

**GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**  
***REQUEST FOR APPROVAL***  
***NEW STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS***

Credit Program  
 Non-Credit Program  
 GSU Coordinated

Italy Ancient and Modern Program Title

May 15 – June 20, 2015 Dates of Program

Lori Amy / Professor / (912) 478 - 7342 /  
Program Director(s) Title Telephone No.

Timothy M. Teeter / Associate Professor / (912) 478-0239 /  
Program Director(s) Title Telephone No.

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Department/Division Head Date

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\*Director, Center for International Studies Date

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\*Vice President for Academic Affairs Date

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\*President Date

\*By signing this form I certify that this program meets all fiscal and academic standards of my institution.

## **1) Nature and Purpose of the Program**

Using the city and people of Rome and its environs (from the Alban hills to Tivoli) as well as the bay of Naples (including such sites as Pompeii and Herculaneum) as major resources for study, students will have the opportunity to learn about and engage with Italy both ancient and modern. Along with lectures and readings, students will experience a combination of field trips, museum tours, and archaeological exploration conducted by the faculty as well as events hosted by local civic, academic, and ecclesiastical authorities and organizations. Through the courses offered in this program, students will become familiar with two distinct but related cultures, ancient Rome and contemporary Italy, and will discover their connections both with each other and with our own American culture and society. Students will gain a deeper understanding of European civilization in general and Italian culture and society in particular through an introduction to such subjects as ancient history, archaeology, art history, cultural transmission, historic preservation, ancient and modern urbanism, food and culture, and memory and identity.

The program will be based in Monte Compatri, a community twelve miles outside of Rome. It is one of several municipalities at the foot of the Alban hills that together make up the Castelli Romani, within easy reach of not only Rome but also important cultural and archaeological sites such as Ostia, Tivoli, Palestrina, and Grottaferrata. Students will stay in a local hotel in Monte Compatri and the program will make use of local classroom space. Towards the end of the program students will visit archaeological and cultural sites on the bay of Naples for several days while staying at a hotel near the site of ancient Pompeii.

The program is aimed towards students studying or majoring in history, art history, anthropology, literature, writing and linguistics, communication arts and international studies, but it is open to undergraduate and graduate students of all majors and disciplines. Students should have a GPA of 2.5 and have completed 24 credit hours.

## **2) Description of Academic Component**

- Four 3-credit hour courses being offered, for a total of 12 credit hours available.  
Undergraduates will be required to select two courses. Graduate students must take one.

### *Course Titles*

HISTORY 1111 -- World History I: Development of World Civilization (required for history majors, history minors, Classical and Medieval Studies minors)

HIST 5030 G -- Selected Topics: The Ancient Roman City

WRIT 2090 Selected Topics: Food and Travel Writing

WRIT 3030 Selected Topics: Narrative, Memory, and Identity

*Number of Contact Hours:* Contact Hours will exceed the number required. The courses will meet three times during the latter part of the Spring 2015 semester for orientation, pre-trip preparation, and introductory lectures on ancient and modern Italian history and culture. Contact hours in country will average 6 hours per day x 22 days for all courses for a total of approximately 132 contact hours. Contact hours will include lectures and discussions by Dr. Timothy Teeter and Dr. Lori Amy.

The program centers around a common core of history, architecture, and culture as bases for understanding national, collective, and individual identities. All students in the program will share a common core of activities, including tours of museums and historic and archaeological sites and participation in civic and cultural events relevant to course topics. From a specifically historical perspective, students will study: the formation of the city of Rome; the spread of Roman urban culture; and the creation, transmission, and preservation of classical antiquity. From the disciplinary perspectives of cultural studies and narrative / writing studies, students will use the Exarchic Greek Abbey of St. Mary at Grottaferrata (established before the East-West schism and home to what may be the last generation of Basilian Monks in the region) and the catacombs in the Castelli Romani / Rome region (forgotten and "rediscovered" over multiple centuries) as poles through which to study processes of collective and cultural memory formation, historical remembering and forgetting, the relationship between remembering and forgetting, and the interplay between collective/ cultural memory and individual identity formation. The study of food will provide students a concrete, embodied anchor through which to explore these larger dimensions of religious, cultural, local, and global identities.

This program is fortunate in that it has the enthusiastic participation of members of local government in Montecompatri and Grottaferrata, professors at local universities (Dr. Rose Guadino, La Sapienza University, and Dr. Maurizio DeCatri, Tor Vergata University), prominent local journalists, and the Bishop of the Abbey of Grottaferrata (including access to the ancient manuscripts library) (see attachments). Dr. Amy has been cultivating relationships in the area in conjunction with research for her book project on memory and identity in Albania, as a result of which a documentary film maker, Fabian Kati ( <http://fabiankatifilm.co.uk> ) will also accompany the study abroad group for part of the time as he is interviewing monks in the Abbey. Through dialogue with a film maker documenting the Abbey's last generation of Basilian monks, students will gain a unique perspective on the historical significance of the culture, history, architecture, and local / global identity formations they will be studying.

*Method of Evaluation:* Methods will vary depending on the course and will include — but are not limited to — class participation, field reports, quizzes, journals, examinations, and post-trip research papers (length will vary by course).

Enrollment will be during Summer Term A and the associated tuition and fees will be applied in Summer Term A.

Topics covered in these courses include:

HIST 1111: the beginnings of civilization in the ancient near east, from Mesopotamia to the Egypt; ancient Israelite history and culture; the classical civilizations of the Mediterranean world, Greece and Rome; the Byzantine empire; the western middle ages; the Renaissance.

HIST 5030 G: the ancient city in theory and fact; the archaeology of Italy; the creation and development of the city of Rome; Roman painting; Roman sculpture; Roman architecture, from stone and terra cotta to brick and concrete; Roman civic institutions and political culture and their relation to the physical environment, both artificial and natural; Roman colonization and the spread of Roman urban culture; Pompeii and Herculaneum as cities and artifacts in both history and memory.

WRIT 2090: food and cultural identity; food and environment; food and globalization; food on foot – walking tour of food and architecture in Castelli Romani; food and biodiversity, ecosystems; tour of farm-to-fork organic food and wine production; food and migrations (Italian food in the US, US incursions into Italy – Fast Food Nation); food and economy; food and the sacred (abbey at Grottaferrata, religious feasts, symbolic value of food).

WRIT 3030: theories and practices of collective and cultural memory; relationship between individual identity and collective memory; relationship between remembering and forgetting; food as cultural identity and mechanism of cultural memory; religious traditions and identity formations; socio-political-historical perspectives on burial practices and cultural-religious identity.

Students will be assigned appropriate readings and brief assignments, including online instructional materials, chosen by the instructors prior to the trip. Course topics and work will be supplemented by excursions and on-site field reports given by students as part of their assignments.

Examples of course-related excursions include, but are not limited to:

- Walking tours of the historic remains of the ancient city of Rome, including the original forum, the imperial fora, and the Campus Martius.
- Tours of such sites and museums as the Museo Nazionale in the Palazzo Massimo, the baths of Diocletian, the Colosseum, the Capitoline Museums and the Vatican Museums.
- Visits to Ostia Antica (the ancient port of Rome), Hadrian's Villa at Tivoli, and the Temple of Fortuna and archaeological museum at Palestrina.
- Walking tours of some of the most ancient churches of the city of Rome.
- An extended trip to the bay of Naples to visit Pompeii, Herculaneum, the Villa of Poppaea at Oplontis, and the National Archaeological Museum in Naples
- Guided tour of the Exarchic Greek Abbey of St. Mary at Grottaferrata (including visit to the medieval manuscripts library)
- Food on Foot tour of local organic farming and slow food for biodiversity communities.
- Guided visits to Roman / Castelli Romani catacombs.

3) Number of Faculty and Program Directors

Two program/site director/faculty members

Dr. Lori Amy, Program & Site Director, Professor, Department of Writing and Linguistics and former Fulbright Scholar in Albania (see attached summary CV). Dr. Amy will assist in recruitment and help co-ordinate on-the-ground activity with local contacts. She will further act as the Site Director while in-country, assist with managing the budget from in-country, and prepare pre-trip arrangements regarding accommodations and transportation. She will instruct the WRIT 2090 and WRIT 3030 courses.

Dr. Timothy M. Teeter, Program Director, Associate Professor, Department of History and former participant in the Fulbright Classics Seminar in Italy (see attached summary CV). Dr. Teeter will oversee recruitment and guide most museum visits and tours of archaeological sites. He will instruct the HIST 1111 and 5030 G courses.

#### **4) Projected number of students**

25 to 30 students.

Students will be recruited from across the undergraduate student body. Participation is not restricted to any specific discipline or areas of study. Recruitment will take place through a broad array of efforts including electronic communication, a Facebook group page, a website available through the Center for International Studies webpage, classroom visits, and participating in the Study Abroad and Global Engagement Fairs. Additionally Dr. Amy and Dr. Teeter will be available for individual meetings between students.

#### **7) Security and travel arrangements**

As per the Department of State Travel Advisories, overall security in Rome is safe. All travel will further be reported through the DOS smart traveler registration program. U.S. travelers in Italy are generally well received and rarely singled out as targets. Petty crime is a continued concern, but travelers can reduce their risk of being targeted by taking general, common-sense safety precautions such as remaining aware of their surroundings, traveling in groups, and being discrete with cash, jewelry, and other high value items.

In addition, many activities and excursions include cooperation and coordination from professional organizations and institutions, ensuring additional safety precautions. English is widely spoken in major urban and tourist areas so language acquisition is not a serious obstacle. As someone who has studied in Italy twice at the American Academy in Rome and who has taught in summer programs in Italy seven times, Dr. Teeter has extensive experience in the country and personal and professional contacts in the region. Dr. Amy has spent considerable time in Italy in connection with her work in nearby Albania and has several contacts in Monte Compatri. At all times, multiple responsible individuals and organizations will know of the whereabouts of the group and potentially be included in daily activities.

Students will be required to have cell phones with them at all times and both Dr. Amy and Dr. Teeter will be available via cell phone. Internet cafes and Wi-Fi connections are readily available in most hotels and public hotspots in Italy and students will have access to computers and internet connection through the Montecompatri Municipality Library (on the premises where classes will be held). Students will thus have multiple channels of communication with their families at home (sms/ WhatsApp, Viber) via their cell phones as well as internet-based email, skype, and messaging boards. On free days, students will also be able to take advantage of opportunities to explore Italy on their own. Students who use free time to travel independently will be required to notify the Program Directors of their plans, including information about travel and lodging, and will be encouraged to travel in pairs. As part of the students' fees, Georgia Southern University will provide travel insurance, which includes medical evacuation and medical expenses incurred in country. Travel in the region will be coordinated to ensure arrival before dark at the designated destination. All facilities are moderate, yet clean, comfortable, and safe.

- a) See attached travel program/itinerary.
- b) Pre-departure orientation will take place during pre-trip meetings held in April and early May at times pre-arranged with the participating students. Italy is a politically stable country with the third largest economy in Europe and enjoys a developed and reliable infrastructure and health care systems. There is no existing healthcare advisory or advisories related to illness or sanitation. No special vaccinations are required, but per CDC health advisories, students should receive vaccinations for Hepatitis A and B. In Italy, private medical facilities are of high quality in all urban areas and equivalents of most American medications are widely available. Remedies for most traveler illnesses that students might encounter are available over the counter in local pharmacies. At orientation, students will be instructed in precautions for avoiding travel-related illness. The pre-departure programs will also cover basic safety information, currency, exchange rates, banking, typical meals, cultural expectations, language barrier issues, and any other questions students may have. Students will further be provided with the latest travel information from the U.S. Department of State and the latest health information issued by the CDC.

8) Students will complete a post-trip assessment provided by the instructors. Students will also complete a regular course evaluation at the end of Term A.