



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)

November 30 - December 10, 2021
Ravenna, 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 course for students in the Syracuse Florence program. The seminar invites you to consider:

- What economic, religious and cultural connections do Ravenna, 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 Ravenna, Venice and Trieste to discover Roman, Slavic, Byzantine, Spanish, German, French, Arab, Ottoman, Muslim and Jewish influences on Italian art and culture. You will experience the rich diversity of the Italian Peninsula's northeastern territories, going all the way to Trieste, the very last city and seaport on Italy's 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 **Friday, April 30**. If accepted, you must pay a \$300 non-refundable deposit to the Syracuse Abroad office by Monday, May 17.

Eligibility and Admission

All students accepted for the fall 2021 semester in Florence can apply for this seminar. Space is limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis. If there is insufficient interest, the Seminar will be canceled and your deposit refunded.



Costs

The seminar program fee of \$2,550 covers 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 (depart on December 10).

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:

Syracuse Florence International Program Advisor: Cullen Stubbs
syrflorence@syr.edu

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