

The Florentine Renaissance: From Medieval to Modern
June 25 – July 2, 2012

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 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 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.

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, 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 30 previous tours to Italy.

The price of the tour is \$2275. plus tuition for students taking the course for credit. The price for all other participants is \$2,700. Price includes 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. Please read the "Terms and Conditions" carefully for full details. Airfare and ground transportation are not included.

ITINERARY

Monday June 25

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

Tuesday, June 26

This morning we begin with a walking tour of Dante's Florence, following the circuit of the walls of the medieval town. In addition to orienting us to the old city center, this affords the opportunity to understand the vital historical developments in Florentine society that would serve as the foundations of its period of highest artistic flowering in the 15th century. In the afternoon, we will of the Uffizi gallery where we can view and discuss the developments in painting that mark the transition in style from medieval to Renaissance, including masterpieces by Giotto, Masaccio, Piero della Francesco, Botticelli, Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raffaello

The evening is at leisure.

Wednesday June 27

This 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.

Thursday, June 28

In the morning we visit the National Sculpture Museum in the Bargello, where the works of Donatello and the della Robbias are featured in an exceptionally evocative setting. From there 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*. The afternoon is free.

The afternoon is free to visit the city at leisure.

Friday, June 29

Our day begins with a visit to the spectacular collections of the Palazzo Pitti galleries. From there we walk a short distance to visit the church of Santa Maria del Carmine to see Masaccio's masterful Brancacci Chapel frescoes.

After the mid-day meal, we visit the first of the churches of the two great medieval Orders that played crucial formative roles in the development of the Florentine Renaissance, the Franciscans and Dominicans The Dominican Church of Santa Maria Novella, the site of Masaccio's revolutionary fresco, *The Holy Trinity*, Giotto's masterful crucifix and the beautifully preserved frescoes by Ghirlandaio, from whom Michaelangelo first learned the technique of fresco painting.

Saturday, June 30

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 tombal sculptures, and the Laurentian library. 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 and Galileo, Donatello's crucifix, and the recently restored fresco cycle of the *Legend of the True Cross* by Gaddi.

Sunday, July 1

This morning, we visit the Palazzo Vecchio, the town hall and seat of government of Florence for more than 800 years. The remainder of the day is free for a last leisurely afternoon enjoying the dignified charm of Florence, until we gather in the evening for a festive *Cena di Addio*, our farewell meal together

Monday, July 2

The tour concludes with departure from the hotel after breakfast. Departure from the Hotel.

Syllabus

The Renaissance in Florence: From Medieval to Modern

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY: LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM STUDY TOUR

The Renaissance in Florence: From Medieval to Modern, 3 credits**

Professors Ambrosio and Warin

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:

1. Francis: The Journey and the Dream, Murray Bodo, St. Anthony Messenger Press, Cincinnati.
2. The House of the Medici, Christopher Hibbert, W. Morrow Publishers. (* due for the second lecture; see below)
3. Michelangelo, Howard Hibbard, Harper and Row.
4. The Renaissance, Paul Johnson, Modern Library Chronicles (* due Nov. 5 for the first lecture; see below)
5. Dante, R.W.B. Lewis, Lipper/Viking (Penguin Lives Series) (* due November 5 for the first lecture; see below)
6. The Renaissance in Florence, A. Richard Turner; The Everyman Art Library, Calmann and King, London, 1977.
7. The Lives of the Artists, Volume 1, Giorgio Vasari, Penguin Classics.
(Recommended, not required.)

There will be two presentations\discussion sessions held in preparation for the tour prior to departure on Georgetown University's main campus, during the months of April and May All tour participants are welcome to attend these sessions; students taking the course for credit are required to attend these sessions. (Students wishing to register for the course who reside outside the Washington area should consult with the instructors prior to registering). Credit students should read Paul Johnson's, *The Renaissance* (Modern Library) and *Dante* (Viking), in preparation for the first meeting and should read Christopher Hibbert's, *The House of the Medici*, for the second meeting.

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. 15.

*** 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

Costs: The cost of the Tour is \$2,700 per person: \$2,275., plus tuition for students registered to take the course for graduate or undergraduate credit through Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies. Prices include hotel accommodations (double occupancy) with breakfast each day; the fare well dinner on the last evening is included in the price; no other meals are included. All entrance fees and guided tours by the faculty as indicated in the itinerary and subject to the specified conditions are included. Airfare and ground transportation are not included. Tuition for academic credit is extra.

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; no other meals are included. The farewell Cena di Addio is included in the price.

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, Places may be reserved by completing the reservation form and returning it with a deposit of one thousand dollars per person (payable to The Renaissance Tour Company, LLC), The balance must be paid in full by April 1, 2012. . Refunds in the event of cancellation are subject to the restrictions outlined in the [Terms and Conditions](#) section of this website. Please be sure to read these carefully before submitting a deposit. 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.

Students who wish to take this tour academic credit through Georgetown University must register for it as a summer 2012 course through Georgetown University's Liberal Studies Program. Two classroom sessions, mandatory for credit students (other participants invited), will be held on the Georgetown campus. Read the Course Syllabus carefully before you register.

If you should have any questions regarding academic credit for 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 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