

UW in Florence

Spring 2018

UW Professor Course Descriptions

**You are eligible to receive ONE equivalent per course.

The Florentine Renaissance

Instructor:

Kristin Phillips-Court, Dept. of French & Italian, Art History

UW Equivalents:

Art History 320: Italian Renaissance Art (*Humanities Breadth*)

Art History 322: Italian Art from Donatello to Leonardo da Vinci, 1400-1500 (*Humanities Breadth*)

Literature in Translation 256: Images of the Individual in the Italian Renaissance (*Literature Breadth*)

This introductory course examines the artistic, literary, and philosophical developments that took place in Florence during the Renaissance and how they uniquely defined the idea of the Italian Renaissance for centuries. We will study Florentine painting, sculpture, architecture, urban planning, and literature both inside the classroom and on-site in Florence. In addition to introducing students to the numerous artistic treasures of Florence, this course also aims at broadening their appreciation of the enduring capacity of the arts to feed the human need for aesthetic and intellectual fulfillment. Lectures, discussions, and activities will focus on building a practical knowledge of Florentine Renaissance art and culture, as well as on developing students' analytical skills.

Political Controversy & Political Skills

Instructor:

Ricardo Galliano Court, Dept. of Political Science

UW Equivalents:

Political Science 401: Selected Topics in Political Science – Political Controversy

Political Science 590: Study Abroad Topics in Political Science – Political Theory (*Humanities Breadth*)

This course presents a choice between enjoying the sensation of 'being right' and the possibility of moving one's personal and political agenda forward in concrete ways. Lately, political culture has been almost exclusively about the former to the detriment of the latter. In this course, participants will exercise political skills in the classroom and apply them outside the classroom in community service and in political advocacy. This course stresses the radical difference between political skills and political punditry, one requiring practice and application, the other requiring only primitive rhetorical skills.

This course will ask students to develop their civic knowledge, communication abilities, and networks of relationships that will define their role as an active civic actor, providing genuine hands-on experience as an engaged citizen. Despite the recent claims of higher education, the teaching of skills is not a frequent focus of undergraduate education in the liberal arts. Teaching methods involved in imparting skills are necessarily different from those employed in imparting knowledge. As such, participants have to take active responsibility for their own development.

This course will develop political skills discussing and debating—from multiple perspectives—four contemporary controversies, Healthcare as a Right, International Free Trade Agreements, the War on Terrorism, Immigration and Assimilation, The European Union: Does it have a future? Moving from lesser to

greater complexity, from understanding and application, to analysis, synthesis, and evaluation, the each of these four units will ask, *Where are we? How did we get here?* and *Where are we going?*

Participants will read a combination of policy briefs, academic articles, and long-form journalism. Each week students will engage in a discussion followed by a debate. Students will rotate between advocating for a political view, to rebutting that view, to being the 'Devil's Advocate' developing complex intellectual and social skills. This class follows a 'flipped' format with time in class devoted to discussion and debate—course content, recordings, readings, quizzes, and reflective exercises online. Twice a week, students will also be required to find and submit a reading that they intend to apply to the next day's discussion or debate. At the end of the course, students will give a presentation of their advocacy work and how they have been able to move their own political agenda forward.

Machiavelli and His World

Instructor:

Kristin Phillips-Court, Dept. of French & Italian, Art History; Ricardo Galliano Court, Dept. of Political Science

UW Equivalent:

Literature in Translation 400: Machiavelli and His World (*Literature Breadth*)

Philosophy 464: Classical Philosophers (*Humanities Breadth*)

This course introduces students to the major works of Machiavelli through the close reading and discussion of his writings in their cultural and historical contexts. First, students will encounter Machiavelli's texts on their own, with guidance from lectures. Students will have the opportunity to react to Machiavelli's writing before grappling with its reception and interpretation. Students will then deepen their understanding of Machiavelli's thought by considering historical, literary, cultural, artistic, feminist, and political-theoretical points of view. Discussion and targeted writing assignments will aim at cultivating in students a broad understanding of Machiavelli's principal intellectual (literary, political-theoretical, historical) attitudes. The course aims at developing students' analytical reading, writing and discussion skills. The outcome will be a deeper understanding of the controversies surrounding Machiavelli, and the ability to articulate with subtlety some complexities in his political thought.