it a university dormitory in the U.S. It is in fact more like a **joint home in a beautiful Renaissance Villa**, and the same courtesies and sense of respect for the sensibilities and safety of others should guide your behavior here as in your own homes.

All residents of the Villa share responsibility for the proper care of the property and its contents. In the event of any damage to the communal spaces in the Villa, the account of the responsible person or persons will be charged accordingly at the end of the program. Should it be impossible to attribute the damages to an individual or individuals, the charge will be shared by all members of the program. At the beginning of each semester, the Villa Manager will inspect each student bedroom and take inventory of the contents of the room and note their general condition. A similar review will be made at the end of the semester. In the event of damages beyond normal wear and tear, the accounts of the residents will be charged accordingly. Credits for the program will not be released until accounts have been settled.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

ROOMS

Students are assigned to rooms based on information they provide in the housing preference form. Most rooms are doubles and triples, with a few singles and quadruples. Room and roommate assignments are made before arrival, and it is, therefore, critical that if you have needs or preferences that it would help us to know, you include that information on the housing form provided by your study abroad office.

MEALS

Meals are taken in the limonaia, the room where lemon trees were once stored in winter. Breakfast is served Sunday through Friday; lunch and dinner, Monday through Friday. On Fridays, there is a bag lunch, while on Saturdays, when many students are away from the Villa, no meals are served. On Sunday a later breakfast and dinner are offered. If you stay at the Villa over the weekend, then you will need to plan either to eat out or to purchase food at one of the nearby grocery stores, the local COOP or Esselunga. Note that there is a coin-operated coffee machine in the basement.

You are expected to be prompt at all meals. Please come suitably attired: NO bare torsos, bare feet or pajamas. Coffee and tea will be served at all meals. If you will not be at the Villa for a meal, we ask that you notify the program that you will be away.

Provisions are made for vegetarians or those following religious dietary laws. Please discuss your needs with Helen Burroughs, the Villa Manager, as soon as you arrive. (There is also a place to provide this information in the housing form.)

GUESTS

Each student may invite two family members to lunch meals at the villa during the semester; you may invite two members at one time, or have a guest on two different days. Students are expected to notify Helen Burroughs of the guest's name and date of the visit three days in advance of the visit. Only four guests will be accepted for any given day.

LAUNDRY

Sheets, pillows, and blankets are provided, and sheets will be laundered for you every other week. For your personal laundry, including towels, there are three token-operated industrial washing machines and one dryer at the Villa for you to use. (Tokens can be purchased at €1,50 per token from Helen Burroughs; one token buys a wash or 30 minutes' drying time.) Laundry soap is provided, and an iron and an ironing board are also available.

MAIL AND THE POST OFFICE

Italian mail truly lives up to its reputation for being SLOW. Postcards are given low priority and may take a month or more to reach the U.S. Airmail letters take anywhere between one and two weeks to reach the U.S. Stamps and aero grams can be purchased at tobacco shops. Sending mail from Sesto generally takes several days longer than from Florence. For faster service, mail cards and letters from the Florence train station.

To send home larger items there are a variety of rates depending on the contents of the packages. Packages may be sent by airmail, which is very expensive, or by sea. Shipping by sea is both slow and untrackable, although less expensive, and may take 3-4 months. A special book rate is also available for packages under 5 kilos (approx. 10 lbs.).

Shipping agencies may also be used to send your things home; this may be necessary if your packages are too big to be mailed by the post office. Agencies such as Mailboxes Etc., Emery Worldwide Air Freight can also provide door-to-door service for an additional cost. At the end of each term, staff at the Villa organize a pick-up for students and faculty to ship things home by Mailboxes Etc. Program participants receive a discount this way.

Important note: When shipping packages FROM the U.S. TO Italy through a freight forwarder or the mail, the sender will be asked to declare a value for the contents. The declared value can result in a customs tax of up to 40% of that value for the recipient, so if someone from home ships you a box of clothes and declares its value at \$200.00, you can expect to pay \$80.00 in customs tax! Our advice is to declare \$10-\$30 value on goods shipped and to label the package "Oggetti Personali" (personal belongings) to avoid high custom fees. Most people think that in the event a package is lost or damaged, the declared value will be refunded. Whereas in some cases this can be true, in most such a declaration is unnecessary and can prove expensive. Do NOT send cosmetics or medicines of any sort; they must pass through customs, and it will take a long time for them to be cleared.

TELEPHONES

Cellular phones (telefonini) are cheap and work well. There is no charge for receiving international calls. No contract is necessary. The villa has a number of cell phones which you may purchase at the beginning of the semester for a reasonable price and then sell back to the program at the end of the term. You will then need to purchase a chip to allow you to activate the phone and make calls either

locally or internationally. You will learn more about this option at the orientation when you first arrive at the villa. Cell phones must be turned off in the classrooms and in the dining hall.

Note: Please remind your friends and family that Italian time is six hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time. If they call you from the East in the U.S. at 10p.m., it will be 4a.m. in Italy. Similarly, if you call them from the Villa at noon, before lunch, it will be 6a.m. in Michigan, North Carolina, and New York (and 5a.m. in Wisconsin).

GUESTS

All guests must leave the Villa and its grounds by 11 p.m. Anyone found to have had a guest overnight is subject to expulsion. Please do not take this rule lightly, for we do not. Italian law strictly forbids us to take unregistered guests. If you have friends or family visiting Florence and in need of accommodation, please see the section below for a list of hostels and hotels.

ACCOMMODATIONS DURING FALL AND SPRING BREAK

Most students take advantage of Fall and Spring breaks to travel. For the academic year 2009-10, therefore, the Villa will be closed between Saturday, October 24, 2009 and Friday, October 30, 2009 (re-opening at 9a.m.) in the Fall Term; and Saturday, February 20, 2010 and Friday, February 26 (re-opening at 9a.m.) in the Winter/Spring term.

Students need to find alternative accommodations for that period. If they don't leave Florence, they can find accommodations nearby. Some suggestions are given below. Support and accommodations which may become necessary because of medical emergencies will be handled case by case.

ACCOMMODATIONS IN FLORENCE

Students who need accommodations in Florence may want to stay at one of the following youth hostels or hotels. If you have family or friends visiting you during the program, we suggest referring them to this list. Please note that prices may be higher than indicated here.

YOUTH HOSTELS

- Santa Monaca, Via S. Monaca 6, Tel. +39.055.268338, 8 rooms, 85 beds, 8 bathrooms
- Villa Camerata, Viale A. Righi 2/4, Tel. +39.055.601451, 29 rooms, 500 beds, 25 bathrooms
- Youth Firenze 2000, Via Raffaello Sanzio 16, Tel. +39.055.335558
 - This hostel is located in the area of Santo Spirito/San Frediano in the Oltrarno. All rooms have private bathroom facilities.
- Ostello Archi Rossi, Via Faenza 94r, Tel. +39.055.290804, Fax. +39.055 2302601

HOTELS/PENSIONI (INNS)

- Albergo Firenze
 - Piazza Donati 4, Tel. +39. 055.213311/055.268301
- Hotel Pardini
 - Via Strozzi 2, Tel. +39.055.211170
- Hotel Porta Rossa
 - Via Porta Rossa 19, Tel. + 055.287551
- Hotel Silla
 - Via dei Renai 5, Tel. +39. 055.2342888

LODGINGS IN SESTO FIORENTINO

10-20 minute walk from the Villa

- Villa il Paradisino
 - Via Cafiero 57, Colonnata, Tel. +39.055.4494824 (very highly recommended, especially for families)
 - Email: info@villailparadisino.it; www.villailparadisino.it
- Villa Villoresi
 - Via Ciampi 63, Colonnata, Tel. +39. 055.4489032

FEES AND BILLING

PROGRAM FEE : WHAT IS INCLUDED

U-M students will be assessed U-M tuition, at appropriate resident/non-resident upper-/lower-division rate (for more info see: <http://umich.edu/~regoff/tuition>), plus a program fee. Both will be billed through U-M Student Financial Services.

For UW-Madison students, students pay a program fee. Please refer to the cost sheet attached to your acceptance e-mail for program cost specifics. UW-Madison students do not pay tuition in addition to the program fee. The program fee will be billed to you through the UW-Madison bursar's office.

Duke students, please contact your study abroad office for more information on program fees.

For all students, program fees cover room and board at the Villa. Program fees also cover accommodations and transportation to and from program-sponsored field trips, and a museum pass for most Florence museums.

Expenses NOT covered by home school fees include air fare and ground transportation from your U.S. departure point to the Villa and back; textbooks and coursepacks; mandatory Assitalia insurance (for Wisconsin and Duke students); accommodations before and after the beginning of the program, or when the Villa is closed for fall and spring break; meals not provided at the Villa; cost of personal trips and phone calls; other personal items such as toiletries.

Although it is usually not possible for non-consortium students to attend one of the pre-departure orientation meetings at the partner universities, materials distributed at the U-M orientation meeting will be mailed to the students. These materials should be read carefully prior to departure. Non-consortium students are considered to be U-M students for the purposes of the Florence program, and as such are subject to the same requirements (course load, Italian language, pass/fail and drop/add deadlines, etc.) as other U-M program participants.

LIVING EXPENSES

Your home school will provide you with estimated costs of a semester in Italy. Additional expenses you can expect to pay each term after you arrive at the villa include:

- Transportation to the Villa upon Arrival: €70
- Assitalia medical insurance: €50 per semester (Duke and UW students only)
- Meals not provided at the Villa: €300 estimated
- Accommodation during fall or spring break: minimum of \$20 per night per person in a youth hostel, to an average of \$90-100 in a hotel.
- Local transportation: €120
- Textbooks/Course Materials: €150
- Entertainment: € 900 varies by individual
- Key and room deposit, receivers: €60-80

BEFORE YOU GO

DOCUMENTS

Once you are admitted to the program and decide to accept the offer, there are a number of things that you will need to do before you go. They are:

- Apply for a passport if you do not have one already
- Make travel reservations
- Obtain a student visa
- Make arrangements for handling your money while abroad
- Review your medical needs and the insurance coverage you will have/require while abroad
- Purchase books and other materials for your classes
- U-M Students: Register yourself at the U-M's International Travel Oversight Committee website, at www.umich.edu/~itoc/

APPLYING FOR A PASSPORT

If you do not already have a passport, apply for one immediately. Passports are issued by the U.S. Passport Agency, and this process may take several months during the peak summer period. The passport application is available at most U.S. post offices or can be downloaded from the web (www.travel.state.gov/passport/index.html).

If you already have a passport, check to be sure that it will be valid for the entire time you will be abroad and for ninety days after you leave Italy. If it expires while you are abroad, or within a few months of your departure from Italy, renew it before going abroad.

MAKING TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Because students often wish to travel before or after the program, there is no group flight nor do the partner universities make travel arrangements on behalf of program participants. You will need to make your reservations yourself, and we suggest that you do so at an early date, before trans-Atlantic flights are filled up. You are expected to arrive at the Villa on the date that the program begins, and if you are unable to arrive at the program on the first day, you may be dropped from the program.

- First semester students should arrive at the Villa on **Wednesday, September 2, 2009** after 10:30a.m. but no later than 7 p.m. We regret that admission before that date and hour is impossible. The first meal provided by the program is dinner on Wednesday evening. Orientation and the introduction of staff and faculty will begin at 10a.m., Thursday morning, September 3. Orientation is mandatory.
- Second semester students should arrive after 10:30a.m. and not later than 7p.m. on **Friday, January 8, 2010**. Again, it is not possible to move in to the Villa at an earlier date or at a later hour that first day. That evening the first meal of the semester will be served. The second-semester orientation begins at 10a.m. Saturday, January 9, 2010, and is mandatory.

For details on travel arrangements, see the "Getting There" section in this handbook.

Once you have made your travel arrangements, please notify your study abroad office of your travel itinerary, and expected time of arrival at the Villa. It is important that you do so that we can let the Villa staff know when you will be arriving. If for some reason you will not be arriving at the Villa at the time you had originally scheduled, please let your study abroad office know or call the Villa (011.39.055.444.300.) They will be expecting you, and need to know if your plans have changed at the last minute.

OBTAINING A STUDENT VISA

All students studying in Florence for the semester are required to obtain a student visa prior to departure for Italy.

U-M students may apply through the OIP, regardless of their state of permanent residence; the OIP will in turn deliver the documents to the Italian Consulate in Detroit. Information about this process will be provided in a separate e-mail. (Students who do not or cannot return the visa materials to the OIP by the specified deadlines are responsible for obtaining the visa themselves.)

Duke students may obtain their visas through the Office of Study Abroad, which has made arrangements with the Italian Consulate in Philadelphia to process visas for all Duke students, regardless of their state of permanent residence. The OSA will send information to students about the required documents and deadlines for the visa process. (Students who do not or cannot return the visa materials to the OSA by the specified deadlines are responsible for obtaining the visa themselves.)

Wisconsin students will receive visa instructions by e-mail. Students will turn in their visa materials to Katie Saur for batch processing. They will then forward your materials on to the Italian Consulate in Chicago for processing. You'll be contacted by e-mail to pick up your passport once it has been returned by the Italian Consulate.

Non-consortium students: a list of Italian Consular Offices in the United States and the states over which they have jurisdiction can be found on the web at www.ambwashingtondc.esteri.it/Ambasciata_Washington/Menu/Ambasciata/La_rete_consolare/. Contact the consulate that has jurisdiction over the state of your permanent residence (which is not necessarily where you go to school). Each consulate has its own slight variations on the application procedures and documents, so IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE CONSULATE AND REQUEST THEIR MATERIALS FOR OBTAINING A VISA.

The study abroad office at your home university will provide you with further instructions about applying for a visa (as the requirements vary from one consulate to another), but in general we recommend that you allow 4 weeks for the visa to be processed. (Most consulates will not process visa requests more than 90 days in advance of your departure.) You should also be aware that some consulates require that applicants appear in person at the time they apply for a visa. If you are unable to appear (if, for example, the appropriate consular office is in Philadelphia, and you go to school in North Carolina and live in Maryland), ask your study abroad office for assistance in requesting that this requirement be waived.

If your study abroad office will NOT be supervising your visa application, you will need to present the following documents at the Italian Consulate (please note - this list may vary from consulate to consulate; you will need to check your consulate's requirements):

- Your passport.
- A visa application, signed and notarized
- A letter, issued by your study abroad office, verifying your participation in the program. You will be given a copy of this letter with the official Consulate stamp on it when your visa is processed. **You must bring the stamped copy with you to Florence to present when you apply for your permesso di soggiorno (residence permit).**
- A photocopy of your round-trip airline ticket, notarized.
- A letter of enrollment from your home university, verifying that you are a currently enrolled, full-time student. Your university Registrar should be able to provide such a letter.
- An insurance affidavit, downloaded from the Consulate website. You should check Box A, which says that you intend to buy state health insurance in Italy. All students will be required to do this.
- A financial affidavit, downloaded from the Consulate website, to be filled out and signed by your parent or legal guardian. The signer should be the person who will be financially responsible for you

while you are in Italy. You will need to attach a bank statement or a letter, on bank letterhead, verifying that the signer is in good financial standing and/or that they can afford to support you while you are abroad. (Many banks, however, are unwilling to write such a letter and instead will only issue a letter stating how much money is in each account.) Some consulates want to see a substantial amount of money in the savings account rather than in the checking (since the Consulate maintains that checking account money can be spent too easily). How much money are they looking for? The Detroit consulate wouldn't say. Other consulates are now also checking six months of original bank statements. So be prepared to produce any documentation that they might require.

- A U.S. Express mail envelope, postage paid and addressed to your permanent address so the Consulate can send your passport back to you quickly and without fear of loss. (Please note: The Italian Consulate in Detroit will only deal with U.S. Express Mail.)
- Do not leave this until the last minute. If you mail in your application then send it secure mail also. And whether you apply in person or mail in your application, keep a copy of everything you submit to the Consulate.

Important: The Detroit Consulate has a web site from which you can print a current visa application along with up-to-date instructions. The web address is http://www.consdetroit.esteri.it/Consolato_Detroit/.

Chicago Consulate: www.conschicago.esteri.it/Consolato_Chicago

Philadelphia Consulate: http://www.consfiladelfia.esteri.it/Consolato_Filadelfia/

MONEY

It is important that your supply of money be secure and accessible from the beginning of your stay in Florence. We recommend that you have a variety of ways of receiving money available to you. Don't put all your eggs in one basket.

CASH

Make sure you have at least \$150 worth of Euros with you when you arrive in Italy. Foreign currency can be purchased at some local banks or travel agencies, but you usually need to allow several days for this transaction. ATMs are available in all major airports. Offices for exchanging money (cambio) at airports or train stations are sometimes closed; when open, the lines are usually long and may move slowly. Rates of exchange in such places are often unfavorable. There are no facilities to change money at the Florence airport, but there is an ATM machine there.

ATM AND DEBIT CARDS

An ATM or debit card allows you to access money in your American account. Cirrus and Plus systems are the most common in Europe. (Look on the back of your ATM card to see for which systems it is compatible.) You need to obtain an internationally valid PIN in order to use your ATM card abroad. Check with your bank to make sure that your PIN is an international one. This is a great way to get money as you receive a favorable exchange rate. Do not make this your only means of getting money: sometimes machines are broken and cards can get eaten. Also, ATMs charge a transaction fee every time you withdraw money. Debit cards can be used like credit cards. Your bank may have a limit on how much can be withdrawn weekly, and there may be transaction fees as well. Please check about these fees with your bank before leaving for Italy.

CREDIT CARDS

Another possibility is to have an American Express card, which allows you to cash up to \$1,000 worth of personal checks every 21 days on your American checking account (bring your checkbook). You can do this at any American Express office in Europe (there is one in Florence with excellent services). If you intend to get an American Express card, do so immediately. Processing time can take weeks.

It is also increasingly easy to obtain money at banks and cash machines throughout Europe (including in Sesto) through a cash advance against a Visa card (Master Card is also possible though less commonly used in Europe). Although there is a small charge for the transaction charged against your Visa account and you may be charged interest on the advance, the exchange rates are generally quite favorable and actually better than what you may get at a bank. To obtain money in this way, you will need to obtain an international Personal Identification Number (PIN) for the Visa account prior to leaving the U.S. Call the bank that holds the Visa account to find out how to get an international PIN for the card.

MasterCard and Visa, as well as American Express, can be used at some European establishments to charge meals, lodgings, and purchases. Do not take this service for granted, however. Always check since many small hotels, restaurants, and stores do NOT accept credit cards and many require a minimum purchase amount.

TRAVELER'S CHECKS IN DOLLARS

The main advantage to travelers' checks is that they can be replaced if lost or stolen. You will pay a commission to convert these into currency. Recently students in Italy have had trouble finding places to exchange them, so we do not recommend using them as your primary source of funds. Rather, consider having some as an emergency reserve in case your credit card or ATM card is lost or stolen.

BANKING IN ITALY

It is also possible to open a bank account in Florence but you will find that this is far more time-consuming and complicated than at home and that you will not be able to cash checks. **WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU DO NOT DO THIS.**

How much money you should bring and how much you should budget for your stay in Florence depends, of course, upon your means and lifestyle. In budgeting keep in mind that in addition to some of the expenses you have on your home campus (toiletries, laundry, and personal money) you will probably do some traveling in addition to the trips primarily paid for by the program. You may also want to do some shopping. Try to make a realistic assessment of your needs and arrange for sufficient funds **BEFORE LEAVING HOME**. In the past, students have suggested that a \$2,000 minimum spending money was realistic; others have said that they spent far less than at home. A major consideration is to minimize requests home for money. Keep in mind too that the program cannot lend you money.

Non-program expenses for which you may want to budget: The program fee which you pay prior to departure covers, among other things, room and most meals at the Villa and most of the costs of two program excursions each term (usually to Rome and Venice). There are some additional, non-program expenses for which you may want to set money aside. A partial list includes:

- Required Italian health insurance (€50 per semester for Wisconsin/Duke students; see below)
- Coursepacks, purchased upon arrival at the program (most are in the range of €14-15 per course)
- Bus passes (€20,00/21 trips)
- Laundry (€1,50 each token)
- Key and room deposit, receivers (€80,00, refundable)
- Non-program excursions and trips
- Tickets to concerts and other cultural events
- Some museum entrances (for those visits not considered part of the academic program)
- Weekend meals which are not served at the Villa
- Meals and local transportation for the Rome and Venice weekend excursions
- Toiletries and other personal items
- Souvenirs and presents to take home

REVIEWING YOUR INSURANCE COVERAGE AND MEDICAL NEEDS

Italian law requires all international students studying in Italy to provide evidence of complete coverage or purchase medical insurance coverage when they first arrive. Duke and Wisconsin students need to purchase Italian medical insurance, called Assitalia, which provides coverage for hospitalization and emergency care costs, but does not extend to the cost of doctors' visits or prescriptions. Six months' coverage costs about €50, and you need to factor this cost into your budget for Florence. (Soon after arrival at the Villa, program participants will be taken to the post office in Sesto, where this coverage can be purchased; U-M students do not need to purchase this insurance by virtue of the health coverage provided by HTH Worldwide.)

In addition to the coverage provided by Assitalia, Wisconsin students are provided with CISI Health insurance as part of their program fee. Insurance cards and policy information is provided in their pre-departure packets. For more information on the policy and coverage, please see our web site here: www.studyabroad.wisc.edu/insurance/index.html.

Duke students are required to have U.S. medical insurance coverage while in Florence. Check with the Duke study abroad office to find out what level of coverage is required, or if a particular insurance policy is required. Before leaving for Italy, all students should check with their American insurance carriers to verify whether (and under what circumstances) the coverage will continue while they are abroad and how they can be reimbursed for medical expenses. It is also recommended (but not required) that you obtain a letter from your insurance carrier stating that you have insurance coverage and that this coverage will continue in force during the time that you are abroad.

If you have ongoing medical needs or conditions that may require treatment or doctors' visits while you are in Florence, you may wish to obtain a copy of your medical records from your physician to bring with you to Italy. Similarly, we recommend that if possible you bring with you a semester's (or year's, if necessary) supply of any medications you are taking. **DO NOT TRY TO MAIL PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS TO ITALY.** Prescriptions may be compounded somewhat differently from one country to another, and sometimes these differences can be important. (Remember to keep them in their original containers; do not send them in the mail.)

No special immunizations are needed for travel in Western Europe, including Italy. It has been recommended, however, that students (especially second-semester participants) get flu and tetanus shots prior to the program. Also, if you plan any travel outside Western Europe, you should consult the CDC website for the relevant country or countries to determine whether any immunizations are recommended. (See www.cdc.gov/travel)

PACKING FOR FLORENCE

Most of us over-pack, especially for a long stay away from home, with the result that we later waste time and money mailing home unneeded articles in order to make room for what we have in the meantime acquired abroad. And we often find that we bring more than we will wear or need during our time abroad. Pack lightly! Our suggestion, based on our own experiences and feedback from former students: Pack what you think you will need, and then take half of it out! Most incidentals (such as toothpaste, shampoo) can be bought as easily in Florence as in the U.S. Buying them in Florence will add interest to your stay and improve your Italian. The Villa also has laundry facilities so there is no need to take huge amounts of clothing. In addition, closet and wardrobe space at the Villa is limited, and if you bring too much, it may have to stay in your suitcase.

Never bring more than you can carry. Not only is traveling with too much an unpleasant experience, but it makes you a target for petty crime. Make sure that you can carry what you bring. The walk between flights or to the train platform can be long, especially if you're loaded with heavy luggage. The farther you have to carry it, the heavier it seems to get.

Normally the climate of Florence is hot in August and early September, with chilly, damp, rainy weather from November through March. Florence does not get as cold as Madison or Ann Arbor, although there are occasional freezes in the winter months. The Villa is not heated to U.S. standards so you'll want warm sweaters to wear at the Villa. Program participants in previous years went out and purchased "long-johns" to see them through a cold snap. You might want to bring warm slippers as well—the floors of the Villa can be very cold in the winter.

AMONG THE ARTICLES YOU MAY WISH TO HAVE

1. A warm coat, waterproof or water repellent.
2. A light jacket and heavy wool sweater.
3. An umbrella and hat/cap.
4. Sturdy walking shoes, well broken-in, preferably waterproof.
5. A small pocketknife (Swiss Army type is excellent- pack in your suitcase, not carry on).
6. Prescription medicines and, where appropriate, a generic prescription.
7. Replacement glasses or lenses or, at least, your eyeglass prescription.
8. Washcloth, hand and bath towel. All bed linens are provided at the Villa, but towels are not.
9. Laundry bag
10. Insect repellent
11. Lip balm
12. Earphones, for the receivers used on art history site visits.

Do not bring plug-in electrical appliances, especially hair dryers, unless they have built-in adapters and can be used on 220-volt current. Alternatives: using battery-operated items (e.g., alarm clocks) and buying what you need in Italy.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

- Pack your carry-on bag with essential items (medicine, toiletries, etc.) and one change of clothes. Airlines do lose luggage and for some reason it seems to be a particular problem for Florence arrivals! If you lock your suitcase, use a TSA-approved lock when leaving/entering the U.S..
- Instead of a suitcase, consider bringing a large backpack. This also comes in handy if you plan to travel before or after the program or during the break.
- You may find a money belt useful when traveling around Europe. It will enable you to keep your money, passport, credit cards, or other important papers in a safe, hidden place.
- If you don't have a digital camera, bring a supply of film; it is expensive in Italy.
- Bring a supply of passport or vending machine-type photographs, which are often required for museum and transportation passes. You will need at least four for registering with the police when you first arrive (see Orientation and Formalities in Florence).

HEALTH INSURANCE

WISCONSIN AND DUKE STUDENTS NOT COVERED BY HTH WORLDWIDE INSURANCE

A list of doctors, dentists, and other specialists is available through the office at the Villa, and faculty or staff at the Villa can help you to make an appointment. If you see a physician or other specialist, please know that you must pay directly for private care visits to the health provider. Your U.S. health insurance plan should provide coverage while abroad, but be prepared for the fact that most U.S. plans require you to pay for the visit or service first and then reimburse you. Check the terms of your policy and be sure to have all necessary identification. Do not drop your U.S. medical coverage under any circumstances. You will also be covered by your Italian insurance (Assitalia) for emergency and hospital care.

MICHIGAN STUDENTS

A list of doctors, dentists, and other specialists is available through the office at the Villa, and faculty or staff at the Villa can help you to make an appointment. Some visits may be covered up front by HTH (if you see an HTH-affiliated physician), but if you see a physician or other specialist, you will first pay for the visit and then submit a claim for to HTH for reimbursement.

All University of Michigan students are required to be covered by HTH Worldwide health insurance while abroad. Mandated by the U-M Provost, this international insurance plan is reasonably priced, covers a wide range of conditions and events, and eliminates the need to insure that your own health insurance will provide sufficient international coverage.

Coverage under this plan is required, and the OIP will be responsible for enrolling students in the program. Costs of the coverage are included in the OIP Administrative Fee or OIP Program Fee.

HTH Worldwide has a website that provides full information about the insurance program and its benefits: www.hthstudents.com.

SOME COVERAGE BENEFITS

- If students use an HTH preferred physician, HTH Worldwide will pay “up-front” for most medical treatment, eliminating the need to file claims for reimbursement
- If student see a non-HTH physician, students will pay up front and submit a claim form to HTH for reimbursement
- If students go to a pharmacy, they will pay up front for services and submit a claim form to HTH for reimbursement
- Valid entire time abroad, whether in your host country or travelling elsewhere outside the U.S.
- Includes payment for treatment of mental and nervous disorders including drug or alcohol abuse
- Includes most outpatient prescription drugs
- Pre-existing conditions are not excluded
- Includes payment for emergency medical evacuation as well as expenses (up to \$1,500) for a bedside visit by a family member if you are hospitalized
- Students have access to a website of HTH certified English-speaking physicians in their destination location and can pre-arrange an introductory appointment. The website provides links to other important resources available through HTH Worldwide, including drug translations, medical terms & phrases, and CityHealth Profiles (safety and security in your destination location)
- Each student will receive an electronic insurance card, with important access numbers and contact information.

COVERAGE IN THE U.S.

While the HTH Worldwide insurance plan will provide some continued coverage for when you return home following a condition or injury abroad, this coverage is extremely limited and therefore you should by all means continue whatever current health insurance coverage you have in the U.S.

HEALTH EMERGENCIES

In the event of an emergency, go immediately to the nearest physician or hospital without delay and then contact HTH Worldwide. HTH Worldwide will then take the appropriate action to assist and monitor the medical care until the situation is resolved. To contact HTH Worldwide in the event of an emergency, call 1.800.257.4823, collect +1.610.254.8771 or globalhealth@hthworldwide.com.

EXTENDED HTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

If you wish to be covered for a longer period (e.g., travel outside the U.S. before or after the program), you may elect to enroll for additional days, at your own expense, directly on the HTH Worldwide website. Students who purchase new coverage or extend coverage directly outside of the UMICH Study Abroad program must sign up directly on the HTH website using the U-M Ann Arbor Online Group Self Enrollment Codes (OGSE): EAL-7718/ Subgroup Code: UMAO. Students will be billed an additional \$5.00 administrative fee for registering for travel before or after the program, plus the daily coverage cost.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

If you require prescription medication, bring a supply with you to last the entire time that you will be abroad. Although many medications are available worldwide, they are not always identical in strength or composition to what you take at home. Bring medications in your carry-on luggage, in their original containers, along with a letter from your doctor explaining the dosage, why the medication has been prescribed, and why you are traveling with a large quantity. This is especially important if you enter the country with medications that are highly controlled due to their tendency to be abused in other contexts.

MEDICAL NEEDS

Remember, if you are taking medication for a medical condition such as diabetes, you must bring all medicine with you or purchase it abroad. Again, **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MAIL PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS TO ITALY**. Italian officials are very suspicious of medicines that might turn out to be illegal drugs and you will have to go through laborious and time-consuming paperwork to clear customs. Getting such packages cleared by customs authorities can be very difficult. For any ailment, from the common cold to migraine headaches, we suggest that you bring your preferred brand of medicine. It is very difficult to find the exact equivalents of U.S. medicines in Italy.

If you have a special medical condition (e.g., respiratory problems, allergies), it is a good idea to bring copies of your medical records with you for consultation in the event that you require medical care. You can keep these records in a sealed envelope in the program office; they will be kept confidential and only opened if needed. They can be returned to you at the end of the term.

TELEPHONE AND INTERNET ACCESS

EMERGENCIES ONLY

Villa Office Line: 011-39-055-444-300

Director's Apartment: 011-39-055-440-250

Director's Cell: 011-39-340-301-9802

Use these telephone numbers only in case of a serious emergency to contact the Director of the program. Your parents may leave a message for you, but you will not be called to the telephone for any reason. We request the utmost consideration in calling these telephone numbers after hours, for it will ring directly into the Director's apartment. Please share this information with your parents.

GETTING THERE

If you travel from Detroit, Chicago, or Raleigh-Durham to Florence, you will have to take a connecting flight. If the first leg of your trip takes you to a European city, your luggage will be checked through to your final destination. Depending on your flight route, you may clear passport control at your first landing point in Europe, or have an additional passport control (if you fly first into Great Britain or Switzerland).

If you need to take a train once you have landed in Italy, your travel agent may be able to purchase a train ticket for you. Train tickets are valid for a number of days. If you take a high-speed train, you will have to have a reservation, which may be changed with enough advance notice. If you want to acquire

more information about schedules and ticketing rules on Italian trains, go to the official web site of the Italian train company, Trenitalia: www.trenitalia.it/.

Flight options vary, depending on your departure city. Unless you plan to travel in Europe before the beginning of the program, try to book a flight with only one stop before landing in Italy.

Arrival Destination	Ground Transportation	Means of Transportation	Cost
Firenze, Aeroporto Amerigo Vespucci	<p>From Detroit, you can arrive at Florence airport from a number of European cities (London, Paris, Frankfurt, Brussels, and Amsterdam).</p> <p>Claim your luggage and go through customs control. If you feel tired and spaced-out, take a taxi. (The Villa is a relatively short taxi ride from the airport.)</p> <p>If you do take a taxi from the airport or the train to the Villa, please be aware that the fare will be a little more than is shown on the meter, because there is a surcharge for luggage and for leaving the city of Florence. Some, but not all taxis now have meters that factor this in automatically.</p>	taxi to the Villa	€30,00
Santa Maria Novella (SMN), Stazione Centrale, (Central Train Station)	<p>If you are not overly tired, do not have a lot of luggage, and are confident in your Italian, you can take the airport shuttle bus to the main train station in Florence, Santa Maria Novella (SMN), and then either a bus or a taxi to the Villa. (We recommend splurging on a taxi at this point.)</p> <p>You can find ATMs in all airports. However, it's convenient to carry about €100 with you, in case you are in a hurry or ATMs are not working.</p>	<p>airport shuttle to SMN</p> <p>+ taxi OR</p> <p>+ bus no. 2 or no. 28 to the Villa</p>	<p>~€8,00</p> <p>~€20,00</p> <p>~€ 1,10</p>

If you cannot arrange a flight into Florence, we recommend that you fly into Rome. Milan is a less convenient option, as is Pisa.

Arrival Destination	Ground Transportation	Means of Transportation	Cost
Roma, Aeroporto Leonardo da Vinci / Fiumicino	<p>Claim your luggage first, and then look for the signs pointing to the airport train station which is connected by a sky walk.</p> <p>Buy a ticket for the "Stazione Termini" or Termini Train Station in downtown Rome. Trains run every 30 minutes to Stazione Termini</p>	shuttle train to Stazione Termini	Total Approx. €70,00
Roma, Stazione Termini	<p>After arriving at Roma Termini, buy a train ticket for Firenze). Look for the boards in the station ("partenze") which will tell you at what time the trains depart and from which track.</p>	train to SMN	
Firenze, SMN	<p>You can take an Intercity (IC) train or a high-speed Eurostar (ES) train, Once in Florence, take a bus or a taxi to the Villa. (We recommend a taxi at this point.)</p> <p>The whole process, from landing at the airport to arrival at the Villa, should take you about 6 hours.</p>	<p>bus no. 2 or no. 28 to the Villa</p>	

Please note: The Rome option makes sense only if you arrive in Rome the morning of your scheduled arrival day. Otherwise, if the best fare you can find to Rome arrives later, you should plan to arrive in Rome a day early and take the train to Florence the following morning.

Arrival Destination	Ground Transportation	Means of Transportation	Cost
Aeroporto di Linate	Before leaving the airport, buy a bus ticket for the Milano Centrale train station. The trip from Linate takes approximately 20 minutes	bus to Milano Centrale	Total Approx. €75,00
Aeroporto di Malpensa	Before leaving the airport, buy a bus ticket for the Milano Centrale train station. The trip from Malpensa takes about 45 minutes and costs about 6 Euros.		
Milano Stazione Centrale	After you arrive at the Milano Centrale train station, you can take an Intercity train (the trip will take about 3 hours, 35 minutes) or a high-speed Eurostar train (2 hours and 50 minutes—reservations are required).	train to Florence	
Firenze, SMN	See above		
Pisa, Aeroporto Galileo Galilei	Pisa is the closest city to Florence (although less convenient than Rome). Once you arrive in Pisa, check at the information desk in the main hall of the airport regarding bus or train service to Florence. In either case, you will likely travel from Pisa to the Santa Maria Novella train station in downtown Florence.	bus to SMN, Florence	
Firenze, SMN	The bus ride will take at least two hours.		

INSIDE AN ITALIAN TRAIN STATION – GENERAL TRAIN INFORMATION

Buying a ticket to Firenze [Florence]. Schedules. In train stations there are schedules listed in many different places. The yellow notices list departure times from the station and arrival times at their destinations. The white list shows what trains are arriving at the station. Be prepared to ask for your ticket in Italian; there are some workers who speak English but it will be much easier if you have the information in Italian (write it out if necessary). There are different windows for different types of journeys. If you are traveling internationally there is a separate place to buy a ticket. There are different ticket lines for domestic travel. There are three types of tickets:

- Eurostar (ES): Eurostar are the high speed trains. Tickets should be booked in advance and must include a seat reservation. No standing passengers are allowed.
- Intercity (IC): Intercity trains run between major Italian cities. They are fast but not as fast as the ES.
- Local: These trains stop at all stations in smaller towns and should only be used when traveling to a smaller town.

Essential Vocabulary

Biglietto andata e ritorno.....	Two-way ticket
Biglietto sola andata	One-way ticket
Prima classe or seconda classe	First class or second class
Prenotazione	Reservation
Posto	Seat
Finestrino	Window
Corridoio	Aisle

Trains will be listed on the train schedule as ES or IC. Remember to check the key for irregularities—some trains, for example, do not run on Sundays, while others may operate only on weekends.

GETTING ON THE TRAIN

Either in the center of the station or just in front of the train, there will be a listing on the wall with the time the train departs and from which *binario* (track) it departs. The listing also shows if the trains are running late. Before getting on the train your ticket **MUST** be validated. At the head of each track there is a small yellow machine into which the ticket is inserted and stamped. Do not forget to do this or you will be traveling illegally and you are liable to be fined.

Arrival at the Train Station (Santa Maria Novella) in Florence. Florence has several train stations. Almost all of them stop at the main one in the center of town, Santa Maria Novella (SMN), which is where you must get off.

TAXI TO THE VILLA

We strongly recommend you take a taxi from SMN to the Villa. You will find a taxi stand outside the main exit of the station (to the left as you get off the train). Be sure to specify Sesto Fiorentino (there is another street in Florence proper called 'Gramsci'), and have the taxi take you to the door of the Villa, which is marked 460. The cost is around €30.00, depending on the time of day, traffic, and amount of luggage you have. At the end of a long trip it is well worth the expense. (As from the airport in Florence, the fare may be more than shown on the meter; most drivers will be glad to write out the numbers for you if your Italian is not up to translation.)

BUS TO THE VILLA

The bus leaves from the same side of the station as the taxi and takes about thirty minutes (longer during rush hour). You must buy a ticket (un biglietto) before boarding the bus. You can purchase tickets at the magazine stands located in front of the bus stops or at the Tabaccaio inside the train station. Tickets must be stamped in the machines located at the front and rear entrances of the bus. (Note: Always remember to validate your ticket or you may be fined if an inspection occurs.)

On the bus, ask the driver to let you off at bus stop Fermata "Gramsci 9," (nove). Look for the following landmarks to signal that you are approaching your stop. On the left you will see a large bright supermarket, Esselunga, and then on the right will be a cemetery. The Villa is just past the gas station on the corner, on the left side of the street, and the bus will go through the intersection.

Bus no. 2 stops in front of the Villa. Bus 28 turns at the corner before the Villa. If you wish, write the address on a piece of paper and show it to the driver. If you have difficulty, call the Villa.

ADDRESS OF THE VILLA

Villa Corsi-Salviati
Via Antonio Gramsci 460 (pronounced "Gram-shee")
50019 Sesto Fiorentino (Firenze) ITALY

ORIENTATION AND FORMALITIES IN FLORENCE

When you first arrive at the Villa, you will meet the staff: Helen Burroughs, the Villa Manager; Rosita Cirri, the Administrative Assistant; and the graduate House Fellow. You will find that they are critical to the smooth operations of the program and wonderful sources of information about the Villa and Tuscany.

Each term the program begins with an orientation for students designed to provide you with an on-site introduction to the academic program and schedule, life at the Villa, and the rules and regulations which you will be expected to follow while on the program. Students are expected to arrive in time to participate in the full orientation. The orientation will include a Villa and garden tour, a tour of Sesto and a tour of Florence. You will also be introduced to the faculty through a series of brief presentations. The program

will include information designed to help you begin to understand the culture and life in Italy as well as group events led by the program faculty. You will also receive a Villa handbook that includes addresses of libraries, bookstores, travel agencies, markets, supermarkets, restaurants, a list of emergency numbers and more.

During this time you will also complete two legal formalities required by the Italian government:

1. Purchase Italian medical insurance at the post office (except Michigan students). This is required of all foreign students (and faculty) in Italy and provides coverage for hospitalization and emergency care costs. However, it does not pay for the cost of doctors' visits or prescriptions. Six months' coverage costs about €50. When you purchase this insurance, the postal clerk will stamp your receipt. Do not lose it, as this proof of insurance is required for registration with the Questura (see below).
2. Register with the police (Questura). Rosita Cirri will organize this process during the first week of your stay. You will need to fill out a "Permesso di Soggiorno" form, and proof of both Assitalia and U.S. medical insurance coverage (CISI for UW-Madison students), or HTH insurance (see Obtaining a Student Visa). **You must also present a copy of the enrollment letter you submitted to obtain your visa, with the Italian Consulate stamp on it. (You should receive this along with your visa, so be sure to keep it with you.)** Ms. Cirri will collect all forms from you and take them to the police station. This saves you from having to go in person. Please assist her by being prompt with your paperwork.

LIVING THERE

GOING FROM THE VILLA TO FLORENCE

The Villa Corsi-Salviati is located in Sesto Fiorentino, on the outskirts of Florence, and can be reached by bus, train, or taxi. The method you choose for getting into Florence and returning to the Villa will likely vary according to the time of day, and over the course of your stay at the Villa, you may well resort to all three methods of transportation. Bus and taxi are the most convenient methods.

BUS

The bus to Florence runs approximately every 20 minutes, from early morning until late in the evening. The nearest stop for going into Florence is a five-minute walk from the Villa. (On the return, the #2 bus stops across the street from the Villa; the #28 turns the corner just before the Villa and stops there.) The trip into Florence, to the train station Santa Maria Novella, takes from 30 minutes (when traffic is not heavy) to 45 minutes (during rush hour).

- Average daily bus tickets: Corsa semplice – €1,10 (valid for 70 min.)
- Special electronic passes (carta agile) cost €10,00 for 10 trips or €20,00 for 21 trips.

Bus tickets may be purchased at:

- Tobacco shops (You will see a big blue T on a sign outside the shop)
- Some bars and cafes (look for the blue T sign outside)
- At the ATAF office (outside SMN train station under the "pensilina" arcade)
- Automatic machines at the train station

Tickets and passes must be validated in the appropriate machines upon boarding the bus. A warning: if you are caught traveling without a ticket or pass, the fine is €45,00.

During off peak hours, one can take the no. 28 or no. 2 bus (the no. 2 takes slightly longer) all the way into Florence; the same goes for the return. The last bus leaves SMN at 12.35.

TRAIN

It is also possible to take the train from Sesto into Santa Maria Novella in Florence. The ride is quicker and easier than the bus, but the trains are relatively infrequent during off-peak times (after morning rush hour, for example). The train station is about 20 minutes' walk from the villa. You will be given more information about this option when you arrive at the villa.

The Zambra train station is much closer to the Villa. You will be given a pocket-size schedule for this option during orientation.

Train tickets for departure at Zambra may be purchased at Tobacco shops in Sesto.

TAXI

Although a taxi from downtown Florence to the Villa is expensive, students who go in a group at night often share this expense for a late night return. A taxi will cost about €20.00 from SMN to the Villa; most taxis can take 4 passengers with the exception of the Fiat Multiple which can take 5.

CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Italy is not the U.S., and you may find yourself puzzled, or even annoyed, by various Italian customs and practices. It's obviously impossible for us to tell you in advance everything you will experience or feel while in Italy, but there are some differences that you may want to know about in advance. Here is a very incomplete list of some of the cultural contrasts you may encounter:

- Conceptions of personal space are quite different in Italy. You may find that people stand closer to you than at home, especially in public areas and on public transportation.
- Italians value courtesy and politeness. On buses, for example, you will find Italians readily giving up their seats to the elderly, mothers with children, and invalids. And in waiting for the bus, while you may be taken aback by the lack of a line, you'll find that people get on in an orderly fashion without pushing or shoving. Even if you haven't studied Italian before, start immediately to use small courtesies in Italian (please, thank you, etc.). You'll find that it's appreciated.
- In shops, merchandise is often kept on shelves behind the counter, and a sales person shows you what you ask to see rather than allowing you to sort through the stock yourself.
- Italians communicate more easily with strangers than Americans do, though in a less casual way.
- It is normal to exchange "buon giorno" or "buona sera" when entering shops or cafes and "arrivederci" and "grazie" when exiting.
- Smoking is banned by law in all enclosed spaces unless they have a separate area with continuous floor-to-ceiling walls and a ventilation system (including restaurants and theaters). The smoking ban is one of the toughest in Europe.
- It is optional to tip in restaurants, bars, taxis, at the hairdresser's or barber's, etc.
- Please note: Do NOT eat on public transportation and in public buildings except in cafeterias and designates areas. Italians do not bring snacks and lunches to meetings.
- Play the anthropologist: observe Italian behavior and try to adapt. Italians come in all shapes, sizes, and attitudes, like any other group. Sooner or later you will encounter a discourteous, pushy, or aggressive person. Try to not take it personally.

SECURITY AND SAFETY

Enter the Villa's and the local police's emergency numbers in your cellular phone so that you can easily call if you feel uneasy about a situation.

SECURITY AT THE VILLA

For reasons of security, the Villa is always locked. You will be given a key to the front door and to your room upon arrival, and must pay a €50 security deposit. After 10p.m. only enrolled students may enter the grounds and there can be NO overnight guests for any reason. The school cannot be responsible for any loss of money, jewelry, or valuable possessions on or off the Villa grounds. Care for your personal property should also be exercised at the Villa. Lockers are available where money and valuables should be stored.

GENERAL SECURITY ISSUES

While serious crime is lower in Florence than is the case with many cities of comparable size, you are urged to use all possible precautions to ensure personal safety. Be familiar with the European monetary system, always count your change, and put your wallet back in your purse or pack before leaving a shop. Shoulder straps should be placed across the body and purses firmly held. In addition, carry purses and bags away from the street side. Wallets in back pockets are easy targets for theft; keep your money in front pockets, money belts, etc. and be particularly careful on buses and in crowded places like markets. Also, only carry as much cash as you need or can afford to lose. Be aware that pickpockets work in groups: a few may try to distract you while the actual ‘thief’ steals your wallet.

Caution and discretion will also aid you in recognizing and responding to the different social signals. Be aware that modes of behavior such as walking barefoot and public drunkenness are viewed as extremely offensive. The drug problem has hit Florence, albeit later than many other places. This accounts for a great amount of the pilfering. A categorical imperative: do not bring illicit drugs with you and do not have anything to do with the drug traffic while in Italy. Laws are extremely strict, and if you run afoul of the law, you will be given no special consideration by either the Italian legal system or the American diplomatic corps. Possession and/or use of illicit drugs will be grounds for immediate dismissal from the program.

GENDER DIFFERENCES AND WOMEN'S SAFETY

Both men and women on first encountering another culture may become aware of different expectations from what they are accustomed to at home as to how men and women behave. In Italy, norms for some behaviors, like dress, may seem much stricter, while other behaviors, like physical contact between men, may seem much looser. In some countries, including Italy, American women may find themselves uncomfortable with the looks and comments of the men, while American men may find it very difficult to meet women of the host country. Sometimes American students have found that people have made assumptions about them and their attitudes simply because they are American.

One significant area of difference between the U.S. and Italy has to do with consumption of alcohol. While there is not the rigid enforcement of a “drinking age” in Italy, you will also find that Italians seldom drink to become intoxicated. Rather, alcohol is consumed in moderation on social occasions and with meals. Public drunkenness and rowdy behavior, by both men and women, are frowned upon. Moreover, over-consumption of alcohol poses special difficulties for women: Not only are women who are publicly drunk in Italy looked upon as “loose,” they also put themselves at risk for sexual assault and other unwanted attentions. Please keep in mind that your judgment is likely to be impaired with alcohol, and that you may lose the ability to evaluate situations with the same caution and sensitivity you normally use. Remember you may not be aware of or able to read the various social signals that are being given.

Women may also find themselves confronted with the distorted stereotype of American women based on images from American movies and TV. (Madonna, after all, attended U-M — but did not graduate.) A smile, eye contact, certain clothing, or the way you carry yourself can connote different things in Italy than in the U.S. For example, Americans tend to respond politely to unwanted attentions, often saying “no thank you” as nicely as possible. Italian women, on the other hand, are likely to be less courteous, and even rude, in such situations.

SAFETY TIPS

You will learn more about safety in Italy and specifically in Florence at the orientation when you first arrive at the Villa. In the meantime, here are some general suggestions for traveling and living in Italy.

- Read travel guides (Let's Go Italy, Lonely Planet, and the Rough Guide have sections addressed to women travelers) and talk to women who have been to Italy.
- Follow the example of local Italian women for culturally appropriate dress and behavior. You will find that Italian women generally do not wear shorts or bare their midriffs except at the seashore.
- Firmly say “no” to invitations you don't want and turn away. Ignore persistent overtures. Never feel you need to be polite to an unwanted show of interest.
- Walk with a purpose and avoid eye contact with strangers.
- When alone in a café or other public place, carry an Italian newspaper or other Italian reading matter. Do what you can to blend into your surroundings and show would-be admirers you belong.
- Get to know your host city. Learn which areas are safe (at what hours) and which are not. Ask Italians and local staff for advice.

OTHER TIPS

- Tampons are available at the local grocery store. Condoms are sold at the pharmacy and in condom machines in restrooms and on some street corners.
- Exercise the same caution with regard to sexual activity and safe sex as you would at home.
- If you use birth control, bring enough for the entire stay. Do not plan to fill a prescription in Florence.

TRAVEL AND OTHER EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

WEEKEND EXCURSIONS

Each semester the program organizes weekend trips (usually to Siena, Venice, and Rome) which are considered an integral part of the academic program and are therefore mandatory. Other day trips, usually Friday or Saturday, are optional for both faculty and students. Transportation to the excursion site, accommodations during weekend trips, and museum entrance fees are covered by the program. Program participants pay for meals and transportation while at the site. If, for example, you take a bus in Rome or a vaporetto in Venice, you need to pay for it yourself. Bag lunches are provided for Friday trips. Otherwise no meals are included.

OTHER TRAVEL

Students often want to capitalize on their being in Italy as a springboard for travel to other countries, and we suggest that you use the week-long break each term—in late October during the first term, and in late February during the second semester—for travel outside Italy. There are many sites in Tuscany and the surrounding area that are ideal for weekend excursions, and they can be reached quickly and relatively cheaply. You'll find information about such destinations, as well as how to get there and what to see, at the Villa. Save your further travel for the break.

Remember attendance is taken in class and unexcused absences may result in lower grades. We cannot alter academic policies to fit personal travel plans.

If you wish to travel in Europe, you may purchase a rail pass, or fly, which has become the most convenient, even though a less interesting way to travel.

The program cannot assume responsibility for students when they are on private trips away from the Villa.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

The villa grounds contain areas that can be used for exercise. (In some years, students and faculty have set up soccer teams.) In addition, there are several places to jog nearby, including the Park of Villa Solaria. The Monte Morello with its rural roads and panoramic views of Sesto and Florence is also suitable for walks, running, and bicycling. Sesto too has a tennis club if you would like to play tennis with Italians, or you may want to join the local gym (for a fee). And finally, it is possible to plan weekend excursions that include hiking or cycling.

MUSIC

The Villa has a long-standing musical tradition. We try to continue this tradition each term with such activities as a Villa choir and occasional concerts in the Aula Magna, and by providing opportunities for students to practice and play instruments. If you play a musical instrument, you may want to consider bringing it with you. The Villa also has a piano for you to play.

OTHER INFORMATION

Before you travel to Italy, learn about the country and city where you will be spending your time studying abroad. The internet is a wonderful resource for finding out about Italian politics and culture. A good place to start is the Italian Consulate website: www.ambwashingtondc.esteri.it/ambasciata_washington, with general information about Italian food, government and politics, cultural activities; links to Italian newspapers and news services; and tips for travelers. Other sites to check:

- www.turismo.intoscana.it
- www.unimwd.it – the program’s website
- www.initaly.com/regions/tuscany/tuscany.htm – information about Tuscany
- <http://english.firenze.net/> – what’s on in Florence, in English
- www.initaly.com – links to various Italian cities
- www.enit.it – Italian office of tourism website

RECOMMENDED READING AND VIEWING

- E. M. Forster, *A Room with a View*.
 - A tale of love in Italy.
 - Also see the movie. Beautiful scenery
- Ann Cornelisen, *Any Four Women Could Rob the Bank of Italy*.
 - Novel takes place in Tuscany
- Mary McCarthy, *The Stones of Florence*.
 - Travel essay classic
- Italo Calvino, *Italian Folktales*.
 - Two hundred tales of witchcraft, love and trickery
- Frances Mayes, *Under the Tuscan Sun and Bella Tuscany*.
 - An American writer’s experience of living in Tuscany.
- Tim Parks, *A Season with Verona*
 - A lively account of the soccer (calcio) culture in Italy

Italian cinema provides another window on Italian life and history, and there are many films, both new and old, available on video. Why not give yourself a crash course in Italian cinema before leaving for Italy? Classic films include those directed by Federico Fellini, Roberto Rossellini, Vittorio DeSica, and Lucchino Visconti. Newer films include *Life is Beautiful*, *The Postman*, *Bread and Tulips*, *The Son’s Room*, and *Cinema Paradiso*, *Lamerica*.

Buon viaggio!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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During non-business hours, in case of emergency only, please call OIP (734) 764-4311 for contact information. In the evenings and on weekends, our office message will give you the names and telephone numbers of OIP staff who can assist you. OIP provides assistance in case of emergencies due to serious personal problem, political, or health crises.

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EMERGENCY

During non-business hours, in case of emergency, please call the main office: 608-262-2851; or contact the AIP staff member on call at 608-516-9440 (cell phone). From Italy, you will have to dial 001 first.

DUKE UNIVERSITY

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**EMERGENCY CONTACTS:
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Tel: 1.800.257.4823
Email: globalhealth@hthworldwide.com
Website: hthstudents.com

Policy Number:

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Local Emergency: _____
Passport #: _____
Other: _____

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