ARCADIA UNIVERSITY
THE COLLEGE OF GLOBAL STUDIES

Arcadia University Center for Italian Studies
ROMA ENRW 350
Reading and Writing Rome

Course Description:
"All roads lead to Rome," for writers especially: course focuses on classical and contemporary works by authors for whom Rome has figured largely in their personal, aesthetic, and intellectual development. Through readings, lectures, discussions, workshops and site-visits, students will understand these canonical, and formulate their own, literary responses to Rome.

Learning Outcomes

The course will
- introduce students to literary works on Rome by American, English, and European writers (often reflecting their Grand Tour experience)
- give students direct exposure, through site visits and tours, of the locales in Rome that have most shaped the literary imagination of important writers
- imbue students with a clear understanding of the social and cultural changes that have occurred in The Eternal City as reflected through works of literature over time
- hone students' skills in critical reading and writing through lectures, class discussions, and critical writing assignments
- improve learners' creative writing skills through assignments in poetry and prose
- enhance students' ability to understand the aspects of strong creative writing through the workshop model of discussing their own and classmates' work
- allow for discussion of literature as a tool to create understanding across various cultures and over different periods of history
- provide students with a basis for considering Rome a part of their own intellectual and aesthetic development

Course Requirements

1. Required Readings

Prose:
Dickens, Charles. Pictures from Italy (web).
ISBN: 9780140434316 Cost: To Be Determined
Goethe, J.W. Italian Journey, Penguin Classics, 1992.
ISBN: 9780140442335 Cost: To Be Determined
Hawthorne, Nathaniel. The Marble Faun, Oxford University Press, 2002.
ISBN: 9780199554072 Cost: To Be Determined
James, Henry. Daisy Miller, Penguin Classics, 2007.
ISBN: 9781461035916 Cost: To Be Determined
de Staël, Germaine. Corinne, or Italy, Oxford University Press, 2009.
ISBN: 9780199554607 Cost: To Be Determined
Twain, Mark. The Innocents Abroad (Rome excerpt), web.
Poetry:

Students will receive an anthology of poems that will include Rome-based poems by the following: the Romantic poets Byron, Keats, and Shelley; 19th century poets Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Robert Browning; and a sampler of 20th century and contemporary poems by Auden, Bakken, Ciardi, Cole, Corso , Ferlinghetti. Gilbert, Hecht, Hightower, Holub, Kenney, Koehler, McHugh, Milosz, Moss, Pastior, Schwartz, Simmerman, St. John, Stern, Sutphen, Svenbro, and Wilbur.

Drama: *The Cenci* by Shelley (web).

2. Tests and Papers: 2 6-8 page critical papers; a 12-15 page creative portfolio comprising a mix of poetry and prose; a Rome journal; a final reading/presentation.

3. Grading criteria:
40% 2 papers (20% each paper)
20% creative portfolio
20% Rome journal
10% final reading/presentation
10% participation

The class also includes a weekend reading and writing retreat at an *agriturismo* in Umbria (details to be announced).

Class Schedule
Week 1: Introduction to "the Grand Tour" and Rome as center for intellectual and artistic development. Reading: Goethe, *Italian Journey*, Part One (with emphasis on the Rome section) and Part 3, Second Rome Visit. SITE VISIT: CASA DI GOETHE

Week 2: One of the "great women of letters" confronts Italy. Reading: de Staël, *Corinne, or Italy,* Books 1-10.

Week 3: *Corinne* continued, Books 11-end.

Week 4: The Romantics in Rome. Reading: *The Cenci* by Shelley (web).

Week 5: The Romantics: Reading: Keats: "Ode on a Grecian Urn," "Eve of St. Agnes," "Happy is England," "La Belle Dame Sans Merci," "Isabella and the Pot of Basil."
Shelley, "Adonais." SITE VISIT: KEATS-SHELLEY HOUSE

Week 6: Gothic Goes Roman: Reading: Hawthorne, The Marble Faun, chapters 1-34.

Week 7: The Marble Faun, continued. Chapters 35 – end.
SITE VISIT: MUSEI DEI CAPITOLINI

Week 8: The Brownings' response to Italy: Elizabeth Barrett Browning "Casa Guidi Windows," "The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim's Point," "Mother and Poet," "The Cry of the Children." Robert Browning: "The Bishop Orders His Tomb at Saint Praxed's Church, Rome, 15—," "Two in the Campagna."

Week 9: British/American responses to Italy: Reading, Twain, Rome chapter from *Innocents Abroad*; Dickens, *Pictures from Italy*, chapters 9 and 10 (web).

Week 10: Ingenue Abroad: Reading: Henry James, *Daisy Miller*.
SITE VISIT: COLOSSEUM,
PROTESTANT CEMETERY

Week 11: Rome in the 20th century: Reading, Wharton and Wolff stories from reader.

Week 12: Early 20th century poets confront the beauty of Rome and the horrors of history: Wilbur, "Piazza di Spagna, Early Morning," "Baroque Wall Fountain in the Villa Sciarra Garden," "For the New Railway Station in Rome;" Hecht, "A Hill," "Ostia Antica," "Rome," "A Roman Holiday," "The Gardens of the Villa d'Este"

Weeks 13 and 14: Contemporary Poets on and in Rome: Finding and Losing the Self: a selection from the "anthology" (each student will choose and present on one of the following): Auden, "The Fall of Rome,"; Bakken, "Stake"; Ciardi, "An Apartment with a View"; Cole, "Arte Povera"; Corso, "1959"; Ferlinghetti, "Roman Morn" or "The Mouth of Truth"; Gilbert, "The Spirit and the Soul"; Hightower, "Trastevere Tessarae"; Holub, "Creative Writing"; Kenney, "World Cup, Campo dei Fiori"; Koehler, "Ingeborg Bachmann Dies in Rome"; McHugh, "What He Thought"; Milosz, "Campo dei Fiori"; Moss, "Return to Rome"; Pastior, "An Interview"; Schwartz, "THE MIND IS AN ANCIENT AND FAMOUS CAPITAL"; Simmerman, "The Eternal City"; St. John, "Lucifer in Starlight"; Stern, "Another Insane Devotion"; Sutphen, "Key of Dust"; Svenbro, and "The Starlings."

Week 15: Students' final presentations. Summary discussions.

Policies: The course follows Arcadia University's policies on attendance and plagiarism (see Student Handbook and Academic Contract).

Rationale: Rome has historically been one of the major stops on the so-called Grand Tour, the Europeans' idea and ideal of foreign travel to learn about the world, other cultures, and the self. Writers have eloquently recorded their experiences of confronting Rome, a city both Eternal and ever-changing, frequently expressing the personal epiphanies in their own and their characters' lives. This course offers students the opportunity to read and discuss a wide selection of writings about Rome across cultures and historical periods, as well as to form their own critical and creative responses to Rome.

Cost to students: approx 25 Euro (various admissions)