The Florentine Renaissance Study Tour
From Medieval to Modern
December 27, 2014 - January 5, 2015

The transition in Western Europe from the medieval to the Renaissance world both contributed to and was shaped by new modes of expression in art, literature, philosophy, and spirituality. Through a first-hand observation of some of the most important of these intellectual and artistic creations in their original historical settings, this tour will seek to give participants a rich and lively understanding of one of the most fascinating episodes in human history - the Florentine Renaissance.

We will reside in a four star hotel conveniently located near the center of the old city. Ordinarily, we shall visit the city in the morning and most afternoons, although there will ample time free for individual explorations. On some evenings, there will be presentations and discussions to allow participants to broaden and share their appreciation of what they are seeing and experiencing. Visit all of Florence’s major museums, churches and monuments amid the festive atmosphere that prevails throughout the city after Christmas and right up to the visit of “La Befana,” the good witch of the Epiphany. Florence has a special character this time of year. With fewer tourists it becomes a city of chestnuts, candles and auguri. It is yours to enjoy in the spirit of the season.

The tour leaders will be Associate Professor of Philosophy, Francis J. Ambrosio, Director, Doctor of Liberal Studies Program, and Ms. Deborah Warin, Director, Renaissance Tours Company, LLC, Georgetown University Instructor, former Director of Continuing Education and lecturer at Georgetown University, and author of the forthcoming book, Battista Sforza and the Court of Urbino. Together they have led more than 25 previous Liberal Studies tours to Italy.

The total cost of the tour is $2,150 for credit students; tuition not included. The cost for non-credit participants traveling with credit students is $2495. All prices include hotel accommodations (double occupancy) with breakfast, all entrance fees and guided tours by the Tour Directors as indicated in the itinerary and subject to the specified conditions; also included are the welcome reception on the first evening of the tour, New Year’s Eve dinner and the farewell dinner. No other meals are included. Please read the Terms and Conditions carefully for full details. Airfare and ground transportation are not included.

ITINERARY
Saturday, DECEMBER 27

Welcoming reception at the hotel beginning at 6 pm., followed by an introduction to the program.

Sunday, DECEMBER 28

This morning we begin with a walking tour of Dante's Florence, following the circuit of the walls of the medieval town.

In the afternoon we visit the magnificent Uffizi Gallery tracing the development of Medieval and Renaissance art.

Monday, DECEMBER 29

Today is dedicated to visiting the churches of the two great medieval Orders that played crucial formative roles in the development of the Florentine Renaissance, the Franciscans and Dominicans. First, in the morning we visit Santa Maria Novella, founded by the Dominicans and the site of Masaccio's revolutionary fresco, The Holy Trinity. Then, in the afternoon we cross the town to visit the Franciscans' Santa Croce, with its magnificent frescoes by Giotto and the tomb of Michelangelo.

Tuesday, DECEMBER 30

In the morning, we visit the Convento San Marco to see its beautiful frescoes by Fra Angelico. From there, we walk to the Palazzo Medici to see the fabulously restored frescoes there in the private chapel by Benozzo Gozzoli.

The afternoon is free to allow you some time to get acquainted (or reacquainted) with the magnificent city of Florence on your own or spend some time resting up for the festivities of New Year’s Eve.

Wednesday, DECEMBER 31

The last day of the year begins with a tour of the spectacular Palazzo Pitti and the Galleria Palatina, including famous works by Raphael, Titian, and Lippi to name but a few. After, we visit the small but enormously important Brancacci Chapel with its frescoes by Masaccio – a fresco cycle that revolutionized western art with Masaccio’s use of the new principles of perspective and chiaroscuro as well as his unique ability to imbue his figures with human emotion.

In the evening, we gather to share the Festival of San Silvestro (New Year’s Eve) together with dinner at a local restaurant after which we will stroll to the Piazza della Signoria to ring in the New Year as the clock on the Palazzo Vecchio strikes midnight.
Thursday, JANUARY 1

Today is a national holiday. The day is free for strolling through the city (as the Italians will be doing) or attending the feast day religious services held in the churches throughout Florence.

At 6pm, we will gather for a class session with a slide presentation of the sites we will encounter in the days ahead and their meaning in the cultural context of the Florentine Renaissance.

Friday, JANUARY 2

In the morning we visit the National Sculpture Museum in the Bargello, where the work of Donatello, including Donatello’s David, and the della Robbias is featured in an exceptionally evocative setting. After, we go on to visit the Museum of the Opera del Duomo, where we shall find, among many riches, Donatello's sublime Mary Magdalene and Michelangelo's Florentine Pieta.

Saturday, JANUARY 3

This morning, we visit the Palazzo Vecchio, the town hall and seat of government of Florence for more than 800 years. In the afternoon, we take a short excursion to one of the most scenic spots from which to view the city, the Church of San Miniato, the oldest and, many would say, the most striking of the city’s great churches.

Sunday, JANUARY 4

This morning we visit the most well-known sites associated with Michelangelo in the city of Florence: the Galleria dell' Accademia to see the David and the Bound Slaves; the Church of San Lorenzo and the Medici Chapel with its extraordinarily powerful tomb sculptures, and the Laurentian library. The remainder of the day is free for a last leisurely afternoon enjoying the dignified charm of Florence, until we gather for our final wine tasting and farewell feast.

Monday, JANUARY 5

Departure from the Hotel.

SYLLABUS

Liberal Studies Program Tour
The Florentine Renaissance: From Medieval to Modern
December 27, 2014- January 5, 2015
The goal of this course is to provide the students with an intellectual framework within which to situate their understanding and appreciation of the artistic and cultural achievement which they will witness during their visit to Florence. The methodology of the course will be to trace the roots of the fifteenth century "Florentine Renaissance" by uncovering the spiritual, economic, social, political and artistic sources which fed and nourished it. This will be accomplished by readings and lectures prior to visiting the city, site visits and presentations while in Florence and the completion of an individually selected research project and paper after the trip which will be due approximately three weeks after the student returns from the tour.

With prior approval from the student’s dean, participants may earn 3 or 4 credits for the course at the undergraduate level or 3 credits at the graduate level upon successful completion of the course requirements. Before departure, students should obtain and read the following works:


Course Requirements:

This tour offers a unique and exciting opportunity for serious students to explore the art and ideas of the Florentine Renaissance first hand. This is a content rich tour which requires full, focused attention. Students are expected to have read the course material prior to their arrival in Florence and be prepared for the lectures and site visits as you would for a conventional class session. Students wishing to take the course for credit must obtain permission of their Dean
and schedule an interview with the course instructor prior to submitting a deposit. In addition, students are required to sign and abide by the Code of Student Conduct that governs participation in the tour for credit.

Two presentations/discussion sessions will be held on Georgetown University’s main campus prior to the tour, on Friday November 7 and Friday, December 5 at 6:30 pm. Students taking the course for credit must attend these sessions. Credit students should read Paul Johnson’s The Renaissance and R.W.B. Lewis’ Dante in preparation for the first meeting and should read Gene Bucker’s Renaissance Florence and Christopher Hibbert’s The House of the Medici for the second meeting.

A five page paper on will be due at the second class session.

A research paper of approximately 5000 words for undergraduate credit, 7500 words for graduate credit, on a topic approved by the instructors must be completed upon returning from the study, generally not later than by Feb. 1.

** Fourth Credit Option (undergraduate only): With permission of the Dean, undergraduate Liberal Studies students may opt to complete a fourth credit option involving additional reading and writing assignments as well as an oral examination which enables the course to fulfill the requirement for either the Medieval or Renaissance Core Course in the BALS program.

**Program Notes**

The cost of the Study Tour is $2150. for students registered for credit (plus the cost of tuition). The cost for non-credit participants traveling with credit students is $2495. Prices include hotel accommodations (double occupancy) with breakfast, all entrance fees and guided tours by the faculty as indicated in the itinerary and subject to the specified conditions; also included are the welcome reception on the first evening of the tour, New Year’s Eve dinner and the farewell dinner. No other meals are included. Please read the Terms and Conditions carefully for full details. Airfare and ground transportation are not included.

**Air Travel:** Participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from the hotel in Florence, Italy. Participants should plan to arrive at the hotel on December 28, and depart from the hotel on January 6. Extended stays at the hotel are possible depending on availability; all arrangements for and costs of extended stays are the sole responsibility of participants.
**Accommodations and Meals:** Cost is based on double occupancy at the hotel; some single rooms may be available at a supplemental cost to the participant. Upgrades to premium rooms may also be available at additional cost. Breakfast at the hotel each day is included; the welcome reception, the New Year’s Eve dinner and the farewell group dinner on the last evening of the tour are also included. No other meals are included.

**Level of Physical Activity:** The nature of the tour schedule and the type of sites which the group will visit make for a moderately strenuous routine; those who experience difficulty walking distances at a normal pace or otherwise need to limit their physical activity should consult with the tour leaders prior to reserving space. The directors reserve the right to limit individual participation in group activities in cases where the group’s interests might be adversely affected.

**Reservations:** To enhance the educational opportunity and enjoyment for all participants, places on the tour are strictly limited to no more than twenty. Places on the tour will be reserved in the order in which deposits are received.

All details of the itinerary subject to change based on availability of accommodations, changes in opening / closing schedules, acts of God and other conditions beyond the control of the tour directors. Be sure to read the Terms and Conditions carefully before submitting a deposit.

**Terms and Conditions**

The welcome reception, New Year’s Eve dinner and the Farewell dinner are included in the price; however, no other meals (other than breakfast) are included. All entrance fees and guided tours as indicated in the itinerary and subject to the specified conditions are included. Airfare and ground transportation to and from the hotel are not included.

**NB** - Participants are responsible for securing a roommate. In the event that an individual participant does not have a mutually agreed upon double occupancy arrangement with another participant, a charge of $250.00 will be billed to that individual’s account to cover the cost of a single room. Room pairings between individual travelers may be requested as soon as both have made the $1000. deposit. Other room pairings will be made in the order of payment of deposit.

Enrollment is determined by date of receipt of a deposit of $1,000, which shall be refundable according to the conditions of the stated cancellation policy. Payment in full (including tuition for participants for credit) is due Dec. 1, 2014.
Cancellation Policy

* After receipt of the deposit, cancellation by the participant will be subject to a minimum $250 per person cancellation fee.

* Cancellation after 60 days prior to the commencement of the tour will result in forfeiture of the full amount of the full deposit ($1000.).

* Cancellation after December 1 or “no show” at the commencement of the tour will result in forfeiture full cost of the trip per person.

All tours are offered on condition of sufficient enrollment. If the offer of a tour must be withdrawn at any time due to insufficient enrollment, all deposits and additional payments will be refunded and this will constitute full satisfaction of all claims by participants on the University.

Responsibility

The University and its representatives act only as agents in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, sightseeing, restaurants or any other services in connection with the itinerary, and they will exercise reasonable care in making such arrangements. However, they do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, loss, accident or delay to person and property due to any act of default of any hotel, carrier, restaurant, company or person rendering any of the services included in the tour. The tickets, coupons, tariffs, rules or contracts currently in use by any carrier, hotel, restaurant or other rendering service shall constitute the sole contract between such contractor and the tour member. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. Further, the University and its representative agents accept no responsibility for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather or any other cause beyond their personal control. The right is reserved to cancel or change itineraries or substitute services without notice, and to decline to accept any tour member at any time, when such action is determined to be in the best interests of the health, safety or general welfare of the tour group or individual.

No carrier shall be responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board its own conveyance.

In view of the statutory or contractual limitations which may apply to personal injury or property damage losses, the purchase of accident and baggage insurance, is strongly recommended, as well as trip cancellation insurance, is strongly recommended.

Finally, Georgetown University bears no responsibility whatsoever for any travel arrangements made by individual travelers that do not form part of the published itinerary. Extensions of stay, hotel accommodations beyond those indicated in the program, early arrivals or departures,
hotel charges not included in the basic room rate including but not limited to telephone, beverages and meals, and hotel services, and all other arrangements undertaken at the initiative of individual participants are their sole responsibility. No change can be made in group plans or schedules to accommodate such arrangements.

Registration Form

_______ New Year’s in Florence Tour, December 28, 2013 – January 6, 2014
_______ The Hilltowns of Tuscany and Umbria, May 24 – June 5, 2015

Name of Participant(s):

#1 _____________________________________________________________________

#2 _____________________________________________________________________

(If more than two participants, please use a separate page.)

Contact Information (If this information is different for each participant, please give complete info for each using a separate page if necessary):

Street________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip______________________________________________________________

Email ________________________________________________________________________

Telephone_____________________________________________________________________

N.B. Be sure you have read and understood the Terms and Conditions before mailing your deposit. Be sure to include the correct deposit amount for each participant, eg. 2 participants for Hilltowns, deposit = $2000.
Please deliver deposits to the Dean’s office of your program. For detailed information on Itinerary, Syllabus, Costs and Conditions, and Registration Forms, please consult the “Study Abroad” pages LSP website or contact the office of the Undergraduate or Graduate Deans of Liberal Studies, or Prof. Ambrosio, ambrosif@georgetown.edu