Art, Architecture and Environment: The Historical Geography of Venezia and the Venezian Lagoon

GEA 4957 3 credits
Summer 2016

Dr. Charles Roberts
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Course Description: This course is an introduction to the historical geography of human-environmental interactions in Venice and the Venetian Lagoon. It is very much a field course, with much of the course taught on the streets of Venezia.

Course Objectives: The objectives of this course are to learn about the interface between culture and environment in Venice and to introduce FAU students to a city that has engaged in a variety of cultural debates and struggled with environmental issues for over a thousand years. Utilizing concepts from cultural geography, students will learn to read physical and cultural landscapes like a text, prepare and deliver oral and written presentations.

Course Goals: To experience the natural and cultural life of the Venetian environment. To develop field skills in urban and environmental interpretation, to rapidly assess landscapes and cultures and present information to groups.

Prerequisites: An interest in people, culture and environment. No assumptions are made about previous coursework.

Recommended Textbooks: None, but lecture notes and online presentations will be provided.

Week 1 Origin of Venice
The Venetian Lagoon in the Holocene: Rising Sea Levels
Walking tour: Rising Sea Levels
Byzantine art and architecture
Walking tour: Torcello and Byzantine-Venetian architecture
Week 2 Historical Geography of Venice

Project proposals Due
St. Mark and the Pentarchy
Collapse of the Western Empire
Venice to 800 C.E.: Walking tour: Salizzada San Lio
Walking tour: Venetian-Byzantine architecture

Week 3 Venice, 800 to 1500
Lecture: Venice as queen of the Adriatic
Walking tour: Rialto, terminus of The Silk and Spice roads
Lecture: Gothic period art Walking tour: Gothic architecture
Walking tour: San Marco to Rialto, with a side trip to the oldest houses/ street

Week 4 The Renaissance and Venice
Renaissance art and architecture
Walking Tour: The art of Titian and Tintoretto
Walking Tour: Veronese in Venice
Walking Tour: Tintoretto’s Venice
Walking Tour: San Marco to Santa Maria dei Miricola

Week 5 Venice from 1600 to 1800
Walking Tour: Palladio’s Classic Revival
The Counterreformation in Art and Architecture
Walking Tour: The Salute and Santa Maria de Giglio
Images of Venice: Canaletto and Longhi

Week 6
Academia Field Trip
Modern Venice
Final Presentations

Final Presentation of Project

Course Evaluation:
Class participation is 40% of the course grade. Grading is based on attendance in lectures, walking tours and field trips. We read the landscape of the city from the streets, so attendance is critical to the quality of the final report. Excused absences requires a letter from a physician.

The term project is 60% of the course grade. Your project will show that you have mastered the landscape interpretation techniques discussed in this course. You will research some aspect of the Venetian landscape and apply the concepts covered in the course to a Venetian landscape topic developed by you and approved by the instructor.
Students with Disabilities

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) located in Boca Raton-SU133 (561-297-3880), in Davie-MOD 1 (954-236-1222), in Jupiter SR117 (561-799-8585) or at the Treasure Coast- CO 128 (772-873-3305), and follow all OSD procedures.

Academic Integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see http://www.fau.edu/ctl/4.001-Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf
Professor:
E-mail:
Phone number:
Class meeting time and place: Palazzina Briati, B3, M-R 8:30-10:20

Sito WEB del programma di Studi italiani: http://www.fau.edu/italian/

Knowledge of a foreign language makes you more marketable! Therefore, you might want to consider a MINOR or a MAJOR in Italian. Contact our Italian Studies faculty Emanuele Pettener, Myriam S. Rutenberg, or Ilaria Serra for preliminary information (epettener@fau.edu, iserra1@fau.edu, rutbenbe@fau.edu).

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This is a first/second semester course for beginners (i.e. those with no previous knowledge of Italian) aimed at the simultaneous development of the four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing Italian, with emphasis on basic communication skills while making you cross-culturally competent.

Due to the peculiar nature of this study abroad class, some students may be absolute beginners, while others may have already completed the first semester on campus. The course will provide further instructions for the more advanced students. They will be prepared on second-semester material. The level of their conversations, assignments and presentations will be higher. The two groups will be separate for grammar reviews and particular exercises, but will mingle for general conversations. Mixed levels will be an asset for the class by providing occasions for stimulating conversations and eventual peer explanations of the material.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course you will learn to speak and write about yourself and others, and you will be taught how to articulate everyday habits and circumstances in the present tense (past and future tenses for advanced students), all this while acquiring cultural knowledge of Italy. Throughout the semester you will also sharpen your writing skills through the writing of short compositions (ca. 75 words) that are an integral part of each written exam, and through keeping a diary. In addition, you will read and understand cultural material designed for your level. Through a combination of presentations, group work, and guided interaction, you will improve your Italian proficiency and gain cultural awareness. At the end of the semester, you should also be able to function in an authentic environment, i.e. understand and participate in everyday conversations in the present and past and ask others' opinions on topics ranging from leisure to life events and from technology to geography. Please note that the language spoken in class is Italian exclusively, and that the pace follows a natural speech pattern, so that you can develop your listening comprehension, speaking, and pronunciation skills. This should not intimidate you, as your instructor uses all of her/his skills to make herself/himself understood. Nota Bene: you are required to keep a diary in which you personalize and apply after every class what you have learned that day.

Required Materials:
- Askii, Janice M. And Diane Musumeci. Avanti! Beginning Italian, 2nd edition. McGraw Hill, 2009. You will buy the book key if you take ITA1121 at FAU. Due to limited Internet access in Venice, only the paper book will be used.

Grading:
3 esami scritti (3 written exams = 3 x 20 %, including the final exam) 60%
presentazione orale finale (in-class final oral presentation) 20%
partecipazione 10%
compiti/composizioni 10%

Grading scale:
92-100 = A 90-91 = A-
88-89 = B+ 82-87 = B
80-81 = B-
78-79 = C+ 72-77 = C
70-71 = C- 68-69 = D+
66-67 = D 64-65 = D-
less than 64 = F
* Note the final exam schedule for your class at the end of your syllabus NOW. All students MUST take the final exam on the pre-established final exam date;
* After two unexcused absences, your final grade will drop (A becomes A- after a third absence; A- becomes B+ after a fourth absence etc.); Arriving late to class or leaving early counts as an absence;
* Please be considerate and turn your cellular phones off completely before entering the classroom. While you may take notes using laptops or Notebooks, texting, web surfing, and other distracting activities are obviously not allowed.

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Buon divertimento e buon lavoro!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

1st week

May 17-20 From Chapter 1:

Alphabet & Pronunciation
Formal versus informal,
Numbers
Communication practice, vocabulary building
Gender
Indefinite articles
Plurals
Definite articles
Piace vs piacciono

Italian 2: vocabolario + verbi riflessivi (chapter 6)

Exercise Italian 1: go in a campo and make a list of everything you see, ask people for the names of things if you do not know them. (Exercise Italian 2: Use reflexive verbs to describe people or animals.)

2nd week

May 23-26 From Chapter 2:

adjectives
"molto" and "poco" as adjective and adverb
adjectives and nouns in -e
demonstrative adjectives (questo, quello)
The verbs "avere" and "essere"
Possessive adjectives

Italian 2: vocabolario + passato prossimo and negative expressions (chapter 7)

EXAM 1

Exercise Italian 1: describe all the students in your class and your roommates (Italian 2; add what they did yesterday.)
3rd week
May 30- June 2 Chapter 3:

Telling time
Mi place + verbs in -are, -ere, -ire (infinitive)
Present indicative of regular verbs
Irreg. verbs: andare, bere, fare, uscire, venire

ITALIAN 2: vocabolario + reciproci and passato prossimo (chapter 8)

Exercise: write to your best friend what you do in Venice and what you love or hate here... (ITALIAN 2: use past and reflexive verbs)

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4th week
June 6-9 Chapter 4:

Possessive adjectives with nouns denoting family members
Interrogative pronouns and adjectives

ITALIAN 2: vocabolario + imperfetto (chapter 9)

EXAM 2

Exercise: observe, or better, befriend, an Italian family playing in campo San Giacomo. Then describe them, and your conversation.

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5th week
June 13-16 (Chapter 4)
Irregular verbs: fare, dare, stare sapere, dire, sapere
Comparatives of inequality between subjects

Exercise: describe your Venetian apartment in comparison with your American one

Chapter 5:

Constructions with “Mi piacerebbe”
Superlatives
Modal verbs: dovere volere potere

ITALIAN 2: vocabolario + il futuro (chapter 10)

Exercise: go out to lunch, then describe what you bought, what it looked like, what it tasted like and your conversation with the waiter.

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6th week
June 20-23 (Chapter 5)

Direct object pronouns
Partitivi

Review

June 22: PRESENTAZIONI ORALI IN CLASSE: speak about a Venetian friend you’ve made in these days, or about a place that you’ve come to know in these days (a pub, a bakery... You can add historical information). Pictures or relevant objects are always helpful because they provide mnemonic aid and vivid presentations.

June 23: ESAME FINALE (and eventual oral presentations)