

Liberal Studies Summer Study Tour

Verona, Venice, Ravenna, and the Po Valley June 11 – 22, 2012



Program Overview

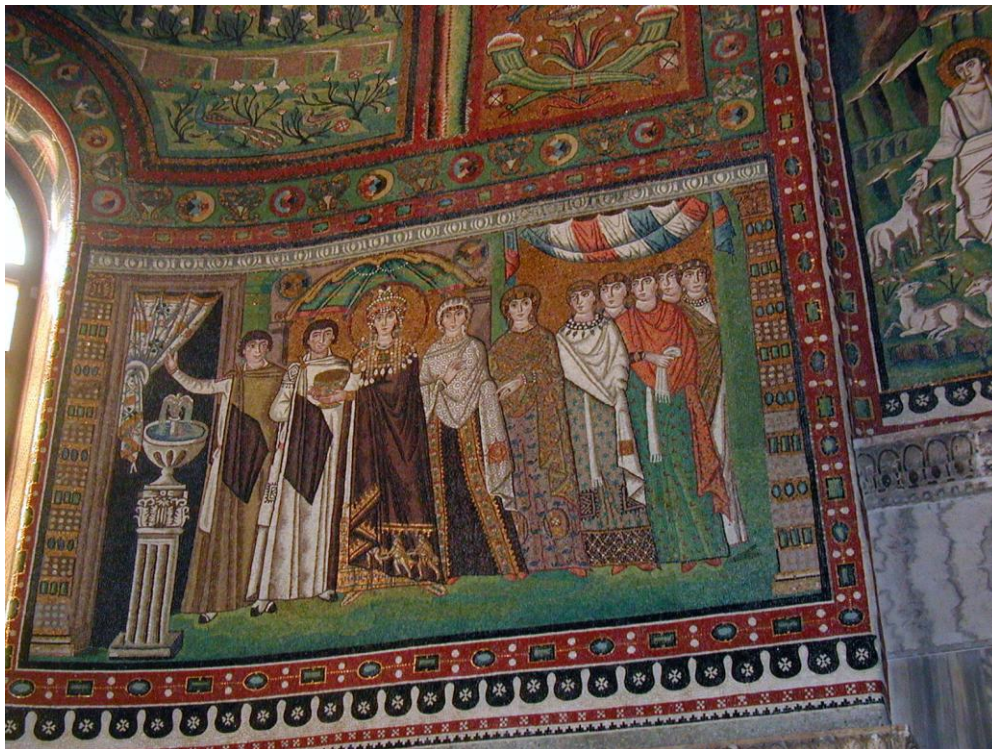
Our adventure begins in the splendid city of **Verona** which will be our base for the first four evenings of our journey. We will spend the next two full days visiting the many distinctive monuments, both Roman and Renaissance, of this sophisticated city with ample time for you to visit its distinctive coffee bars, roam through the piazzas, and take in the views from its beautiful bridges. During our stay in Verona, we will make day trips to **Vicenza**, home of **Palladio** and the site of his most distinctive architectural work, and **Mantua** with its magnificent Palazzo Ducale, including the famous *Camera degli Sposi* (Room of the Spouses) frescoed by Andrea Mantegna.

Next, we travel to **Bologna**, the “Cultural Capital of Europe.” Home to the oldest university in Europe and as well as one of the continent’s best historically preserved cities, Bologna’s beautiful arcades, towers and plazas imbue the city with an active ambiance all its own. Bologna is equally famous for being the gastronomic capital of Italy and our stay here will afford the opportunity to partake of the culinary pleasures of the city. While residing in Bologna, we

venture out on day excursions, first to the city of **Ferrara**, seat of the princely court of the d'Este family, and then to **Ravenna**, once capital of the Roman Empire and later Byzantium, with its fabulous 4th and 5th C mosaics.

Traveling toward Venice where we will spend the remaining four nights of our tour, we visit **Padua**, a secular and sacred pilgrimage city both for art lovers and followers of **St. Anthony**. Here, we will encounter masterpieces of two of the greatest artists in Western art: Giotto's breathtaking fresco cycle of the **Scovegni Chapel**, his most fully complete and best preserved work; and **Donatello's** creations for the **Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padova**, including the astounding bronze equestrian statue of "Gattamelata."

Finally, we enter into the magical atmosphere of **Venice**, "La Serenissima", for three full days of exploring both its artistic patrimony as well as perhaps the most fascinating urban environment ever devised by human imagination. During our stay, we will visit the **Basilica of San Marco**, the **Doge's Palace**, the **Accademia**, **I Frari** and still leave you plenty of free time to wander the city on your own and experience the magic of the many moods of Venice.



Itinerary

Monday, June 11

Travelers arrive at our hotel in Verona for the first four nights of our tour. In the evening, we gather for a welcome reception and orientation before dining together.

Tuesday, June 12, Wednesday, June 13

We will spend two days visiting the principal sites of **Verona**: the Arena, the Roman amphitheater (accommodating an audience of 25,000), the Castelvecchio and the Museo d'Arte within it with the work of Mantegna, Pisanello, the Bellini, and Stefano da Verona; Chiesa di Sant' Anastasia with its impressive frescoes and unique terracotta figures in the Cappella Pellegrini. Our two day visit will allow plenty of free time to relax and stroll the bridges and the piazzas and visit the cafes that give this city its unique, vibrant character.

Thursday, June 14

From Verona we travel for the day to **Vicenza**, city of Andrea **Palladio**, the most influential and imitated architect in the world. Vicenza, a UNESCO world heritage Site since 1994 is home to Palladio's best works, including the famous Teatro Olimpico This sparkling Renaissance city with its elegant Palladian palaces, beautiful piazzas, continues to thrive as the cosmopolitan capital of the Veneto and one of the wealthiest cities in Italy. Our visit here will be especially memorable as we are guided by a renowned Palladio scholar.

Friday, June 15

Today we travel a short distance to bella **Mantova (Mantua)**.. Birthplace of Virgil (70 BC) and home of the **Gonzaga** family, Mantua became another great intellectual and artistic center of Renaissance. We will visit the splendid, imposing **Palazzo Ducale** of the Gonzaga including the very famous **Camera degli Sposi** with its celebrated frescoes by **Andrea Mantegna**. Later, we will visit Palazzo Te built and decorated in the Mannerist style We end the day in Bologna, the "Cultural Capital of Europe" and equally famous as the gastronomic capital of Italy.

Saturday, June 16

We visit **Bologna's** beautiful city center including the **Palazzo Comunale**. Another destination is the Basilica di San Petronio, dedicated to the city's patron saint, St Pertronius, where we will see the work of **Jacopo della Quercia** and the expressive frescoes by Giovanni da Modena. For the brave, there will be the opportunity to climb the medieval Torre degli Asinelli, built in 1109 and still affording a breathtaking view of the city.

Other sights include the **Basilica di Santo Stefano** and the **Chiesa di San Domenico** which houses the beautiful tomb with the sarcophagus by Nicola Pisano (1267). Work of the tomb was complete by **Michelangelo** in 1494. Also in Bologna, **Museo Morandi**, the largest collection of the 20th C painter and engraver as well as a reconstruction of the artist's studio.

Sunday, June 17

Today we visit the charming city of **Ferrara**, home to the illustrious **d'Este** family. The d'Este, great patrons of art, literature, and architecture, made Ferrara a cultural center of the Renaissance. We will visit the Castello Estense, home of the d'Este family as well as the Duomo, and the Pinacoteca Nazionale, which houses masterpieces of the Ferrarese, Emilian and Venetian Schools of painting.

Monday, June 18

Once the capital of the Roman Empire and Exarchate of Byzantium, **Ravenna** is home to the famous elaborate mosaics from the 5th and 6th centuries. Together we will visit the mid-5th C **Mausoleo di Galla Palacidia, Basilica di San Vitale, Basilica di Sant'Apollinare Nuovo** and make a short journey to the **Basilica di Sant'Apollinare in Classe**

Tuesday, June 19

Padua is our focus for the day, site of the **Scrovegni Chapel** with the superlative fresco cycle painted in 1305-10 by **Giotto**. The 39 frescoes, the only fresco cycle of Giotto wholly intact, illustrate the lives of Mary and Jesus and include Giotto's *Last Judgment*. Recently restored, the brilliance and sophistication of Giotto's masterpiece is breathtaking. After, we will have an extended visit to one of the most important pilgrimage churches, **the Basilica of San Antonio**. Inside *Il Santo* with its magnificent nave, is the Capella dell' Arco del Santo, the chapel of the tomb of St Anthony by Tiziano Aspetti. On the high altar, the dramatic bronze statues and reliefs by **Donatello**. Outside the church is the famous equestrian statue of the Venetian leader Gattamelata, a masterpiece by Donatello (1453) and the first Renaissance bronze equestrian monument.

We end the day in that most romantic of cities, **Venice**, "a fairy city at heart." (Byron)

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, June 20 - 22

Over the course of the next three days, we will visit the **Basilica of Mark** and the **Piazza San Marco**, the sacred and secular heart of the city, the **Palazzo Ducale**, which served as the residence of doges and the seat of government from the 12-17C, and the **Accademia**, housing the most important Venetian art from 14-18C including the works of **Bellini, Titian, Giorgione, Mantegna, and Carpaccio**. There will be plenty of time to enjoy the legendary city, *La Serenissima*, ("the most serene") on your own, as you wander over its many bridges and canals, experience its changing light and mood. Mysterious, regal, exotic, a labyrinth of streets and canals, for centuries the city has exuded its power to transfix its visitors with its elusive, magical character.

Finally, on Friday evening we will gather to have our **Cena Adio**, our farewell dinner and conclude our time together in bell'Italia.

****N.B.:** Although the tour officially concludes with dinner on Friday evening June 22, the price of the hotel stay that night and breakfast the following morning are included in the price of the program.



Program Notes: **

Cost of the Tour: The cost of the tour for Liberal Studies students is **\$3995 per person**, plus the charge for tuition at the normal rate for Liberal Studies credit. This is a special discounted price for registered students only. The cost for all other participants is \$4875. LSP Alumni are eligible for a discount of 10% for themselves and one companion. All rates are exclusive of airfare. Participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation to Bologna, arriving at the hotel there on June 11 for the opening reception and dinner beginning at 6:30 pm. Both the reception and dinner are included in the price of the tour, as is the farewell dinner on the last night of the tour in Venice. Breakfast is included each day in the Hotels. All other meals are at the expense of participants. All arrangements for subsequent travel and accommodation are solely the responsibility of the participant.

In addition to the accommodations specified below, the cost of the tour includes ground transportation and admission fees for all activities included in the tour itinerary. Participants

are themselves responsible for all charges, including room charges at hotels, incurred in connection with any activity not explicitly specified in the itinerary.

Level of Physical Activity: The nature of the tour program and the type of sites which the group will visit make for a moderately strenuous routine; those who need to limit their physical activity or who cannot easily walk longer distances are strongly encouraged to consult with the tour leaders prior to reserving space. The Directors reserve the right to limit individual participation in group activities at their sole discretion in cases where the group's interests might be adversely affected.

Accommodations: Cost is based on double occupancy in hotels. In some cases single rooms might be available at the hotels for a supplemental charge. All hotels are three or four star and have been carefully chosen for their location, comfort and quality of service. A list of hotels will be provided separately to registered participants. Room assignments are made by the hotel management. Breakfast is included each day at the hotel.

Reservations: Places on the tour are strictly limited to a maximum of 18 participants to ensure the comfort and focused attention of the group experience. As a result, places on the tour will be reserved in the order in which deposits are received. Places may be reserved by completing the included Reservation Form, and returning it by mail with a deposit of one thousand dollars per person. Deposits are refundable according to the terms specified in the Terms and Conditions below. The balance must be paid in full by April 1, 2012. Before submitting a deposit, please read the "Terms and Conditions" below carefully for other important information including the **Cancellation Policy. Travelers are strongly urged to purchase separate travel insurance including coverage for cancellation loss to protect themselves in the event that they are unable to travel for any reason.**

If you should have any questions regarding this tour, please feel free to call Prof. Frank Ambrosio (202) 687-7741 or email ambrosif@georgetown.edu.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Renaissance in Florence Study Tour.

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.

** N.B. This Study Tour is not affiliated with Georgetown University's Charles A. Strong Study Center, Villa Le Balze, in Fiesole

Syllabus

The Northern Italian Renaissance and the Literature of the Grand Tour

A Liberal Studies Course in conjunction with
the “Venice, Ravenna, Verona and the Po Valley” Study Tour,

June 11 – 22, 2012

The goal of this course is give participants the unique opportunity to read and reflect on some of the great works of travel writing and literature that have been inspired by the country and culture of Northern Italy during the Renaissance while at the same time visiting that region and experiencing many of its natural and artistic beauties for themselves first-hand.

Beginning in the city of Bologna, we shall progressively become acquainted through lectures, slide presentations and discussion with the places we will visit, their special attractions, and the rich patterns of historical and cultural interconnection among them during the Renaissance. In addition, we will begin reflecting on and discussing what we can learn from our discoveries for living more fully and humanely in our own societies, guided by 19th and 20th American and British authors who for whom the tradition of the European “Grand Tour” became a prism through which to examine the powerful impact of exposure to a cultural tradition altogether different than their own which opened up new horizons and powerfully challenged all their assumptions about human living. The Study Tour is more fully described in the accompanying itinerary.

The **course instructors and 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, 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 course, which can be taken for graduate or undergraduate credit ** in the Georgetown Liberal Studies Program, includes the following additional elements:

- ❖ Two on-campus classroom sessions prior to departure
- ❖ Participation in the Study Tour Program
- ❖ required readings as described in the “Reading List” below

- ❖ A research paper of approximate 7500 words (graduate) or 5000 words (undergraduate) on a subject of the student's choice related to the course material and approved by the Instructors, to be completed upon return from the study tour.

Reading List

Nicolo Machiavelli, The Prince

Paul Johnson, The Renaissance, Modern Library Chronicles

Jan Morris, The Venetian Empire, Penguin

John Julius Norwich, A History of Venice, Vintage Books

Robert Tavenor, Palladio and Palladianism

Lauro Martines, Power and Imagination: City-States in Renaissance Italy, Johns Hopkins Univ. Press

Christopher Hibbert, The House of the Medici, W. Morrow Publishers.

**** 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.**

Terms and Conditions

The cost of the Study Tour is \$3995.00 per person plus tuition for a three credit course* for LSP students registered for credit. The cost of the Study Tour for all others is \$4,875.00. LSP Alumni are eligible for a discount of 10% for themselves and one companion. All rates are exclusive of airfare. Prices include hotel accommodations (double occupancy) Breakfast is included each day in the Hotels; the welcome reception on the first evening and the Farewell dinner on the final evening are also included. All other meals are at the expense of participants. All entrance fees and guided tours by the faculty, and bus travel as indicated in the itinerary and subject to the specified conditions are included. Airfare and ground transportation prior to the official start of the tour at the hotel or after its conclusion are not included.

Participants are urged to make reservations using the Reservation Form at their earliest convenience in order to guarantee a place on the tour. 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 taking the Study Tour for credit, is due April 1, 2012. See cancellation policy below.

*BALS students may, with permission of their Dean, register for a four credit course which will fulfill the core requirement for the Renaissance.

Cancellation Policy

* After receipt of the deposit, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a minimum \$250 per person cancellation fee.

* Cancellation after January 15, 2011 will result in forfeiture of the full amount of the full deposit (\$1000.).

* Cancellation after March 15, 2011 but Prior to 14 days before the commencement of the tour will result in forfeiture of 50% of the cost of the trip (exclusive of tuition).

* Cancellation within 14 days of the commencement of the tour or “no show” at the commencement of the tour will result in forfeiture full cost of the trip per person (exclusive of tuition).

*** Given the necessity of strict adherence to this cancellation policy, Georgetown University strongly recommends that participants purchase trip cancellation insurance from a reputable vendor of their own choosing. The University reserves the right to make exceptions at its sole discretion.**

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 by the University and its representatives, at their sole discretion, 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, the 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.

LSP Study Tour 2011 Program Registration Form

Please indicate for which program(s) you wish to register:

The Renaissance in Florence Study Tour, Dec. 28 – January 6, 2012 _____

Hilltowns of Tuscany, Umbria, and Le Marche, May 28 – June 8, 2012 _____

Venice, Ravenna, Verona and the Po Valley, June 11 – 23 _____

The Renaissance in Florence Study Tour, June 25 – July 2, 2012 _____

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:

Address

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 the tour(s) for which you are registering for each participant, e.g. 2 participants for Hill Towns, deposit = \$1000. each.

Please mail your deposit to: Professor Francis J. Ambrosio

Philosophy Dept. 228 New North

Georgetown University

Washington, D.C., 20057

Thank you! We look forward to traveling with you. Any questions: write ambrosif@georgetown.edu or call 202-687-7441.