

TRAVEL STUDY PREVIEW  
Italy, Winter 2007

PROGRAM DIRECTORS:

Dr. Sean O'Rourke (Communication Studies, Furman Hall 135d, 294-3057)  
Dr. Bryan Bibb (Religion, Furman Hall 206i, 294-389)

DATES:

January 3-February 14, 2007 (approximate)

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

Traditionally, the Religion department has sponsored a yearly "Mediterranean Trip," and our Winter 2007 offering follows the spirit of that program, even while changing the focus to some degree. The extended time in Rome and its environs will give us the opportunity to reflect on the history of religious expression in Italy, especially as seen in the development of sacred architecture and religious ritual. This religious focus will be augmented by an examination of the history of classical rhetoric, seen in its development from Imperial Rome, through Medieval Christianity, and into its revival in the classical form during the Renaissance.

Like Rome itself, then, our Winter 2007 program will integrate sacred and secular, church and state, as students encounter something of what has made Rome such an enduring and powerful Western symbol. The Italians love food, friends, and relaxation as well, and the trip will provide plenty of opportunities for those things. Because of our close geographical focus, we will be able to stay in places long enough to "settle in" and absorb the surroundings. We will be in Rome for 3 weeks, and spend the remaining 3 weeks visiting the cultural and artistic treasures of Naples, Venice, Florence, Ravenna, and other cities. The goal will be to find quaint and cozy lodging and authentic meals for the group, and to give each person plenty of time to wander, study, and reflect on their own.

The idea behind our itinerary will be to visit enough of the country to get a full experience of its treasures, while also remaining in places long enough to settle down and become absorbed in the environment. One half of the trip will be in Rome, and our days will be divided among guided tours of important sites, group meetings and discussion, and individual time for site-seeing, wandering, and studying. The other half of the trip will take us to Florence for 10 days and other important cities in Italy for 2-5 nights each, including Venice, Ravenna, Naples, Spoleto, and Milan.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

It is important to remember that this is a travel study program, and the central focus of the trip will be on the academic requirements and opportunities. The academic component of the program will consist of independent reading and research, paper writing over the summer, meetings for lecture in the the Fall, and regular lectures and discussions "on-site" in Italy. Our visits to religious spaces, historical sites and museums will be organized around, and interpreted through, the academic work done before and during the trip.

Religion 95: Rome, Ritual and Sacred Space

This course will examine the complex interplay between religious ritual and the space in which it is performed and experienced. Students will employ the theoretical insights of Ritual Studies to examine the history of religious ritual, pilgrimage, and sacred art and architecture in Roman, Jewish and Christian traditions in Italy.

Communication Studies 36: Studies in Rhetoric

This course will examine how theories of rhetoric emerged in classical Rome, were transformed in Medieval Italy, and reappeared in the classical Ciceronian form in the Renaissance.

#### FEES:

Because of unpredictable changes in air fare and exchange rates, only gross estimates can be provided. Precise fees will be available as soon as possible. The University's comprehensive fee is expected to be approximately \$12,000, which is about \$3000 more than being a residential student at Furman during the Winter. This fee will include:

- Tuition for eight hours of course work
- Round trip air transportation between Atlanta and Rome
- Inter-city coach, ferry, and train travel among Italian cities
- Hotel accommodations
- Breakfasts daily in hotels
- Most dinner meals and some lunches
- Officially planned visits to sites with an admission fee

Expressly excluded from the University's comprehensive fee are the following:

- Local travel in the United States between home or Furman and Atlanta
- All expenses incurred during independent travel after the end of the trip
- Local transportation for individual outings
- Most lunches, and some evening meals
- Incidental expenses for food, entertainment, travel, etc.
- Personal care services or products, gifts, books, newspapers, items purchased to be shipped or carried home, customs duties, etc.

Furman scholarships can be prorated for the term at the rate of approximately 37.5 percent of the annual scholarship eligibility.

What students will need for discretionary funds will, of course, vary. Approximately \$1500-\$2000 is suggested for funds to cover expenses for meals not included in the University's fee, local transportation, independent travel, and personal expenses. Additional funds should be taken for gifts and souvenirs at the discretion of the students and parents or guardian.

All students selected for participation in the program will be required to purchase the Furman University health insurance policy, which will also provide for return of remains to the U.S. In the event of death while abroad.

Please note that the University's comprehensive fee is predicated on the University arranging travel for all students participating in the program. Airline "frequent flyer" credits can be applied to this fee only if the group's comprehensive fee is unaffected.

#### SELECTION PROCESS:

The application deadline is Friday, March 10th. Professors Bibb and O'Rourke will review applications and interview applicants in March and will announce selections by the end of the month. Primary consideration will be given to rising juniors and seniors, but applications from rising sophomores will be considered. No specific major will be given priority in the selection process. All students should have fulfilled the Religion GER (through Religion 11 or 12, or the Humanities sequence). For the purposes of this trip, there will be no prerequisite for Com 36.

#### DEPOSIT:

Students selected for the program are required to pay a non-refundable deposit of \$500 by May 15, 2006.

#### FINANCIAL AID:

There are a few scholarships for travel study participants. Inquiry may be made to the Financial Aid Office. Please note that students may apply for these scholarships before they are accepted. There are also interest-free loans available, with a maximum amount of \$2000, that must be repaid within a year of the trip, or upon graduation. See Janie Burton in Financial Services for more information.

#### PROSPECTUS:

The information found here and on the website (<http://facweb.furman.edu/~bbibb/italy>) is of a prospective nature, and is subject to change for a variety of reasons, including, but not limited to, faculty and administrative approvals, political considerations, and changes in transportation scheduling and operating expenses.

#### APPLICATION FORMS:

The form is available on the website, and from Sharon Dilworth in the Religion department and Kat Brown in the Communication Studies department.