Made in Italy – Marketing the Italian Style  NEW!
Summer Quarter, Fall Semester, Winter Quarter, Spring Semester
Professor Francesca Passeri PhD

Course Description
The course examines the notion of “Made in Italy” as an intangible asset and traces its evolution in time, starting from its creation in Florence in the 1950s up to the current global success of Tuscany-based icons such as Vespa, Gucci, Ferragamo, and Chianti. The main aim is to explore the appeal of “Made in Italy” as a global brand and the marketing of “Italian Style” throughout the world. To this purpose, students analyze important Italian companies in specific sectors – fashion, food, wine, leather, design and art – and discuss their innovative branding practices. The focus is on key Italian cultural products, their significance and symbolism, as well as the concept of “Country Branding” within the industrial, leisure, lifestyle, food, and fashion industries. An array of educational tools – lectures, class discussions, fieldtrips and visits to food and fashion retailers, corporate museums, design studios –allows students to acquire an in-depth knowledge of trendsetting communication strategies and gain first-hand experience with some iconic products commonly associated with the idea of “Italianness”, from concept to consumption.

Revised 5/2018
Entrepreneurship - The Italian Way  NEW!
Summer Quarter, Fall Semester, Winter Quarter, Spring Semester
Professor Clive Woollard

This course provides an in-depth study of the creative chaos of Italian entrepreneurship. From the Medici, who made a fortune and lost it again within a century, to Ferrari, the consummate entrepreneur; from Armani, Ferragamo, and Gucci to Luxottica and Del Vecchio’s sunglasses empire, students investigate the essence of Italian entrepreneurship. In addition, this course scrutinizes examples of family businesses, in which each new generation exhibits entrepreneurship (FIAT, Ferrero etc.), as well as instances of entrepreneurial endeavors that were not successful (e.g. Parmalat). The world of entrepreneurship is evaluated from the perspectives of management, finance, and marketing as well as incorporating sociological skills required to understand these enterprises. The course uses a large array of texts and academic sources that the students assess via real life case studies. Students visit a wide range of entrepreneurial contexts and have the opportunity to interview first hand a number of entrepreneurs and those that support entrepreneurship. Students also critically evaluate major issues such as globalization, sustainability, and ethics, which affect entrepreneurships today.
Genius and Innovation in Italian Renaissance Art
Fall Semester, Winter Quarter, Spring Semester
Professor Cecilia Martelli

Course Description
The course explores the great renewal of the arts in Florence and Tuscany between the end of the Middle Ages and the advent of the new era of the Renaissance, thanks to the 'genius' and the deep innovations promoted jointly by painters, sculptors and architects. The renovation started in painting by Giotto in the 14th century induces Renaissance artists to a new and deep attention to the human figure, which has become the center of the world, and to a scientific interest in the representation of space and perspective. The rediscovery of Greek and Roman classical culture determines the new language of Renaissance architecture, founded in Florence by Brunelleschi, while sculptors such as Ghiberti, Donatello and Verrocchio and painters such as Masaccio, Beato Angelico and Botticelli renew the face of Florence, on commission of the Medici family and the city institutions. In the late Renaissance, a new wave of innovation is particularly affected by Leonardo da Vinci's interest in science and nature, Michelangelo's passion for human anatomy, the fascination of Raphael with the classical world, until Giorgio Vasari transforms the city at the request of the Medici, who have now become the Dukes.
Unity in Diversity: The Making of Italian Identity Through Food
Fall Semester, Winter Quarter, Spring Semester
Professor Peter Fischer

Course Description
This is a challenging course on one of the most fascinating chapters in the history of food. We will trace the historical evolution of Italian food culture in the geographical and cultural context of the Mediterranean from the times of the classical civilizations until today. The focus will be on understanding the extraordinary significance of food for the definition of “Italianness.” Pasta, pizza and cappuccino have become some of the most recognizable signs for Italian identity and they contribute to the creation of a coherent, unified image of Italy. To fully explore the evolution of this fascinating relationship between “Italianness” and food, a cornucopia of historical, cross-cultural and theoretical views is offered, drawing from history, anthropology, sociology, as well as from geography. Each class is based on a set of readings, and it is crucial that students keep up with the readings and be prepared to discuss them in class. Some lectures will directly engage our readings while others will provide contextualizing historical and theoretical information. Lectures and class discussions will be supplemented by special food workshops in which we will explore the history, culture and taste of some Italian key products: bread, wine and olive oil as well as coffee. Emphasis will be placed on developing a methodological and structured approach towards how to taste these food items, covering all of the essential elements of the subject, from the physiology and experience of the senses to tasting techniques, tasting vocabulary, and quality assessment. We will also explore food markets in Florence and during the magic harvest of olives visit the distinguished Olive Oil Resort “Villa Campestri” in northern Tuscany. This course is designed for undergraduate students of history, anthropology, sociology and geography and students generally interested in food studies.
Bread, Wine & Olive Oil: A Culinary History of Italy  
Summer Quarter ONLY  
Professor Guido Gualandi

Course Description  
This course examines the evolution and cultural significance of three staple foods of Italian cuisine, bread, wine, and olive oil, from their ancient roots in the Mediterranean to their role in the enogastronomic traditions of Tuscany. The course traces the origins of these products in ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece, and Rome, and their changing symbolic and cultural meaning across time, from ancient Roman and early Christian civilizations to the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Students discuss their contribution to the definition of an Italian national identity and their place in today’s food culture. For the study of bread and pasta in modern Italy, students look at the industrialization of wheat growing and of bread and pasta-making techniques, countered by the recent revival of heritage grains, especially in Tuscany. The analysis of Italian wine culture addresses the industrialization of wine production in Italy and the natural wine movement, with a specific focus on wine production in Tuscany. Finally, olive oil is studied from a symbolic, agricultural, and dietary perspective.

Comparative tastings of ancient and modern grain breads, of conventional and natural wine, as well as of traditional Tuscan organic olive oil and commercial oil, are part of the class. Field trips to mills, farms, and food sites complement the class contents.