

## Social Sciences

### History

#### **HST 250 History of Florence– 3 credits (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.

#### **HST 330 History of Modern Italy: From the Unification to the Present – 3 credits (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.

#### **HST 350 History of the Italian Renaissance– 3 credits (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 14<sup>th</sup> and early 15<sup>th</sup>. A good portion of the course will 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.

#### **HST 355 History of the Italian Renaissance (in Italian) – 3 credits (45 hours)**

*Pre-requisite: 3 semesters of Italian language or equivalent.* This course follows the same description as **HST 350**, 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.

#### **HST 370 Contemporary European History -1945-present– 3 credits (45 hours)**

This course, starting from the division of Europe, after the Second World War, into two geo-political areas, will analyze the two different ways of development involving Western Europe on one side and Central and Eastern Europe on the other to find the reasons of the contemporary economic and political development. The western democratic processes of expansion in all sectors of the society will be compared with the communist institutions and their way to organize the countries under their influence. The Stalinist economy in decline and the urge of modernization represented in Gorbachev's *perestroika* and *glasnost* ideas, the failure of any reforming attempts; the fall of the soviet empire will give the course the opportunity to afford the recent changes in Central and Eastern Europe and to consider the prospects and the dangers that these changes mean for the entire continent, especially for W. Europe, now on the way to reach its real unification.