

# Course Offerings & Descriptions

This is a complete list of our course offerings. Not all courses are offered every semester. Please consult a current course schedule for the semester or summer program in which you are interested.

## Italian Language

In order to study Italian at ISTITUTO EUROPEO, students are not required to have previously studied Italian since there are 8 different levels, from absolute beginner to advanced. Students who have already had some language instruction, will be administered a placement test upon arrival in Florence, in order to determine the level in which they will be placed.

### **Intensive Italian**

This option is for students interested in an in-depth, full-immersion study of the Italian language. Intensive Italian lessons are Monday-Friday from 9am-12.30pm. The lessons are divided into two parts: the first two hours concentrate on the grammatical and syntactical study of the language, while the last two hours are dedicated to its practical use: oral expression, reading, writing and comprehension. Each level lasts the duration of one academic month, and at the end of each month, the students are administered an exam. The successful completion of the exam advances the student to the next level. During a semester, students normally complete 4 full levels of Italian, equivalent to 4 semesters of college level Italian.

### **Italian language**

Students not enrolled in the Intensive Italian course will take the 6-credit Italian language course. The course is divided into three levels (beginner, intermediate and advanced) and the lessons are held Monday-Wednesday from 9am-12.30pm, for a total of 6 contact hours/week. The Italian language course covers the amount of material usually presented in 2 semesters of college level Italian.

### **Intensive Italian (summer program only)**

This option is for students interested in an in-depth, full-immersion study of the Italian language. Intensive Italian lessons are Monday-Friday from 9am-12.30pm. The lessons are divided into two parts: the first two hours concentrate on the grammatical and syntactical study of the language, while the last two hours are dedicated to its practical use: oral expression, reading, writing and comprehension. The remaining 20 contact hours will be completed by means of a mandatory, weekly tour or seminar (in Italian), or in the language lab.

### **Italian language (summer program only)**

This course, offered only in the summer is for students who wish to learn the language, as well as attending another elective. The lessons are held Monday-Friday from 9am-12.30pm. The remaining contact hours will be completed by the mandatory participation in at least one of the weekly tours or seminars (in Italian) per week or in the language lab.

## **Grammar Covered in the Italian Language levels**

### **Beginning Levels**

Levels  
Masculine/feminine form  
Definite and indefinite articles form  
Numbers/months/days of the week infinitive

### **Intermediate Levels**

Relative pronouns  
Synonyms, antonyms  
Use of prepositions

### **Advanced**

The passive  
The impersonal  
Use the gerund,

Personal pronouns	Superlative adjectives	Subjunctive
moods (agreement)		
Use of essere and avere	Use of ci, vi & ne	Direct & indirect
discourse		
Common adjectives & nouns	Imperative mood	Use of the
infinitive		
Prepositions: simple & articulated	Verb tenses: passato remoto	Trapassato
Remoto		
Demonstrative adjectives (this,that)	Trapassato prossimo, conditional	Comprehension
of		
Verb tenses: present, passato prossimo	Subjunctive mood: present, past	advanced literature
....future, imperfect	imperfetto, trapassato	Syntax
Formulating questions & answers	Indirect pronouns	Advanced
conversation		
Auxiliary, transitive & intransitive verbs	Combined pronouns	Advanced
composition		
Reflexive verbs/pronouns	Hypothetical situations	
Possessive adjectives	Agreement of tenses	
Direct pronouns	Common/idiomatic expressions	

## **Arts and Humanities**

### **Art History**

All art history courses taught at the ISTITUTO EUROPEO consist of a combination of in-class lectures and on-site visits to Florence's museums and monuments.

**ARH 476 Survey of Art History A - Classical Greece to Renaissance (45 hours)** Survey An introductory course for students who have no, or little background in art history. This course covers the evolution of artistic expression in Western civilizations, from Classical and Hellenic Greek art, to the Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire, through the religious fervor of Middle Ages (Byzantine, Romanesque and Gothic art), to the rebirth of classical ideals in 15th century Florence. Particular consideration is given to the Early Renaissance artists, such as: Donatello, Brunelleschi, Masaccio, Botticelli and the early work of Leonardo and Michelangelo.

**ARH 476 Survey of Art History B - High Renaissance to 19th century (45 hours)** An introductory course for students who have no, or little background in art history. This course covers the evolution of artistic expression in Europe from the Age of the Italian Renaissance masters: Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael, to the dramatic explosion of the Baroque masters: Bernini, Caravaggio and Borromini. From the decadence of the Rococco, through the Neo-classicism and Romanticism of the French Revolution and the Age of Napoleon, to the dawning of Modern Art, with French Impressionism and the Italian Macchiaioli.

**ARH 476 Italian Medieval Art History (45 hours)** This course focuses on the art produced during the three principle movements of the Middle Ages: Byzantine, Romanesque and Gothic. Often referred to as the Dark Ages, due to political unrest, wars, and the barbaric invasions, the Middle Ages actually produced vast quantities of religious artwork, illuminated manuscripts, mosaics, and constructed some of the world's most impressive cathedrals. The social position of the artist in this period will be discussed as well as the relationship between the artist and the wealthy noble patrons. Special attention will be given the Gothic art produced in Florence and Siena, and the political, social and economic factors, which allowed this art to flourish and paved the road for the Renaissance.

**ARH 476 Early Italian Renaissance - 15th century (45 hours)** The period which runs roughly from 1400-1500 is known as the Early Renaissance. It was a century of incredible cultural growth and artistic talent (especially in Florence). Leon Battista Alberti's phrase "Man can do all things, if he wills" perfectly describes the well-rounded, Renaissance man, capable of undertaking many endeavors. Economic and political stability, combined with the rediscovery of classical ideals in art, literature and humanistic philosophy, caused a cultural revolution. The new humanistic approach, so different than the god-centered universe of the Middle Ages, allowed space for exploration, innovation and freedom of expression. Science and art intermingled to create a new, more realistic and intellectual style. Some of the artists to be studied in this course are Brunelleschi, Donatello, Ghiberti, Masaccio, Fra Angelico, Piero della Francesca, Fra Filippo Lippi, Boticelli, Verrocchio, and the young works of Leonardo da Vinci, and Michelangelo.

**ARH 476 Early Italian Renaissance - 15th century (in Italian) (45 hours)** *Pre-requisite: 3 semesters of Italian language or equivalent.* This course follows the same description as, however the lessons are taught in Italian. If there are fewer than 5 students enrolled in the course, it will be offered as an Independent Study. This means that the weekly contact hours with the professor will be cut in half and the remaining hours will be made up independently by the students.

**ARH 476 High Renaissance and Mannerism (45 hours)** The artwork of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo Buonarroti, greatly affected the artists of their time. The period known as the High Renaissance in fact, begins with these two artists and their younger counterpart, Raffaello Sanzio. The High Renaissance style migrates from Florence to new cultural centers, namely Venice and Rome, while in Florence, a new style defined as Mannerism emerges. In its origins, Mannerism was to be the imitation

of the High Renaissance style, however it soon became the antithesis of the simple, balanced, and logical style of the late 15th century. The course concentrates on artists such as: Michelangelo, Leonardo, Raffaello, Titian, Vasari, Pontormo, Rosso Fiorentino, Buontalenti, Giambologna and Cellini.

**ARH 476 High Renaissance and Mannerism (in Italian) (45 hours)** *Pre-requisite: 3 semesters of Italian language or equivalent.* This course follows the same description as **ARH 476 High Renaissance and Mannerism**, however the lessons are taught in Italian. If there are fewer than 5 students enrolled in the course, it will be offered as an Independent Study. This means that the weekly contact hours with the professor will be cut in half and the remaining hours will be made up independently by the students.

## History of Architecture

**ARH 476 Survey of Florentine Architecture (45 hours)** In this course, Florence will be studied through its architecture and urban development, from the Roman city to the most modern buildings in Florence. The main architects who contributed to Florence's growth, and their particular styles will be studied and compared. Weekly site visits will be, and students may be asked to make sketches of the buildings.

**ARH 476 History of Renaissance Architecture (45 hours)** Florence's Golden Age, the Renaissance began with the architecture of Filippo Brunelleschi. His study and application of the elements of ancient Roman architecture, brought about a new style which was quickly adopted and developed not only in Florence, but in other Italian and European cities. This course will begin with the study of Brunelleschi's predecessor, Arnolfo di Cambio, an artist crucial to Florence's 14th century growth, then to the innovations of Brunelleschi, Michelozzo, Leon Battista Alberti, and San Gallo, to the High Renaissance styles of Vasari, Maiano, Buontalenti and Ammanati.

## Literature

**LIT 215 Survey of Italian Literature (45 hours)** This course is a survey of Italian literature from its origins to the 18th century. The literary pieces chosen for the course are read in English translation. Writers and poets from the major literary movements throughout the ages will be read, discussed and compared in class. Each student will be responsible for the completion of a written project on a complete literary work of choice.

**LIT 225 The Age of Dante (45 hours)** Dante, known as the "father of the Italian language", will be studied in this course, not only through his epic masterpiece, "The Divine Comedy", but also through his other works and poetry. Along with Dante, the course will cover his contemporaries and followers. Special attention will be given to the poetry of Petrarca and to Boccaccio's "Decameron." Literary excerpts will be read in English translation, and will be presented, discussed and compared in class. Each student will write a research paper on a selected author or work.

**LIT 325 Contemporary Italian Literature (45 hours)** This course covers the contemporary writers from the early 20th century to the present. The literary works of authors such as Pirandello, Pavese, Svevo, Moravia, Calvino, Ginzburg, to more contemporary authors, will be studied and discussed. Each student will be required to develop an individual project based on a novel of an author of choice.

**LIT 330 Contemporary Italian Literature (in Italian) (45 hours)** *Pre-requisite: 3 semesters of Italian language or equivalent.* This course follows the same description as **LIT 325**, however the lessons are taught in Italian. If there are fewer than 5 students enrolled in the course, it will be offered as an Independent Study. This means that the weekly contact hours with the professor will be cut in half and the remaining hours will be made up independently by the students.

**LIT 335 Italian Women Writers (45 hours)** This course will explore the literary works of Italy's women writers, and recurring themes such as love, marriage, family and the social conditions of women found throughout their works. The women authors to be studied will be chosen from the 15th century to the most contemporary writers. All works will be read in translation. Each student will be responsible for an individual research project on a chosen theme.

## Performing Arts

**EH 310 History of Italian Cinema (45 hours)** From the great directors of the post-war, neo-realist period (Rossellini, Fellini, Antonioni, de Sica) to the more contemporary (Zeffirelli, Bertolucci, Pasolini, Scola), the evolution of Italian cinematography will be studied. Each lesson, the films will be discussed and viewed (in dubbed or sub-titled versions), and comparisons between the films and the authors will be made. This course is recommended for students who wish to acquire a more complete knowledge of Italian culture.

**WL 325 Contemporary Italian Cinema (in Italian) (45 hours)** Pre-requisite: 3 semesters of Italian language or equivalent. This course dealing with contemporary Italian film and directors is taught in Italian and the films to be discussed will be viewed in their original versions. Director and actors of the "new generation" of Italian filmmakers such as G. Salvatores, N. Moretti, G. Tornatore, R. Benigni, etc. will be analyzed and compared, as well as recurring topics, issues and problems of contemporary Italian culture, present in their films.

## Department of Music

For more than ten years, the Music Department of the ISTITUTO EUROPEO has carried out an intense didactical and productive activity by offering high level professional courses and monthly concerts, both inside the Institute and in important historical places.

**MU 231 History of Italian Music I (45 hours)** This lower-division course is available to music majors and for students with little or no music background. From the Middle Ages to the polyphony - The madrigals and the origins of the melodrama - C. Monteverdi - The 17th century - Instrumental music between the 17th and the 18th century - Vivaldi and the violin culture - The 18th century and G. Rossini - The belcantistic season - G. Verdi - The veristic opera - G. Puccini and the 20th century - The revival of instrumental music - Contemporary composers - The new musical theatre. During the course, students will have the opportunity to see at least one opera in a theater in Florence.

**MU 335G History and Language of Opera (45 hours)** This lower-division course is available to music majors and for students with little or no music background. From the madrigalistic comedy to the Recitar cantando - C. Monteverdi - The comic and the serious opera (from the 17th until the 18th century) - The Neapolitan School and the Neoclassicism - G. Rossini - V. Bellini, G. Donizetti and the belcanto - G. Verdi - The melodrama after Verdi and the Verismo - G. Puccini - The opera after Puccini and the contemporary composers. During the course, students will have the opportunity to see at least one opera in a theater in Florence.

**MU 476 Special Topics in Music: Libretti of Opera - (in Italian)(45 hours)** An upper-level music course which guides the students through the reading and the understanding of the libretti and their

specific language. After a historical-literary introduction follows the analysis of examples of different operas emphasising the particularities.

**MU 476 Special Topics in Music: Operatic Voice Registers - (in Italian)(45 hours)** This advanced course is designed for Music majors. A professional critic illustrates the history of the melodrama according to its characteristics and the evolution of each single voice register, chosen by the student (for example "History of the soprano from Monteverdi to Puccini").

## **Independent Study for Music Specialization**

These course are designed for music majors, or for individual who have a sincere passion and talent for singing. Each independent study course is comprised of 15 contact hours of lessons with the instructor and 30 hours to be completed independently by the student.

**MU 235 Accompaniment by Piano (45 hours)** A teacher specialized in accompanying singers on the piano guides the analyses and the interpretation of the vocal score.

**MU 111 Elementary Piano (45 hours)** The course is meant for people who would like to start or improve playing the piano.

**MU 112 Advanced Piano (45 hours)** Prerequisites One year of piano and students audition to determine level of skill. The course is for students who wish to improve their playing.

**MU 214 Vocal Technique for Lyrical Singers (45 hours)** The body is the soundbox of the instrument voice. Guided by a professional of the voice technique, the students improve their respiration and the correct use of the muscles in order to obtain a better sound emission. The course is meant for all students and professionals who want to specialize themselves on the lyric repertory.

**MU 199 Special Topics in Music: Music of Naples (45 hours)** A professional of this particular repertory guides the students through the interpretation and the technical pitch of the Neapolitan vocality.

**MU 199 Special Topics in Music: Vocal Music Together (45 hours)** In an already practicing group guided by a singing teacher, the students prepare a program of musical excerpts from the ancient, modern and contemporary Italian polyphonic repertory, practicing the pronunciation, diction and comprehension.

**MU 476 Special Topics in Music: Vocal Music of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the Baroque (45 hours)** For those who are interested in specializing themselves in the ancient Italian repertory, with particular attention for the Italian madrigalistic literature.

**MU 476 Special Topics in Music: Interpretation of Chamber Lyrics (45 hours)** From the 17th century of Giulio Caccini until today: the students examine closely the vocal Italian chamber repertory.

**MU 116 Singer's Diction I (45 hours)** This is a specialized course for singers. A music teacher corrects the diction and teaches the dynamic of the vocal emission by using the correct pronunciation of Italian poems.

**MU 117 Singer's Diction II (45 hours)** This is a specialized course for singers. A music teacher corrects the diction and teaches the dynamic of the vocal emission by using the correct pronunciation of Italian poems.

## **Social Sciences**

## History

**HY 328. 19th-Century Europe (45 hours)** A survey of European history from the Napoleonic Wars to World War I, students will analyze the quickening pace of change as Europe underwent parallel political, economic, scientific, ideological, military, and social revolutions.

**HY 329. 20th-Century Europe (45 hours)** A survey of European history from World War I to the present. While studying the great personalities, ideologies, wars, and empires of the era, students will also analyze the place of the individual who has seen the certainties of earlier times destroyed by the modern age.

**HY 350 History of Florence (45 hours)** From the founding of the Roman City of Florentia, through the political conflicts of the Middle Ages, to the Golden age of the Lorenzo the Magnificent, to the Republic and ending with the Grand Duchy of Florence. The city will be studied in detail, through in-class lectures and through visits to each of Florence's Quartieri (districts) Important literary, artistic and political figures of Florentine history, as well as the city's relations with other neighboring states will be covered.

**HY 350 History of Modern Italy: From the Unification to the Present (45 hours)** After an introduction to the geography of the peninsula and the cultural significance of the idea of Italy before its unification, the course will analyze the ideals and events of the Risorgimento, liberal Italy, the politics of trasformismo, WWI, Fascism in Italy, WWII and the Resistance. Italy since 1945 and the changed political scene, the latest economic and political transformations, the problems of contemporary Italy, the North-South divide, and regional differences will also be explored. Particular attention will be devoted to the concept of Italy as a united entity and to its political, cultural and social significance in the past centuries, as well as in the present.

**HY 350 History of the Italian Renaissance (45 hours)** This course illustrates the artistic, philosophical, political and social aspects of the period known as the Renaissance. This course studies the major families, artists, patrons, politicians, philosophers, writers and poets of the Italian Renaissance and the reasons why this cultural movement had its blossoming in Florence in the late 14th and early 15th. A good portion of the course will of course be dedicated to the Medici family. Numerous visits will be made to the museums, churches, and palaces in Florence. Other centers of Renaissance culture (Rome, Venice, Mantova, Urbino) will also be studied and compared.

**HY 350 History of the Italian Renaissance (in Italian)(45 hours)** *Pre-requisite: 3 semesters of Italian language or equivalent.* This course follows the same description as **HY 350 History of the Italian Renaissance**, however the lessons are taught in Italian. If there are fewer than 5 students enrolled in the course, it will be offered as an Independent Study. This means that the weekly contact hours with the professor will be cut in half and the remaining hours will be made up independently by the students.

**Department of Fine Arts --(All Fine Arts courses require a lab fee and a list of materials which should be purchased in Florence)**

## Painting

**ART 210 Beginning Oil Painting (45 hours)** This course is designed for students who have had no previous experience in fine arts, but who wish to acquire a traditional training in oil painting. The course deals with the basic fundamentals of still-life painting, the mixing of colors, the building up of form, tone and color on a two-dimensional surface. The lessons are very structured around practical demonstrations, exercises, and individual attention from the instructor.

**ART 310 Intermediate Oil Painting (45 hours)** Prerequisites: at least one semester of oil painting. Students further develop the skills and techniques learned in beginning painting. Emphasizing the anatomy of the human body and the relationship between figure and space, students will work on figures by using live models. The course will introduce new techniques and problems such as color theory, composition, brush stroke, painting mediums, and large format painting.

**ART 410 Advanced Oil Painting (45 hours)** Prerequisites: at least two semesters of oil painting. Students further develop the skills and techniques learned in intermediate painting. Emphasizing the anatomy of the human body and the relationship between figure and space, students will work on figures by using live models. The course will introduce new techniques and problems such as, color theory, composition, brush stroke, painting mediums, and large format painting. Advanced students will further expand their skills by developing a project which will allow them to explore their individual styles.

**ART 476 Watercolor (45 hours)** This course is study of two-dimensional watercolor painting. Work stresses the basic concepts of color, form, imagery, line, composition, volume, space and the use of the watercolor as a medium as well as transparent and opaque techniques. Students will also work on location to better understand "open air" landscape painting. The course stresses technical proficiency and creative expression.

## Drawing

**ART 308 Sketchbook of Florence (45 hours) (minimum drawing ability required)** The traditional method of sketching from the street or in the museum will be adopted in this course. Students are on site during nearly each lesson and will work with a number of different mediums (pen and ink, charcoal, colored pencils, watercolor, etc.) to capture Florence in their drawings. From works of sculpture and architecture, to gardens, to the livelihood of the bustling streets and market areas, students will collect in the sketchbook a series of images and observations, using various mediums and styles.

**ART 209 Drawing Beginning Life Drawing (45 hours)** This course is for students who have had no previous experience in fine arts, but who wish to acquire traditional training in life drawing. The course deals with the fundamentals of figure and object drawing, as well as the materials and techniques involved. Using live models and stressing the anatomy of the human body, composition, form, line, volume, and tone, students will begin by using pencil and charcoal to draw still-life objects.

**ART 309 Intermediate Life Drawing (45 hours)** Prerequisites: at least one semester of drawing. This course encourages students to perfect the skills learned in beginning drawing and introduces them to new problems in life drawing, especially the relationship between the figure and its surroundings and rendering conceptual ideas and more advanced techniques and mediums.

**ART 409 Advanced Life Drawing (45 hours)** Prerequisites: at least two semesters of drawing. This course allows students to perfect their skills learned in intermediate drawing and introduces them to new problems in life drawing, especially the relationship between the figure and its surroundings and rendering conceptual ideas and more advanced techniques and mediums. Advanced students will develop their skills even further by developing a project which will allow them to explore their individual styles.

## Sculpture

**ART 231 Introductory Ceramics (60 hours)** This course covers the principle techniques of hand built clay work and ceramic sculpture. From functional pottery ware to small scale ceramic sculpture, students will learn the techniques of coiling and slabbing, wedging, pinching, hump and press molding, firing and kiln procedures. Decorative techniques will also be taught: glazes, oxides and bisque.

**ART 230 Introductory Sculpture (60 hours)** This introductory course emphasizes the fundamental and formal aspects of clay sculpture. Projects are assigned to help the student experience and understand the unique expressive values of mass, space, plane, line, texture, along with such visual phenomena as balance, rhythm, scale, movement, and transformation. Students will cover such techniques as joining, pinching, coiling and slabbing. Assigned projects, group critiques and slide lectures are a standard part of this course.

**ART 311 Sculpture: Figuring the Human Figure (60 hours)** This course is for students who have already taken a beginning sculpture course. This course permits focused progress from an understanding of sculptural concepts, media, and methods to more complex sculptural problems. The emphasis will be on developing concepts and applications that address individual interests, ranging from technical exploration and the situation of studio practice to theoretical concerns in contemporary sculptural production.

## **Photography**

(A single lens reflex camera with manual controls, lab fee and materials are required for the photography courses)

The photography courses offered by ISTITUTO EUROPEO are taught in conjunction with the **Fondazione Studio Marangoni** in Florence. Since 1989, Studio Marangoni has been one of Italy's prominent photography schools for both Italians and foreigners, promoting the art of photography in Italy by offering courses as well as lectures, exhibitions and workshops with well-known photographers.

**ART 205 Introduction to Photography (60 hours)** This course is for students who have never taken a darkroom photography course. The course begins with a basic approach to understanding how a manual, single lens reflex (SLR) camera works (aperture, shutter speed, and light meters) and the technical aspects of developing film and printing black and white photographs. A series of assignments help students to learn new techniques in composition, shooting, exposure, depth of field, and photo processing and allow them to enhance their photographic skills and artistic expression.

**ART 206 Intermediate Photography (60 hours)** Prerequisites: at least one semester of photography. This course continues the education of students in photographic skills and techniques. Assignments for intermediate students include advanced processing techniques, toning, solarization, use of filters, among others.

**ART 476. Special Topics in Art Studio: Advanced Photography (60 hours)** Pre-requisite: at least two semesters of photography. This course is designed to continue the student's education in photographic skills and techniques. Assignments for intermediate students will include advanced processing techniques, toning, solarization, use of filters, etc. Advanced students will work on projects in color photography and will work on personal projects and portfolio development.

**ART 476 Shooting Like the Tuscan Masters (60 hours)** The Alinari brothers opened the first photographic studio in Florence in 1852. They were the first firm to realize that great works of art and architecture could be artistically photographed for pleasure as well as profit. These Florentines set the standards for the future of all Italian photography. Whether you are a rank beginner or an accomplished photographer, let the city inspire you in the same direction. Throughout this shooting course (film will be commercially processed) maximize your time on the streets of Florence to develop your photographic skills. By studying such great Italian photographers the historic Alinari brothers, LIFE photographer David Lees and Tuscan fashion photographer Oliviero Toscani (Benetton), learn various ways of depicting the complex life of this great region.

## **Non credit monthly courses**

The following courses are offered on a monthly, non-credit basis. These courses are not part of the semester or summer programs. Students interested in these courses may register for these courses directly in Florence. The following courses will not appear on a student's transcript. Both the Italian wines and the Italian Cuisine courses are offered one day a week, in the evenings from 6-9pm, for a total of 12 contact hours in one month.

### **Italian Wines**

Several typical wines, such as Chianti, Brunello di Montalcino, "vin santo", Spumante, Barolo, Vernaccia, etc. are presented for tasting each month. The instructor explains the characteristics of the wines, the production methods used, ageing and provides secrets to appreciate and recognize the quality of the wine.

### **Italian Cuisine**

In this course the teacher-cook guides the students in preparing Italian and Tuscan dishes in particular. Each meeting includes the preparation of a complete typical dinner. The teacher provides recipes, helps the students in the preparation of the dishes and explains the history of Italian cooking in general and the history of the specific dishes. The prepared dishes are served together with selected wines that harmonize with the menu of the day.