Advancing Your Practice:
ROME, ITALY
Spring Break 2014

Renee Petropoulos & Tucker Neel
See breathtaking works of art.

Eat the best Italian food of your life.

Make new friends.

Touch thousands of years of history.

Walk in the footsteps of Emperors.

Say Hi! to The Pope.

Hang out with Romans!

Live in the coolest part of Rome!

And Get School Credit!
When: Spring Break 2014  
March 13-23

Credits: 2 (possibly for Art History credit)

Host Department: Communication Arts

Faculty: Renee Petropoulos & Tucker Neel

Estimated cost: $2900 plus individual expenses

This course is designed for Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors, and Grads from all departments.

This course includes four one-hour classes at Otis before travel to Rome, and on-site & classroom lectures while in Italy, as well as a final project due after returning to Otis.
We will be leaving Los Angeles traveling directly to Rome Italy to experience the city through both its history and its contemporary life.

We will visit famous sites like The Vatican, The Pantheon, The MACRO & MAXXI, The Villa Borghese, The Spanish Steps, The Trevi Fountain, The Cappucine Crypt, The Villa d’Este, Hadrian’s Villa, and so much more. We will also see exciting, lesser-known venues and eat, shop, and socialize like the Romans do. Local scholars and artists will guide us into a private world not available to regular tourists. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience not to be missed!
Studying the ancient city as well as the modern and contemporary manifestations of culture and society as they reveal themselves through literature, film, architecture, objects and people we will devise a course of action and revelation based on tours, lectures, studio visits and other encounters.

Specific areas of study will be devised for individual projects. This may include topics such as street graphics, mapping, urbanism, ‘sound’, etc.
Pre-Departure Itinerary

Feb 12  1130-1230pm
Basement screening room
Intro to the class, review assignments

Feb 19  1130-1230pm
Basement screening room
Guest lecture by Paul Vangelisti

Feb 22  9:30am -3:00PM
Student Pre-Departure Orientation
Forum, Ahmanson Hall

March 7  7-9pm
location TBD
Exciting pre-departure review, discuss reflections, Lecture on The Grand Tour
March 13-14 (Thurs. - Fri.)

Departure & Arrival
Orientation & Trastevere

We meet and depart from LAX for our international adventure, making one stop before arriving in Rome, Italy the next day. Upon arrival we will travel via private shuttle to our residence in Trastevere, one of Rome’s most bohemian neighborhoods (the OG Silverlake).

After checking into our rooms and refreshing from our long flight, we will have a short orientation to our surroundings and our residence. We will break for a late lunch (try a real Roman pizza or a supplì!) then dive into the city life. We will visit the Palazzo Corsini for a tour of their fantastic collections of Byzantine and Renaissance art. Following this we will go to a local café to sip on authentic Roman cappuccinos. Then we will tour the oldest pharmacy in Rome, Farmacia Santa Maria della Scala, and smell the potions made for Popes from centuries past. Students then have the night free to explore and have dinner on their own in magical Trastevere.

The potions of the Popes surround us. Very few people ever get access to this unbelievable room.
March 15 Saturday

City Tour, Spada, & Capitoline Museum

We’ll convene at breakfast for a casual lesson on Roman cafe culture and Italian language so you can order a café like a pro! We’ll distribute bus and metro passes that will get you all around the city’s extensive metro system. We will then critically inhabit the role of grand tourists as we board an extensive city bus tour which will help us understand the layout of the city and the many historical layers it encompasses. We’ll see The Colosseum, St. Peter’s, The Circus Maximus, The Baths of Carcalla, The Roman Wall, and so much more!

We’ll have lunch around the famous open-air market, Campo di Fiori (try the fried artichokes - a specialty). After this we visit the Palazzo Spada’s impressive collection and mind-bending Borromini optical illusion. We’ll then walk to the Capitoline Museum with our expert guide Pia Kehl to see some of the greatest Roman antiquities on Earth.

Free time after the tour will be available to view specific monuments including the Colosseum and the Foro Romano. This makes for an excellent tour of Rome at night.
March 16 Sunday

Porta Portese, St. Peters, The Pope, The Gianicolo, & Trastevere

Adventurous travelers may want to wake up early and wander the thousands of stalls at Porta Portese market, Europe’s biggest open-air bazaar. Shop for everything from clothes to antique brass ornaments, comic books to war medals. Bring back a one-of-a-kind souvenir.

We will then walk to St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican to hear the Pope’s weekly public address. Then we visit the breathtaking St. Peter’s basilica, filled with world-famous works of art and architecture. After a brief lunch we reconvene to talk and walk up to the Giancolo road to take in the best views of the city. We will end by walking down into Trastevere to visit Santa Maria en Trastevere, one of Rome’s oldest churches.

We will then break to refresh before we reconvene for a group dinner at one of the best restraunts in Trastevere for traditional Roman fare. This is a dinner you won’t forget!
March 17 Monday

The Vatican Museums, City Center

We will visit the Vatican Museums for a guided tour with our expert Laurie Kalb. See the Sistine Chapel! The Map Room! The Raphael Frescos! The miles and miles of priceless masterpieces! We could spend a week just in this museum so prepare for an all-encompassing experience!

After this visit we will have lunch and meet at the Accent Rome center to become acquainted with its facilities. We will meet with Professor Flaminio Di Biagi for an in-class lecture on Italian cinema. Following this, we will stroll around the surrounding neighborhood to visit the Pantheon, the Jewish Ghetto, The Piazza Navona and the Bernini fountains.

The afternoon is free for an excellent dinner in the Jewish Ghetto or Trastevere.
March 18 Tuesday

Via Veneto & the Spanish Steps

We will convene at the Palazzo Barberini in the morning and tour their collection of Caravaggios, Holbeins, Raphaels, and Tintorettos. After relaxing underneath some of the most amazing frescos on earth, we’ll saunter across the street to an impressive Roman café for some of the most beautiful panini’s in the city.

We will then walk up the Via Veneto to the Capuchin Crypt to view its collection of important religious artifacts and walk along haunting rooms made entirely of human bones. We will continue our promenade to meet Professor Flaminio for our out-in-the-street lecture on Italian cinema. We will walk back in time through the streets that defined Italian new wave cinema.

After this is a free evening to enjoy the city. Take in a show, splurge on a decadent meal, wander Trastevere for amazing people-watching.
March 19 Wed.

San Lorenzo, Contemporary Art Studios

We will set out to visit artist studios in San Lorenzo, one of the most artistically vibrant and youthful sections of Rome.

We will meet art writer Valeria Giampietro to walk the neighborhood and grab a bite at a famous local arts cafe.

Valeria will then guide us on studio visits in the artist’s quarters of San Lorenzo, meeting emerging artists and well-established masters. This will include entrance into a private art world many never get to witness. Get a first-hand look at the life of some of Italy’s most famous contemporary artists and designers.

Following our visits we will shop and wander the many boutiques and galleries of San Lorenzo, stopping into many cutting-edge contemporary Roman art galleries.

Students then have the evening to themselves to eat dinner and experience Trastevere nightlife culture.
Tentative Itinerary

March 20 Thursday

Tivoli, Hadrian’s Villa, Villa d’Este

Our guide for the day, Prof. Pia Kehl, will meet us in the morning to guide us to Hadrian’s Villa, just outside of Rome. We will tour the palacious ancient ruins, including the reflecting pool and many baths. This is a site visit you will be speaking about for the rest of your life. After three hours of private time for sketching, exploring, and relaxing amongst the beautiful ruins, we will gather together to travel to nearby Tivoli.

Once in Tivoli we will have a group lunch at a cozy traditional trattoria. After this filling meal we will visit the Villa d’Este, a sprawling complex of ecstatic water fountains, manicured gardens, and sumptuous frescoed apartments. Watching the sun set from this villa might just be the highlight of your trip.

We will then return to Rome and students will be free for the rest of the evening.
March 21  Friday

Piazza del Popolo, MACRO and Maxxi

After breakfast we will meet Professor Shara Wasserman at the striking Piazza del Popolo in the heart of Rome. We will then travel by foot and tram to visit the famous Caravaggios in the church of Sta. Maria del Popolo.

We’ll then take a tram to the Maxxi Museum, designed by Zaha Hadid and the Hall designed by Renzo Piano. Lunch and a short visit to the Auditorium will follow. Then we will visit the MACRO museum designed by Odile Decq to see cutting-edge contemporary art exhibitions. Students will then recess for the day.
March 22, Saturday

Villa Borghese

We will meet Professor Laurie Kalb to tour the Villa Borghese’s unmatched collection of Caravaggios and Berninis, wandering through some of the greatest frescoed interiors in Rome. After this life-changing visit students will have the rest of the day free (from 11am on) to visit any site(s) in the city.
March 23, Sunday

The Return Home

We will leave for home in the morning via private coach to the airport. After a long trip home we will share memories and final projects over our final class meeting and critique on April 23
The approximate cost per person is $2,900. This includes round-trip airfare, double or triple occupancy hotel accommodations for nine days, ground transportation, excursion to Tivoli, and one group dinner. This overall cost may decrease depending on how many students register for this class, if airfare becomes less expensive, etc.

Financial Aid is available.
For more info email otisaid@otis.edu

What is Included:
- All air travel and shuttle to and from airport in Rome
- Classroom fees
- Orientation
- Bus tours of Rome
- All public transportation in Rome
- Tivoli excursion
- Tour guides
- One group dinner
- Admissions to museums on our itinerary.

Not Included:
- Passport fees
- Your meals (approx $30-50 a day)
- Tuition
- Health Insurance
- Personal Expenses
Accent Rome Center

Our trip facilitator will be Accent Rome, a company specializing in college study abroad programs in Rome. They will provide housing, school facilities, security, orientation, and many other services throughout the course of this trip.

The Accent Rome Center serves as an information and resource center where students and faculty can stop in to ask questions, request program information, pick up mail, and use the Internet.

Students will attend two classes at the newly-renovated Rome Center in the historic Palazzo Banco S. Spirto. The Rome Center also has studio space for studio art and architecture programs.

The Center comes with a fully-equipped computer lab with computers and free wireless connectivity. Additionally, the Center features several student lounges and study areas with wireless Internet, where students may study or relax and socialize with students from other study abroad programs.

For more info about Accent visit accentintl.com/cities/rome
Apartments at the Accent Rome residence have three to four bedrooms with one or two bathrooms, and all apartments have been recently renovated.

Each is equipped with a spacious common area, kitchen facilities, a refrigerator, oven, washing machine, television and wireless internet. Many rooms have balconies.
The student residence in Rome is located in the Trastavere area, one of the most famous traditional neighborhoods in Rome. Students find that everything they need is at their fingertips – supermarkets, movie theaters, coffee bars, restaurants, an Italian open-air market and public transportation.

Located on the ground floor of the apartments are restaurants, a coffee shop and a gym, and just across the street are a pharmacy, grocery store and a deli. The weekly Porta Portese Market (one of the largest flea markets in Europe) is held on the street just below one of the towers on Sunday morning, and a daily outdoor food market is a 10-minute walk in Piazza Cosimato.
Assignments

At Otis:
The three class meetings at the Otis campus will consist of lectures, films, and some readings. Readings will focus on tourist texts as well as information to prepare you for engaging in Italian culture.

There will be required film viewings, including the HBO series, Rome.

In Rome:
You will generate a project based on the city, dealing with mapping, video, sound, books, illustration, etc. It’s up to you. This project will be informed by your research before the trip and immersion during our time in Rome. You will have two days in the studio to experiment and hone your project. Keep in mind upon return we will have a group presentation to Otis.

Otis after return:
You will present your projects to the Otis community in a group exhibition and event on April 23rd.
Fill out the Study Abroad Application Form

APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 1st, 2013 (priority), Rolling Admissions until program capacity is reached. Get your applications in ASAP, as there is a huge interest in this year’s programs and spaces are filling up rapidly.

SUBMIT: Applications may be submitted via email to international@otis.edu (put the program destination and your name in the subject line) or in person to the Center for International Education, Provost’s Office, Ahmanson Hall 215.

We will announce the list of selected students and wait list before registration for Spring 2014 classes.

For all application questions email Darren Grosch, Dir. International Education 310-665-6994 dgrosch@otis.edu Room 215
More info and application materials at ospace.otis.edu/rome2014
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