

Internships in Rome: A Comparative Approach to the Italian Workforce

COURSE DESIGNATOR

Language of Instruction

NUMBER OF CREDITS 3 credits

Contact Hours 24 hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on five important themes in which the student is expected to develop and enhance over the course of the semester through class seminars and on-the-job experience.

1. Analysis of cultural differences between the U.S. and Italy
2. Communications skills
3. Work ethic and social responsibility
4. Organizational analysis
5. Personal growth and development

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this course is to teach you about the cultural differences and practices in the Italian workplace. It will provide you with the foundation for doing business in Italy and help you develop analytical and critical thinking skills for working in your new multi-cultural environment. The course will review several important aspects of employment in Italy such as: current political climate and its impact on the economy, unemployment rates, trade unions and workers' rights, public/private institutions, socio-economic influences, cultural business practices, the role of women and family in the workforce, the impact of immigration on the economy, career placement and internship resources for Italian university students, sexual and age discrimination, etc.

GRADING

CRITERIA FOR GRADING AND GRADING STANDARDS

Grading Rubric		
A	95+	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90-94	
B+	86-89	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B	83-85	
B-	80-82	
C+	76-79	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C	73-75	
C-	70-72	
D+	66-69	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D	60-65	
F	<60	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of how grades are weighted:

Attendance and Class Participation	20%
Journal	25%
Reaction Papers	20%
Final Project	25%

Evaluation by Employer	10%
Overall grade	100%

Furthermore, students will choose 3 activities from a menu of Cultural Activities, which support the themes of the course and will reflect upon these in their 1-page reaction papers. Students will use their internship experiences, cultural experiences and interactions with Italians, weekly readings and lectures to write constructive and analytical observations in their assigned journals. Students will be expected to write entries in their journals following each day “on the job” about their daily experience at their internships.

Cultural Activities for Reaction Papers

All reaction papers should be 1-page minimum at length and double-spaced. Students may choose 3 of any of the topics below for their reaction papers.

1. Attend a demonstration organized by trade unions (i.e. CGIL, CSIL etc.) and interview workers. Theme to be agreed upon with instructor.
2. Visit public Italian university ‘La Sapienza’ campus and interview Italian students of your major about job and internship prospects (*contact information will be provided*)
3. Visit the Internships and Career Center (SOUL-Sistema Orientamento Università Lavoro) at La Sapienza University and obtain information regarding resources provided to Italian students (*a list of contacts will be provided in class*)
4. Visit private Italian university ‘LUISS’ campus and interview Italian students of your major about job prospects and internship prospects (*a list of contacts will be provided in class*)
5. Visit LUISS’s Placement and Career Education Office and obtain information regarding resources provided to Italian students (*a list of contacts will be provided in class*)
6. Interview a working professional from your field of study, that is not your employer and discuss the steps to getting a job in the field in Italy.
7. Attend political TV talk show Ballarò on RAI State Television.

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

Class #1

- Introduction to syllabus
- **How do Italians get jobs?** A look at the role of the family and *raccomandazioni* in the Italian culture.
- **Important vocabulary terms in Italian.** A review of vocabulary terms relevant to the Italian workforce and Italian classifieds.
- **Actual internship placement.** Individual meetings with the students on actual internship placement and goals/expectations.
- **Preparing for an Italian Job Interview** – a coaching session with ways for you to ace your first interview.

Assignment:

- Students draft a 1-page contract of goals and objectives for the duration of their internships to be handed in during Class #2 along with their CV (curriculum vitae) and cover letter.
- Reading #1 and 1st journal entry (1 page) based on assigned reading.

Class #2

- Students hand in their CVs, cover letter and 1-page contract of goals and expectations
- Review of Reading #1 and class discussion
- **From student to adult.** A discussion on when an Italian college student become self sufficient and independent
- **Italian Education.** A look at the Italian university and job prospects for college graduates.

Assignment:

- Reading #2 and 2nd journal entry (1 page) based on class lecture.
- *N.B. Journals including the 1st & 2nd entries will be due at the beginning of the third class.*
- *Students will prepare for a class debate/roundtable discussion with Italian students planned for the next class*

WEEK 2

Class #3

- Journals with 1st & 2nd entries due
- Review of Reading #2 and class discussion
- **A debate/roundtable discussion on various themes affecting university students:**
- *Rising costs of tuition at American colleges and Universities*
- *Difficulties that American students face in paying back their student loans & urgency to find jobs soon after graduation*
- *Why are many young Italians leaving Italy to find work abroad?*
- *Why is it so difficult for young Italians to become independent?*
- *Lack of resources in the Italian university system to help students find jobs after graduation*
- *Private vs. Public universities in Italy*

Assignment:

- Reading #3 and Reaction Paper #1 using one of the topics listed in the “Cultural Activities Menu”
- Students will be asked to present their 1st Reaction paper reaction papers in Class #5.

Class #4

- **Guest lecture (TBA)-**
- A discussion of the Italian Employee (rights, responsibilities, contracts and problems they face in current political climate)

WEEK 3

Class #5

- Students present Reaction Paper #1
- Review of Reading #3 and class discussion
- **Sex, Age and Race Discrimination.** A look at the role of women and immigrants in the workforce.

Assignment:

- Reading #4 and journal entry (1 page) based on assigned reading.

Class #6

- **Communications Majors Only: Ordine dei Giornalisti del Lazio.** Class site visit to the Order of Journalists of Lazio. (Address: Piazza della Torretta, 36) An overview of steps towards becoming a professional journalist in Italy.
- **Architecture Majors Only: Ordine degli Architetti di Roma e Provincia.** Class site visit to the office of the Order of Architects of Rome. (Address: Piazza Manfredo Fanti, 47) An overview of steps towards becoming a professional architect in Italy.

Assignment:

- Reading #5. Journal entry (1 page) based on site visit (**Architecture and Communications students**)
- **ALL STUDENTS:** Reaction Paper #2 using one of the topics listed in the “Cultural Activities Menu”

WEEK 4

Film

- **A film screening of the award-winning documentary 'Italy, Love it or Leave it'** shown at Sundance Film Festival followed by a Q & A session with the directors of the film.

WEEK 5

Class #7

- Students present Reaction Paper #2

- Review of Reading #4 & #5 and class discussion
- Discussion of Final Project for each student

Assignment:

- Reading #6 and journal entry (1 page) based on reading.
- Students should have their journals ready to turn in for next class.

WEEK 6

Class #8

- Journals due
- Review of Reading #6 and class discussion

Assignment:

- Reading #7

WEEK 7

Spring Break – No Class

WEEK 8

Class #9

- Review of Reading #7 and class discussion

WEEK 9

No Class: Students may meet with instructor by appointment

Assignment:

- Students should prepare Reaction Paper #3 using one of the topics listed in the “Cultural Activities Menu” for Class #10.

WEEK 10

Class #10

- Students present Reaction Paper #3
- **Roundtable discussion** with Italian university students on internships, job market and prospects for the future.

Assignment:

- Journal entry (1 page) on roundtable discussion with Italian students.

WEEK 11

No Class: Students may meet with instructor by appointment

Assignment:

- Reading #8

WEEK 12

Class #11

- Review of Reading #8 and discussion of final projects

WEEK 13

No Class: Students may meet with instructor by appointment

WEEK 14

Class #12

- Journals due
- Students present their Final Projects in class

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory in order to earn full marks. The final grade will take into consideration preparation required for class (i.e. readings) and participation in class discussions. If you miss any meetings without an excused absence from the on-site director, your final grade will be dropped accordingly. In the case of absences, it is the student's responsibility to find out what information was given in class including any announcements made.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

STUDENT CONDUCT

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct and student needs. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.