



SPRING 2020 STUDY ABROAD

Italy

Rome/Catania/Palermo/Pompeii/Sorrento, Italy
February 27 – March 9, 2020
CAST 3994 Foundations of Christian Culture: Rome & Sicily
CORE 3748, RELS 3208, HONS Seminar
3 Undergraduate Credits
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Italy has long held a pre-eminent place in the development of Western Civilization's art, music, architecture and political thought. Less appreciated, but closely linked with these other accomplishments, is Italy's role as a spiritual center for the Christian world. From the time of the Apostles Peter and Paul to the present day, the religious prominence of Italy continues to be felt. This course will examine Italy's spiritual contributions primarily through key figures women and men and the influence they have had upon the spiritual, artistic and cultural growth of world Christianity. The topic is imminently connected with the mission of the Catholic Studies Department program. It enhances and extends the classroom curriculum by providing unique on-site, hands-on experience to our students.

Tentative Itinerary

Thursday, February 27 – USA/ROME

Departure from Newark Airport to Rome on United Airlines flight 40 at 5:45 pm.

Friday, February 28 – ROME/CATANIA

Arrive at Leonardo da Vinci Airport in Rome at 8:05 am. After going through passport control, you will be met by your tour escort. Departure for Catania with a connecting flight. Check into UNA Hotel Palace. Lunch at local restaurant. Afternoon departure for a guided tour. Afternoon guided walking tour of the main city sites in the city center and the beautiful Basilica of St. Agatha, the patron saint of Catania. Dinner at hotel. (L,D)

Saturday, February 29 – CATANIA/MT. ETNA/TAORMINA/CATANIA

Breakfast at hotel. Departure for an excursion of Mt. Etna by bus. Continue on to Taormina. Lunch at Ristorante Bella Blu overlooking the splendid city of Taormina. Guided tour follows which will include the spectacular ancient Greek/Roman theatre that dates back to the 3rd century BC. Free time for shopping before returning to Catania. Dinner at local restaurant. (B,L,D)

Sunday, March 1 – CATANIA/SIRACUSA/NOTO/CATANIA

Breakfast at hotel. Departure for Siracusa, the city which Cicero considered as the most beautiful of the Greek cities of that time. Guided tour of the main sites, including the spectacular Roman Amphitheatre and the island of Ortigia. Attend Italian Mass at the cathedral. Lunch on own. Afternoon departure for the splendid Baroque city of Noto. Return to Catania in the late afternoon and dinner at local restaurant. (B,D)

Monday, March 2 – CATANIA/PIAZZA ARMERINA/AGRIGENTO

Breakfast at hotel and check-out. Departure for Piazza Armerina for a guided tour of the ancient Roman Villa del Casale, which dates back to the 4th century AD, and contains the richest, largest and most complex collection of Roman mosaics in the world. Lunch on own. Continue on to Agrigento. Short stop to see the splendid “Scala dei Turchi” on the way. Check-in at Colleverde Park Hotel. Departure for a guided tour of the Valley of the Temples to visit the doric style Greek temples which were built in the 5th century BC. Dinner at hotel. (B,D)

Tuesday, March 3 – AGRIGENTO/ ERICE/PALERMO

Breakfast at hotel and check-out. Departure for Erice, which offers one of the most spectacular views in Sicily, and where you will see ancient remains dating back to the Normans, Phoenicians and Saracens. Lunch on own. Continue on to Palermo and check-in at Hotel Artemisia Palace. Some free time on own. Dinner at local restaurant. (B,D)

Wednesday, March 4 – PALERMO

Breakfast at hotel. Departure for a guided tour of the main city sites to include the splendid Cathedral, the Martorana Church, the Norman Palace, which is the oldest royal residence in Europe, and the Palatine Chapel. Lunch on own. Afternoon departure for a guided tour of the cathedral in Monreale, one of the most beautiful in Italy famous for its splendid mosaics, with a stop en route to visit the unique Shrine of St. Rosalia, the patron saint of Palermo. Dinner at local restaurant. (B,D)

Thursday, March 5 – PALERMO/NAPLES/POMPEII

Breakfast at hotel and check-out. Departure for Puntaraissi Airport for flight to Naples. Upon arrival, depart for a guided tour of the San Severo Chapel Museum where you can admire the famous Veiled Christ, world renowned for the remarkable tissue-like quality of the marble, and the magnificent Church of Gesu Nuovo. Lunch at local restaurant. Afternoon continue on to Pompeii and check into Hotel Pompeii Resort. Dinner at hotel. (B,L,D)

Friday, March 6 – POMPEII/SORRENTO/POMPEII

Breakfast at hotel. Departure via private motor coach for a guided tour of the lovely city of Sorrento which overlooks the magnificent bay of Naples. Lunch on own and free time to shop. Late afternoon return to Pompeii and dinner at hotel. (B,D)

Saturday, March 7 – POMPEII/ROME

Breakfast at hotel and check-out. Departure for Rome via private motor coach and check-in at Starhotel Michelangelo (or Residenza Madri Pie). Lunch on own. Afternoon guided tour of the Basilicas of St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. John Lateran and St. Mary Major. Dinner at local restaurant. (B,D)

Sunday, March 8 – ROME

Breakfast at hotel and departure for St. Peter’s Basilica for Mass, followed by a guided tour of the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Navona Square and the Pantheon. Lunch on own and afternoon free. Dinner at local restaurant. (B,D)

Monday, March 9 – ROME/USA

Breakfast at hotel and check-out. Departure for Fiumicino for United Airlines flight 41 departing at 8:55 am and arriving in Newark at 2:00 pm. (B)

Participant Requirements

Participants should be aware that the trip will involve:

- Walking 3-5 miles per day
- Walking through uneven terrain: cobblestone streets
- Adapting to a different diet: seafood, cheeses, pasta
- Dressing and behaving according to local customs
- Wearing appropriate dress when visiting churches and sacred places (i.e. no ripped jeans and have shoulders covered)
- Exposure to high temperatures and/or humidity
- Exposure to high altitudes (Mt. Etna)
- Climbing stairs: Some hotels do not have elevators

* If you require accommodations to participate, students are encouraged to begin discussions with Disability Support Services at least six (6) months before the trip's scheduled departure date. If you have any questions about this process, please contact DSS at: dss@shu.edu

Program Costs to Student in Addition to SHU Tuition:

Undergraduate tuition will be included in your spring 2020 flat tuition rate

Round-trip Airfare	\$1,260
Local Travel	500
Lodging	860
Meals	580
Other:	
Tours/Entrance Fees/Guides/Tour Escort	780
Portion of instructor travel costs	<u>Included</u>
TOTAL:	\$3,800*

* Total price does not include tuition. Tuition for the course will be included in your spring 2020 flat tuition rate, which covers 12-18 credits. Price subject to change based on number of participants and any other changes.

Basis for SHU Grade in the Course

Students are required to attend pre and post departure classes and lectures. In addition to full participation in the itinerary [30%], they must also keep a day-to-day travel journal [30%] and write a 20-page research paper on a topic related to the course [40%]. Paper topics will be assigned at the end of the course and the paper itself must be completed within a month of return from Spain.

Come and explore the Ancient and Awesome Sicily and Rome - This course will examine Italy's spiritual contributions primarily through key figures women and men and the influence they have had upon the spiritual, artistic and cultural growth of world Christianity. The topic is imminently connected with the mission of the Catholic Studies Department program. It enhances and extends the classroom curriculum by providing unique on-site, hands-on experience to our students.