

## First elective: students may choose one or both

### **ART HISTORY: IL RINASCIMENTO A FIRENZE**

This course presents an in-depth study of Italian Renaissance Art through the direct analysis of the major architecture, sculpture and painting artworks from XIV to XVI century displayed in the Florentine museums and churches. Its first objective is to provide the students with the capability to identify the most important artworks from the major Florentine collections. Those artworks will not only be viewed in the respect of their stylistic characteristics but also in relation to their social religious, historical and political context. The second course's objective is therefore to lead the students to read the artwork's connections with the subject, the artist's will and the commissioner's urgencies. The course will meet twice a week for two hours per lesson. The methodology will include lectures by the instructor and class discussion based on the topics presented and readings completely by the student at home. Studying in Italy means that students will have the opportunity to view the works of art discussed directly and for this reason we will take advantage of the fact that we are in Florence and participate in numerous visits to museums, churches and other important sites.

### **Art and Identity in Today's Italy**

Literature and Art are fundamental elements for truly getting to know other cultures and languages. When one studies a foreign language, one doesn't only need to talk about practical matters but also needs to understand and participate in the social and cultural life of a given place. To truly get to know a new culture one must study texts and art in relation to surroundings and in relation to daily life, as they go hand in hand, touching points of politics, identity, gender, race, religion, sexuality, immigration and so much more. In this course we will look at various aspects of Italian culture today, building on a foundation of history and reflecting on how the past and present come together. We will do this through literature, film, museum visits and visits to other cultural centers. We will try to build our understanding of Italy not only as outsiders looking in from afar, but as participants and vital players in the life of Florence. Contemporary Italian culture gives us a lens through which to understand Italy past, present, and future in all its complexity and detail. In this course we will visit many places and meet many people who can offer us unique understandings of the "Bel Paese" and the city of Florence. We will touch on a variety of topics, allowing us to see Italy not only in one light, and to understand how Italy can move further towards its global future.