



Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences
IDH 2634H- Honors Service Learning (1 credit)
STUDY ABROAD ITALY

Course dates: Monday May 24- Thursday June 24, 2027 (5 weeks)
Travel dates: Tuesday June 1- Thursday June 10, 2027

Instructor: Gyldas Ofoulhast-Othamot, Ph.D.

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Office hours: check online at

<https://instructors.spcollege.edu/InstructorDetails?InstructorId=c0613ad7-59fe-46ce-a7e5-4e5cf5dddcf3>

Email: email me *only* through **CANVAS email feature**



SPC 2022-23 Catalog Course Description

Prerequisite: (Appropriate score on the college placement test) or (Acceptance into the Honors College) or Permission of the Program. This course is designed to provide students with a laboratory in which learning experiences address human and community needs. This includes contribution to a real community need, research and reflection. Topics will include civic and social responsibility, service participation, critical thinking, social and cultural diversity, integration of theory and life experience, and experiential learning. The format will incorporate honors research, class discussion, and presentation honors portfolios on service learning specific to the student's interests. 10 contact hours including in-class orientation and on-line discussion. (*Note: The student must fulfill the requirement of 30 service hours in*

addition to written assignments. This course is repeatable with different service assignment for up to 3 credits. Study Abroad opportunities may apply to this course <https://blog.spcollege.edu/international/study-abroad/>).

Course objectives and major learning outcomes:

1. The student will articulate a clear understanding of service learning and of community service and its social importance.
2. The student will demonstrate a commitment to civic and social responsibility.
3. The student will discover and evaluate the interrelatedness of the community service field component with academic concepts and principles in the academic disciplines in which the student works or will work.
4. The student will exhibit reflection on the personal experience as it relates to issues of social and cultural diversity.
5. The student will evaluate the personal experience as it relates to interpersonal development including empathy, conflict resolution and collaborative problem solving.
6. The student will evaluate insights from the personal experience as it relates to self-understanding of skills and weaknesses, motivations, perspectives, personal and social values, and personal goals.

Italy

Through this study abroad opportunity, where SPC students will get to experience a different culture and learn in a foreign context, attention would be paid to relations between Italy, its neighbors, and the United States and how the experience and history of Italy can inform life in different settings such as the U.S, especially in the area of service learning.

Generally, students can look forward to visiting multiples historical sites dealing with political, economic, and social issues in Italy. This includes the Doge's Palace in Venice, '[Italy's historic floating city](#)'; Galleria dell'Accademia, Medici & Machiavelli Walking and the Palazzo Vecchio tour in Florence; a Political Walking tour and the world's famous Pisa Tower (torre di Pisa) in Pisa; the Vatican Museum where students can admire the Sistine Chapel and its ceiling painted by Michelangelo Buonarroti; the Colosseum, the Roman Forum and Palatine Hill in Rome and many other attractions as detailed in the accompanying program itinerary.

Class assignments [***SUBJECT TO CHANGE PRIOR TO COURSE START***]

Assignments and Possible Points

Service Hours	Pass / Fail
Discussion Forums	100
Supervisor Interview	50
Final Reports	50
TOTAL	200

- **Service Hours:** A log must be kept of service hours completed. No grade is given. This is pass or fail. If the hours are not met, the student cannot pass the course.
- **Discussion Forums:** Weekly posts will be required. The first and second will involve some research. Posts are always stronger when grounded in some research, literature

or authoritative sources. Most of the discussions will involve personal reflection which is particularly important for this course. Though the postings have to be done on time, students are encouraged to think about the upcoming questions. Think ahead, but do not work more than a week ahead. Original posts will be due at the latest by Friday midnight and replies by Sunday midnight.

- **Class Meetings:** There will be at least two class meetings. Meeting number and dates will be finalized upon final class roster. The first meeting is to get to know each other and go over the course objectives and requirements. Attendance and participation is required. The lowest discussion forum grade is dropped, so if you do not attend, be sure not to miss any of the other posts. The second meeting is for presentations by students. This meeting will last for two hours. The oral presentation before the class and participation in the projects of others will be worth 30% of the presentation grade. Make arrangements early to attend.
- **Supervisor Evaluation:** In this assignment, grade is given on the reflection of the student and not the comments of the mentor. Consider early who is the most appropriate person to give an evaluation. The evaluation should list strengths, weaknesses, areas for growth and recommendations for the future. This is not a performance evaluation. It is mentoring advice. This will likely be in the form of a conversation on which the student takes notes. The grade will be given on the student's notes and reflection -- the insight and usefulness of the evaluation for personal growth. We are less interested in the actual responses, how positive or negative the supervisor comments. A great recommendation presenting one as just short of perfect is not really very helpful. Rather, the assignment asks, "can the student benefit from feedback?" This will be confidential between students and instructor and will not be shared with the class.
- **Presentations:** These will be presented at the last class meeting. More specific instructions will be provided.
- **Final Reports:** More specific instructions will be provided.

Required Text

- [A brief History of Italy](#) (2019). By Jeremy Black. Robinson. ISBN-10: 1472140893; ISBN-13: 978-1472140890. Between \$6.85 (used) and \$17.99 (new) on Amazon.

Grading Procedures

A =	90-100%	180-200 points
B =	80-89%	160-179 points
C =	70-79%	140-159 points
D =	60-69%	120-139 points
F =	Below 60%	0-119 points

Tentative course schedule

(To be adjusted at the discretion of the instructor, especially the non-travel part)

WEEK	TOPICS AND READINGS	DUE ASSIGNMENTS
1 (May 24-30)	Introduction to the class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Online discussions
2 (June 1-6)	Travel abroad Italy (<i>Departure Tuesday June 1st</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Online discussions▪ Pre-travel guide report
3 (June 7-13)	Travel abroad Italy (<i>return June 10</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Online discussions
4 (June 14-20)	Debriefing session 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Online discussions▪ Final reports and finding presentations
5 (June 21-24)	Debriefing session 2 and class conclusion (<i>course officially ends Thursday June 24</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Online discussions▪ Final reports and finding presentations

College Policies and campus resources

Students can see full description of college policies and available campus policies on CANVAS under the Simple Syllabus heading. Below are a few of those.

Late Work Policy

It is important that students COMPLETE ALL ASSIGNMENTS ON TIME. NO EXTENSION WILL BE PROVIDED. My experience has unfortunately been that students who repeatedly ask for extension further fall behind and, ultimately, don't complete the course. In very few extraordinary cases, when I do allow late submissions, a minimum penalty of 6% per day will be applied.

Availability of Course Content: To gain access to the course materials/modules, students must be logged in CANVAS.

Communication Plan

I will utilize the following communication channels in this class: CANVAS announcements, CANVAS emails, SPaC, Virtual Office Hours in Zoom, and feel free to call me using the number in the syllabus.

Monday – Friday I will respond to emails If you use CANVAS email (If you use SPC email it may go to spam and I may miss your message) and missed phone calls within 24 hours, and 48 hours on the weekends (excluding holidays). I will attempt to grade assignments and provide feedback within 7 days after the due date, except in special circumstances, such as natural disasters and so on.

I will post weekly announcements via CANVAS each Monday.

SPC Policy: Academic Honesty

St. Petersburg College expects students to be honest in all of their academic work. By enrolling at the College, students agree to adhere to the College's standards of academic honesty and integrity. Failure to comply may result in academic and disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the College. As members of the College community, students also have an ethical obligation to report violations of the SPC academic honesty policies they may witness.

To better understand what academic integrity means and the potential consequences of violating it, please watch the following videos:

- [What is Academic Integrity? \(1:29\)](#)
 - [Transcript for "What is Academic Integrity?"](#)
- [What Happens When You Violate Academic Integrity? \(2:08\)](#)
 - [Transcript for "What Happens When You Violate Academic Integrity?"](#)

The academic honesty policy and procedures are available online:

- [Academic Honesty Policies, Honor Code](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures](#)

Some of your courses may include online material that is protected by copyright. This means that the work is available for you to use in your studies, but you can't copy and share the

materials (copyright.gov). Please see [SPC's copyright information](#). It's your responsibility to be academically honest in all of your work.

Generative AI Not Permitted

The best-known example of Generative AI (Artificial Intelligence) is ChatGPT, a chatbot that allows you to type a question as if you were talking to a real person, and it quickly offers a seemingly meaningful, original answer. Tools like this are powerful and can be useful in many contexts, but you must be aware of their limitations, as they can produce inaccurate, fabricated, and even offensive content. In addition, the work produced is not technically your own. In order to avoid violating [SPC's academic integrity policy](#), students must be sure to follow the course's policies regarding the use of artificial intelligence in academic work. The AI policies for this class are outlined below.

You are strictly prohibited from using use Generative AI (Artificial Intelligence), including ChatGPT and similar AI tools, in this course. The work produced by AI writing tools is not your own original work and is therefore unacceptable for the assignments in this course. If you cite AI-generated content, the work will be considered incomplete and receive a zero. If you do not cite, the work will be considered plagiarism and receive a zero. If you have any questions about this, please reach out to me.

Copyleaks

The instructor of this course may require the use of Copyleaks as a tool to promote learning. The tool identifies similarities and potential issues in written work that merit review. Use of the service enables students and faculty to pinpoint areas that can be improved through enhanced paraphrasing, source integration, or proper citation. Submitted papers are analyzed for originality and remain confidential within the Copyleaks system for this purpose only. Students retain full copyright to their work. Review the [Copyleaks Usage Agreement](#) for full details. Students who do not wish to submit work through Copyleaks must notify their instructor via course email within the first seven days of the course. In lieu of using Copyleaks, faculty may require a student to submit copies of sources, preliminary drafts, a research journal, or an annotated bibliography.

Use the following links to view web sites on SPC's:

- [Free Tutoring](#)
- [Accessibility Services](#)
- [Academic Support](#)
- [On-Campus and Online Support](#)
- [Student Services](#)
- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Learning Resources](#)
- [Career Services](#)
- [International Student Services](#)
- [Veterans Services](#)

Course Specific Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct

The behavior of all students in class should reflect a professional, respectful, and compassionate environment. Inappropriate or inconsiderate behavior will result in

consequences. Students must be thoughtful of their comments, actions, and decisions, considering how these impact classmates and instructors.

Online Student Participation and Conduct Guidelines

The practices of courtesy and respect that apply in the on-campus classroom also apply online. Any discriminatory, derogatory, or inappropriate comments are unacceptable and subject to the same disciplinary action applied in courses offered on campus.

Netiquette

Whether you are in an online class or a physical classroom, certain behaviors are expected when you communicate with your peers and your instructors. You need to contribute to a positive learning/teaching environment, respecting the rights of others and their opportunity to learn. No one has the right to interfere with the teaching/learning process. Below are the traits of a successful student. These guidelines pertain whether your course is online or in the classroom. When communicating, you should always:

- Treat everyone with respect in every communication
- Use your professor's proper title: Dr. or Prof., or if you are in doubt use Mr. or Ms.
- Use clear and concise language
- Remember that college level communication should use correct grammar, whether written or spoken. Avoid slang.
- Use correct spelling and avoid texting abbreviations
- Avoid using the caps lock feature as it can be interpreted as yelling online
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and, even when spoken, your message might be misunderstood
- Be cautious with personal information (both yours and others')

When you send an email to your instructor, department chair, dean, or classmates, you should:

- Use a subject line that describes what you are writing about
- Avoid attachments unless you are sure your recipients can open them
- Be clear, concise, and courteous
- Sign your message with your name
- Use your SPC email account to ensure delivery. Sometime emails from non-SPC accounts are stopped by the spam filter and the recipient may not receive it.

When posting to a discussion board, you should:

- Write posts that are on-topic and within the scope of the course material
- Take your posts seriously; review and edit your posts before sending
- Be as brief as possible while still making a thorough comment
- Always give proper credit when referencing or quoting another source
- Read all messages in a thread before replying
- Avoid repeating someone else's post without adding something of your own to it
- Avoid short, generic replies such as, "I agree." You should include why you agree or add to the previous point
- Always be respectful of others' opinions, even when they differ from your own
- Express any differing opinions in a respectful, non-critical way
- Not make personal or insulting remarks
- Be open-minded

Student Survey of Instruction

The Student Survey of Instruction is administered in courses each semester. It is designed to improve the quality of instruction at St. Petersburg College. All student responses are confidential and anonymous and will be used solely for the purpose of performance improvement.