

HNRS 4368 – Honors Field Experience

Spring 2025

Tuesdays 5:00-6:00p HPR 135

Dr. Robert Sterken and Ms. Codee Scott

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Course Description (from catalog): This course combines classroom experience with travel. The travel study engages students with particular sites associated with works of literature, history, and/or philosophy.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate an ability to explain the practices (e.g. beliefs, values, perspectives, practices) of other cultures, nations, or regions.
- To learn how to read critically, analyze, and interpret mythic and philosophical texts.
- Students will value difference among people and express an appreciation of cultures (language, art, music, religion, philosophy, family and community structures, and material culture).

Required Readings:

The Italians (paperback) by John Hooper. Penguin Books, 2016. ISBN-13: 978-0143128403.

Handouts of other assigned readings are available on Canvas.

Suggested reading:

The Birth of Venus: A Novel (paperback) by Sarah Dunant. Random House Trade, 2004. ISBN-13: 978-0812968972.

To avoid confusion in class, all students must use these editions. Students are required to bring appropriate books to class to supplement discussion.

Grade Breakdown:

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|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Presentation and Participation | 55% |
| 2. Final Essay Paper | 20% |
| 3. Travel Journal | 25% |

Presentations: Students will select a topic from a specific site visit in the itinerary. The student will study and create a presentation about the specific history, culture, and significance of the site. Students will make their presentation to the group in the Spring 2025 semester and at the site in Italy. Students will create a brief ppt presentation in which they explain, and explore the historical and cultural significance of art, culture, history and significance of a specific Italian site we visit. Presentations should include symbols of religious and artistic achievement, different functions and cultural contexts, and why they are masterpieces of art and engineering.

Final Paper: Italy, with its rich tapestry of history, art, food, and culture, offers a unique backdrop for transformative learning experiences. As a participant in a travel study course to this captivating country, you have had the opportunity to immerse yourself in its vibrant cities, historic landmarks, and diverse cultural practices. In this essay reflect on your journey and explore the multifaceted learning and personal growth that occurred during your time in Italy.

In about 1200 words, consider the following guiding questions to shape your narrative:

1. ***Cultural Immersion and Understanding:***

- How did your interactions with local communities and exposure to Italian customs and traditions enhance your understanding of the culture?
- Reflect on specific experiences that challenged your preconceived notions or broadened your perspective about Italian society.

2. ***Historical Insights and Academic Enrichment:***

- Discuss the historical sites and landmarks you visited during the course. How did these experiences deepen your understanding of Italy's historical significance in a global context?
- How did the academic components of the course, such as lectures or guided tours, complement your experiential learning?

3. ***Personal Growth and Development:***

- In what ways did stepping out of your comfort zone in a foreign country contribute to your personal growth?
- Reflect on moments of self-discovery or newfound independence that emerged during your travels.

4. ***Interdisciplinary Connections:***

- How did the travel study course encourage you to make connections between your academic discipline and the cultural and historical context of Italy?
- Discuss any interdisciplinary insights or inspirations that emerged from your experiences.

5. ***Challenges and Adaptations:***

- What challenges did you encounter during the course, and how did you adapt to overcome them?
- Reflect on how these challenges contributed to your resilience and adaptability.

6. ***Legacy and Future Implications:***

- How has this travel study course influenced your future academic or career aspirations?
- In what ways do you plan to integrate the lessons and experiences from Italy into your personal or professional life moving forward?

As you craft your essay, aim to weave together personal anecdotes with analytical reflections, providing a comprehensive narrative of your travel study experience. Use vivid descriptions to bring your experiences to life, and consider incorporating quotes or insights from instructors, peers, or locals to enrich your narrative. Ultimately, this essay should serve as a testament to the impact of travel-based learning and the enduring memories and lessons gained from your time in Italy.

These papers must have and support a thesis. All writing assignments will be evaluated according to the following rubric:

Criterion	Good (90-100%)	Fair (75-90%)	Poor (<75%)
Content and Development ____/50 points	Content is comprehensive, addresses itself to the issues raised by the prompt and the major points are clearly stated and well supported.	Content is not comprehensive or persuasive. Major points are identified but not well addressed. Content is inconsistent with regard to purpose and clarity of thought.	Content is incomplete. Paper demonstrates little or no understanding of the issues raised by the prompt. The content is confused or confusing and without apparent purpose.
Organization and Structure ____/20 points	The structure of the paper is clear. The Introduction/Thesis paragraph demonstrates sufficient understanding of the issues and previews major points. Paragraph transitions are present, logical, and maintain the flow of thought throughout the paper. The conclusion is logical and flows from the body of the paper.	Structure of the paper is not easy to follow. The Introduction/Thesis is missing or, if provided, does not demonstrate an understanding of the issues or preview major points. Paragraph transitions need improvement. The conclusion is missing or, if provided, does not flow from the body of the paper. You should not use crutch phrases like "In conclusion..."	Poor or missing organization and structure detract from the writer's discussion. The Introduction/Thesis is missing. Paragraphs are disjointed and lack transition of thought—or they are merely missing.
Format ____/10 points	Paper follows these guidelines and is of the appropriate length.	Paper follows most guidelines or is too long or too short.	Paper lacks many elements of proper formatting. Writer does not follow directions.
Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation ____/20 points	Rules of grammar, usage, and punctuation are followed. Spelling is correct. Language is clear and precise. Sentences display consistently strong, varied structure.	Paper contains few grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors. Language lacks clarity or includes the use of some jargon or conversational tone.	Paper contains numerous grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors. Language uses jargon or is too conversational in tone.

Grading Scale: 100–90%=A, 89–80%=B, 79–70%=C, 69–60%=D, and any grade below 60%=F.

Attendance & Participation: Attendance in this class is not only mandatory but also very important. Your contributions will be invaluable and you need to be here every day. You will be allowed two unquestioned absences. After the second absence, each additional absence will result in a full letter-grade reduction (10%) of your attendance grade. Obviously, this is a serious matter, so try to plan ahead. Unquestioned absences include sickness, job interviews, personal matters, etc. Therefore, if you anticipate having to miss class at any point during the semester, please plan accordingly. If a University activity will cause you to miss more than two classes please see your instructors. Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform us by the second class meeting of such absences.

Participation: Reading assignments are clearly listed below. All students are expected to have read the assigned material by the beginning of class. Partial completion of an assignment is unacceptable; coming to class unprepared will result in a full letter-grade reduction (10%) of your participation grade. On the other hand, please understand that while we expect you to have read the assigned readings, we do not necessarily expect you to have mastered them. Like all readers, you will have questions and perhaps even occasional problems with these texts. That's part of the reading process. In such cases, please be sure to bring those problems and questions to class so that we can discuss them as a group. **We strongly suggest that you take notes on each text while you read it, focusing on its central ideas, characters, and plot points. Such careful reading will prepare you for discussion, a vital part of this class.** Also, be sure to plan ahead. Because of scheduling constraints, reading assignments are not always evenly divided.

Attendance and participation will also be evaluated on the travel study portion of the class. Students are expected to attend all mandatory field trips, meetings, and lectures.

Travel Journal: While participating in the travel study portion of the class, students will keep a journal. This journal will contain responses to prompts that investigate the relationship between the sites we visit and the readings we have done for class.

During this travel study course to Italy, you must keep a record of observations and reflections in a journal each day to capture the full breadth of your experiences. Here are some suggestions on what to include:

1. **Daily Itinerary**:
 - List the places visited and activities undertaken each day.
 - Note any guided tours, lectures, or workshops attended.
2. **Cultural Observations**:
 - Describe interactions with locals and any cultural nuances observed.
 - Reflect on differences and similarities between Italian culture and your own.
3. **Historical and Artistic Insights**:
 - Record information about historical sites, museums, and artworks.
 - Note any new historical facts or artistic techniques learned.
4. **Personal Reflections**:
 - Reflect on your personal experiences and feelings about the day's events.
 - Consider how the experiences are impacting your understanding of Italy and yourself.
5. **Language Notes**:
 - Jot down new Italian words or phrases learned.
6. **Culinary Experiences**:
 - Describe meals and any unique foods or flavors tried.
 - Reflect on how the culinary experiences relate to Italian culture.
7. **Sensory Details**:

- Capture the sights, sounds, smells, and textures of the environment.
 - Use descriptive language to bring scenes to life in your journal.
8. ****Sketches and Photos****:
- Include sketches or attach photos of memorable scenes or objects.
 - Annotate these visuals with notes or captions.
9. ****Connections to Coursework****:
- Relate daily experiences to the course material or academic goals.
 - Note any insights or questions that arise related to your studies.
10. ****Challenges and Solutions****:
- Document any challenges faced during the day and how they were overcome.
 - Reflect on what these challenges teach you about adaptability and problem-solving.
11. ****Memorable Quotes or Anecdotes****:
- Record interesting conversations or quotes from guides, locals, or peers.
 - Share anecdotes that capture the essence of your experiences.

I encourage you to write honestly and creatively, making your journals a personal and valuable record of your travel study experience.

A note on academic honesty: Any sort of unauthorized aid such as copying or loaning homework assignments, talking or the use of notes during tests or quizzes, will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, the unacknowledged use of another person's language or ideas, will not be tolerated. If you cheat on anything in this class you will receive an "F" for the course. *If you are unsure of what constitutes cheating in this class, see the University document at the end of this syllabus.* Ignorance of the rules will not be tolerated as an excuse for cheating.

A note on student absence due to religious observance or athletics. Any student who will miss any class days during the semester because of religious observance or participation in University athletics, must inform the instructors of this course no later than the second day of class.

Class Schedule/Assignment List

(Please note: This schedule is tentative and subject to revision)

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|-------------------|--|
| Week 1:
T 1/14 | Introductions; Syllabus, Meet with Office of International Programs |
| Week 2:
T 1/21 | Discussion of Itinerary: Student's select topic and location for presentation. |
| Week 3:
T 1/28 | Rome Presentation 1 |
| Week 4:
T 2/4 | Rome Presentation 2 |

Week 5: Rome Presentation 3
T 2/11

Week 6: Rome Presentation 4
T 2/18

Week 7: Rome Presentation 5
T 2/25

Week 8: Rome Presentation 6
T 3/4

Week 9: Florence Presentation 1
T 3/11

Week 10: Spring Break – No meeting
T 3/18

Week 11: Florence Presentation 2
T 3/25

Week 12: Florence Presentation 3
T 4/1

Week 13: Florence Presentation 4
T 4/8

Week 14: Florence Presentation 5
T 4/15

Week 15: Florence Presentation 6
T 4/22

Week 16: Florence Presentation 7
T 4/29

Travel Itinerary

May 10 – May 23, 2025 (AEA Details attached).

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT MUST APPEAR IN EACH COURSE SYLLABUS

UT Tyler Honor Code Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do. Students Rights and Responsibilities To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:
<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

Campus Carry We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at
<http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For Fall, the Census Date is Sept. 12.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar. Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date (Sept. 12th) is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment

- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid State-Mandated Course

Drop Policy Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester. (Revised 05/17)

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time, the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in

whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

i. “Cheating” includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student’s test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

ii. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

iii. “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

UT Tyler Resources for Students

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)