



Empires of Exchange: The Visual Cultures of Power, Mobility, and Erasure in the Mediterranean

HOA300.1 *Empires of Exchange: The Visual Cultures of Power, Mobility, and Erasure in the Mediterranean* (3 credits)

April 29 - May 10, 2021
Palermo, Venice & Trieste, Italy

The Program

Empires of Exchange: The Visual Cultures of Power, Mobility, and Erasure in the Mediterranean is a Signature Seminar offered as a post-semester seminar for students attending Syracuse Florence Center. The seminar invites you to consider:

- What economic, religious and cultural connections do Palermo, Venice and Trieste share?
- How do the art and architecture of the past impact today's contemporary concerns of European political identity?

This traveling seminar investigates artistic exchange between the medieval and early modern cities of Palermo, Venice and Trieste to discover Roman, Slavic, Byzantine, Spanish, German, French, Arab, Ottoman, Muslim and Jewish influence on Italian art and culture. Throughout the seminar, you will experience the Italian Peninsula north to south, from Sicily all the way to Venice and Trieste, the very last city and seaport on the northeastern border. Through the themes of political power, cultural mobility and erasure, as well as the dynamics of shared urban spaces, you will analyze how the Mediterranean Sea connected Jewish, Christian, and Muslim peoples.

While the course focuses on the art and architecture of each region in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern period (1000-1700), consideration is also given to the modern afterlives of these sites. Ultimately, you will examine how the medieval and early modern past still inform contemporary concerns on immigration and European political identity.

Application

To apply, log into the Syracuse Abroad application portal and indicate that you are interested by **Monday, November 16**. If accepted, you must pay a \$300 non-refundable deposit to the Syracuse Abroad office by December 1.

Eligibility and Admission

All students accepted for the spring 2021 semester in Florence can apply for this seminar. Space is limited and allocated on a first come, first serve basis.



Costs

The seminar program fee of \$2,300 covers air and ground transportation during the program, entrance fees to all seminar sites and hotel accommodations. Check with your financial aid counselor to determine if your financial aid can be applied toward the seminar fee. You will be responsible for return airfare to your home country after the seminar ends.

Your Seminar Leader

The seminar will be led by Professor Sean Nelson, whose research and teaching interests focus on cross-cultural dialogue between Early Modern Florence and the Islamic lands, predominantly the Mamluk Sultanate and the Ottoman Empire. He has received research fellowships and grants from the Kunsthistorisches Institute in Florence, the Max-Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, and the Getty Foundation, Los Angeles as a fellow of "Connecting Art Histories", among others. He has published essays on the collection of Islamic spoils in *The Grand Ducal Medici and the Levant: Interlacing Cultures from Florence to the Eastern Mediterranean (1532-1743)* and *Pisa: The Eccentric City*.

For more information, contact:

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