| **Course Title** | EMSP 2510  
Early Modern Art, Literature, and Politics in Florence, Italy |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| **Instructor(s)** | Dr. Jannette Vusich  
Early Modern Studies Programme, University of King’s College |
| **Dates**        | May (the exact dates change annually) |
| **Location**     | Florence, Italy |
| **Program fee**  | **Mandatory Fees (paid directly to the University of King’s College):**  
- Tuition for a full-credit course: $1573.00 (Estimate)  
- Program fee: $2000.00  
- Entrance to all sites (incl. Uffizi membership): $240.00  
- Accommodation (incl. breakfast): $1730.00  
**ESTIMATED TOTAL:** $5543.00 |
| **Costs not covered in program fee** | **Other Costs (all estimates):**  
- Plane Fare: $1000.00-1400.00  
- Meals and personal spending in Florence $1000.00-1200.00  
- Textbook: $60.00  
**ESTIMATED TOTAL:** $2060.00—2660.00* |
| **Prerequisites** | Have completed 5 full academic credit courses at an accredited university or have permission from the instructor. |
| **Admission requirements** | Be in good academic standing with a cumulative GPA of 2.3 or above.  
Be eligible to register at King’s or Dalhousie for the period of the international experience. |
| **Enrollment (max/min)** | Maximum of 20 students. |
| **Application deadline(s)** | Friday, January 11, 2019  
(the exact date will change annually) |
| **Course description** | Taught entirely on site in Florence, Italy, this month-long, full-credit (6 credit hours) course provides a unique opportunity for students to consider the art, literature, philosophy, and politics of Early Modern Italy (1280-1580) through daily visits to the city’s churches, palaces, and museums. Students will gain a profound knowledge of the civic, ecclesiastical, and domestic spheres of Renaissance life through an interdisciplinary analysis of objects, spaces, and texts. Readings include Dante’s *Vita Nuova*, Boccaccio’s *Decameron*, and Machiavelli’s *Discourses on Livy*. |
Aside from the weekly introductory lectures that take place in our hotel’s frescoed meeting room, all class visits are held in Florence’s museums, churches, and civic spaces. All students in the course receive Amici degli Uffizi memberships, which provide unlimited VIP access to the Uffizi Gallery, the Palazzo Pitti, and the Boboli Gardens. (Past students have noted that skipping the queue at the Uffizi to visit their favourite works of art is a highlight of the trip!) By discussing works of art in person, both as a class and in small groups, students will develop sophisticated visual analysis and communication skills.

### Evaluation

Over the course of the trip, students complete two group projects and two short essays. The first group project is a historical scavenger hunt that challenges students to get to know the city of Florence by visiting less-visited but historically significant sites. All groups will be provided the same list of sites to visit together within our first week, along with a series of tasks to complete. In the second group assignment, students create a thematic exhibition from the pictures hanging in the assigned rooms in the Palatine Gallery in the Pitti Palace, then offer tours of their exhibitions to their classmates. The two short essays focus on visual analysis and close reading: the first asks students to analyze one work of art of their choice; the second requires them to take up a question relating to our readings from either Dante, Boccaccio, or Machiavelli. Attendance is expected at every class, but attendance alone is not sufficient for receiving top participation marks. A small participation grade will be evaluated on students’ preparedness to discuss assigned images and readings in detail, in both large group discussions and small group activities. Avid listening—especially to the student’s peers—is also a critical element of effective participation.

### Environment of course delivery

Florence is a historic city, with narrow sidewalks, uneven cobblestone, and centuries-old buildings. Because of these barriers, navigation can be difficult for people with mobility disabilities. The majority of sites and places of interest are not accessible. Because our class meetings take place on site, in often crowded spaces, hearing can also prove challenging on occasion.

We stay at the Casa Santo Nome di Gesù, a 15th-century palace that was first transformed into a Franciscan convent in 1901, then converted it into a guesthouse in 1995. Students are housed in triple rooms with private bathrooms. The Casa also has a lecture hall, a private walled garden, and several quiet reading rooms. Breakfast is provided in the dining room each morning, and there is free wifi access throughout the building. Centrally located in the Piazza del Carmine, in the student-friendly San Frediano quarter of Florence, the Casa is in easy walking distance of all class sites.

Excellent health services are located nearby. Two English-speaking walk-in clinics that cater to study abroad students are located in the historic centre of Florence, as is the Hospital of Santa Maria Nuova for after-hours emergencies.
In May, the weather in Florence tends to be quite warm and sunny, with daily highs around 24° and evening lows of 12°. Rain is common, however, so packing a waterproof jacket is advised.

Violent crime is low in Florence, but petty crime, such as pickpocketing and purse snatching, is common in crowded tourist areas. Pay attention to your surroundings and ensure that your personal belongings, including passports and other travel documents are secure at all times. Occasionally, political demonstrations and labour actions can disrupt site visits and transportation.

| Types of activities | Because all classes are held on site, at places of interest around Florence, a great deal of both walking and standing is required. Very few of Florence’s old buildings are equipped with elevators, so students should also be prepared to climb many steps to access historic sites. |
| Evacuation plan | To be submitted at a later date. |