

Lasallian Semester in Rome (LUCE)

Course Descriptions

Spring 2019

Core Courses:

Italian Language – Survival Italian (1 credit)

The course focuses on immediate language needs in daily life. Students learn to understand and to respond, to meet the challenge of communicating to achieve their primary needs and necessities. The instructors use situations from the students' lives in Italy to illustrate scenarios of listening, understanding, and speaking.

Economics - Trade and the European Union: Issues and Policies

Designed specifically for the Lasallian Universities Center for Education (LUCE) program in Rome in Spring 2019, at the heart of this course will be questions addressing the contributions of economic integration to rising (or falling) inequality and economic injustice within and across countries; its impact on absolute poverty; and the possible ways in which such integrational effects can be mediated through domestic policies.

The course is a study of the European Union (EU) and international trade through the lens of economic integration. The political, economic, trade, and financial affairs of the EU have always been at the international spotlight. They are more so nowadays when the EU is often seen as experiencing an existential crisis and its challenges are viewed by many as obstacles for global economic growth. The course provides an introduction to regional trade agreements in general, and to the EU as the largest regional trade arrangement in the world, in particular. It aims to give students an insight into the many aspects of trade and trade relations within the EU and between the EU and other trade blocks or countries. To achieve this goal, the course starts with a brief survey of the theories and policies of economic integration and their impact on economic development. It continues with a tour of the major regional trade agreements in the world by focusing on their benefits and costs, and on the joint role of governments and multinational corporations (MNCs) in their creation and operation as institutions governing international trade. Turning to studying the formation and evolution of the EU as a major global economic actor, the course surveys the EU's origins, history, institutional structures, and organization. The focus will be on understanding the EU industrial and commercial policies and their impact on the economic wellbeing of country members, particularly the Southern European members and the less developed countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). Specific attention will be given to understanding the role and impacts of MNCs and of their investments in the EU.

Course Goal and Objectives

The goal of the course is to provide a solid understanding of the EU as a scheme of international economic integration and of the nature of its current issues. The objectives of the course are as follows: (1) describe the theories of economic integration and relate them to the existing world trade agreements; (2) explain the impact of economic integration on economic outcomes such as growth, wellbeing, inequality, and poverty; (3) examine the evolution of the EU and its industrial and commercial policies; (4) identify the aims and principles of EU engagement in international trade; (5) explain the reasons and evidence for the uneven impact of trade on the earnings from labor and

capital; (6) develop a framework for understanding and foreseeing the further design and implementation of a more just European economic development policy.

Theology - Christian Faith and the Arts

This course explores the ways in which religious faith and belief are expressed through the arts, including the visual and performing arts. The theatres, museums, concert halls and churches of Chicago and elsewhere may be used as resources for the class. This course is offered both as a traditional semester-long course and may also be offered as an accelerated travel course.

A fundamental goal of this course will be to help students to develop the skill of discernment to help them to develop a critical self-awareness of their own beliefs and the Christian tradition. We will study various art works representing significant periods and ideas in the history of Christian theology. This is a course in theology rather than a course in art history. The central goal of the course, therefore, will be to identify and evaluate Christian theological ideas or doctrines as expressed in works of art. The class will study art that expresses basic Christian theological doctrines. Specifically, we will study Christian understandings of God (Jesus, the "Father," and the Holy Spirit), the human person, salvation, and worship. An important presupposition of this study is the idea that Christian doctrines are expressed in different ways in different times and places. The various works of art that we will study will serve as non-traditional "books" for our course. In "reading" these books we will attempt to understand the faith experience of both the artist and the viewer. We will also use traditional books or writings. These latter writings will provide information for understanding the art that we will experience and criteria for evaluating an artwork's theological value.

Electives:

Art History - Italian Art: Rome through the Centuries – from its Origins to the 17th Century

This course is an introduction to the Italian art from the early Roman period to the Baroque era. Through the course students will understand the history of Italian art in its social and cultural contexts. The student's ability in interpreting the visual elements in art and architecture will be stimulated in order to strengthen their aesthetic awareness and critical observation. Class meetings take place weekly and mainly on location in the city, permitting first-hand study of extant works in situ.

Our standpoint is a privileged one: Roma. The multi-layered structure of the city is a perfect set to examine the dramatic metamorphoses and continuities that characterize the Italian artistic culture from its origin to the 17th Century.

Economics - International Economics

This 300-level course examines the functioning of the international economy. It emphasizes the theoretical principles that govern international trade and it gives considerable coverage to empirical evidence of world trade patterns as well as to trade policies of the industrial and developing nations. The first part of the course studies international trade relations and commercial policy, and the second part focuses on studying international monetary relations by emphasizing the balance of payments. Starting with discussing the process of globalization and the U.S. and its position in the global economy, the course revisits comparative advantage and continues with studying the theories of international trade and their empirical tests. It then examines the treatment of tariffs,

non-tariff trade barriers, and contemporary trade policies of the United States. The first part of the course completes by discussing international trade in relation to labor and environmental standards. The second part of the course concerns the coverage of international financial and monetary relations. Starting with the examination of the balance of payments, this part focuses on understanding and analyzing the current account balance of a nation and its relationship to the capital and financial account. Continuing with the modeling and analysis the foreign-exchange market, this part emphasized the study of exchange rate determinations and exchange rate regimes. After discussing the balance-of-payments adjustment under alternate exchange rate regimes, this second part concludes with the analysis of the international banking system which plays a vital role in facilitating international transactions and maintaining economic prosperity. Microeconomic analysis is applied in analyzing questions related to the first part of the course and macroeconomic analysis is applied in the second part.

Course Goal and Objectives

The goal of this course is to help understand the principles and tools of international economics by presenting their graphical, algebraic, and logical mechanics, as well as by illustrating their application and use in trade and economic policy or in other contexts. The major learning objectives of the course are as follows: (1) state and apply the concepts and terminology of economics in studying the globalization of economic activity; (2) identify and explain the basic questions with which modern trade theory is concerned; (3) apply the principles of international trade theory in studying the international economy; (4) analyze the impact of free trade, tariff, and non-tariff trade barriers on the economic performance and welfare of nations; (5) demonstrate the importance of trade liberalization, regional integration, and the functions of international institutions and organizations; (6) classify the components of the balance of payments and describe the relationship between the current and financial accounts; (7) apply the supply and demand model in analyzing the foreign exchange market and the determination of foreign exchange; and (8) develop a framework for understanding of international financial crises and other issues related to the workings of the global economy.

As a course of the LUCE Program, International Economics will provide emphasis on the tensions between labor and capital as two distinct factors of production whose earnings may be unevenly affected by international trade and globalization. It will also address the impact of trade and globalization on jobs at home and abroad, on wages, immigration, poverty, and the environment.

History – Italy Today

The aim of this series of meetings is to provide students with the means to better understand Italian history and culture in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and at the same time to offer a critical consideration of the country. The course is divided into four main sections – Rome in literature, Italian emigration and immigration, Italy from Fascism to the present day, and the Mafia.

Italian Language

Additional courses may be taken at the student's appropriate language level.

Literature - The Discovery of Italy through 19th and 20th-century American & British Writers

The course considers the importance of Italy for non-Italian writers, particularly European, British and American writers from the eighteenth century onward. Topics considered include: a critique of

the perception and construction of Italy and Italians, the development of genres like the gothic or novels of national identity, the gendering of nationality, imperialism, the use of art and history in literature. Consideration is given to the ways in which these works are in dialogue with each other in terms of cultural assumptions and influence.

Theology – Lasallian Community and Social Action

Students will learn about dynamic exemplars of faith-in-action and peacebuilding to discover their own voices and vocations through which they may live out Lasallian association within the broader framework of the worldwide attempts to pursue the common good. In addition to service work through opportunities in Rome and Scampia in Naples in conjunction with Lasallian volunteers, students will be given opportunities to consider a faith that does justice and upholds the dignity of every human person. Students will be given opportunities to explore the call to service in their own lives in conjunction with the path of De La Salle's response to his call. This course includes a required service component.

Lewis University Catalog Description:

In addition to extensive service work through existing opportunities throughout the United States and Mexico in conjunction with Lasallian volunteers, students are challenged to consider a faith that does justice and upholds the dignity of every human person. Students explore the call to service in their own lives in conjunction with the path of De La Salle's response to his call. This course includes a required service component.