



JOHN FELICE

ROME
CENTER

SUMMER FUSION EXPERIENCE – 2023 ROME - ABRUZZO

Comparative Italian cultures and photography

- **FNAR 115 – Digital Photography in Rome and Abruzzo.**
Instructor: Tom Denlinger, DePaul University, Chicago.
- **LITR 268R – Italian Cultural History: Foods and Wines of Italy.**
Instructor: Elizabeth Simari, John Felice Rome Center, Rome.

Practicum /site visits fee: \$100

The John Felice Rome Center of Loyola University Chicago welcomes you to Italy for a unique adventure this summer. Summer 2023 marks the sixth year of this Fusion program, in which students dive into photography and the culinary past and present of Italy. In just three weeks you will learn everything you have always wanted to know about the city of Rome, as well as one of Italy's most beautiful and most famous regions: the Abruzzo. Together we will explore the history, the culture, the customs and the cuisine of the city and countryside of Italy, and you are invited to explore and to see it all through a different lens – in the literal sense of the word. This “Fusion Experience” brings culture and digital photography together in one package. You will learn to observe and to record both the past and the present, and to appreciate the widest variety of flavors and tastes, to grasp culture and nature, and to understand how it has formed a city, a country, and its peoples throughout the centuries – until the present day!

After two and a half weeks in **Rome**, at the campus of the John Felice Rome Center, you will transfer to the breathtakingly beautiful region of **Abruzzo**. From there you will explore this spectacular part of Italy, learning about many aspects of life in the countryside, which is so rich in history and traditions, especially when it comes to food and wine.

FNAR 115 – *Digital Photography in Rome and Abruzzo* May 22 – June 22, 2023

**FNAR 115 Summer Session MWTW, WTH Zoom meetings in Rome for first 5 class sessions (MAY 22 – JUNE 01) followed by
IN-PERSON class meetings EVERYDAY June 05 – 22 – please refer to syllabus for precise timings.
In addition, the Abruzzo component will have different hours, subject to the needs of the Fusion class, and the particularities of the site, with availability at seven days a week during that time.**

Tom Denlinger, Instructor Office hours: MTWTH 1:15-2:15 In Rome after June 04 &
by appt. Loyola University, John Felice Rome Center

tdenlinger@luc.edu

This course is an intensive introduction to digital photography, held in tandem with LitR 268R - Italian Cultural History: Food and Wine. Your experiences and studies in LitR 268R are an integral part of, and will contribute immeasurably to, your photographic studies. Field trips made separately and in tandem will give you conceptual and imagistic material with which to construct your photographic projects.



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The Digital Photography portion of this FUSION EXPERIENCE course will commence on Monday, May 22, Online thru Zoom, with assignments to be completed and reviewed during the 2 week Zoom period, and continued IN_PERSON on June 05 and through the end of the Summer Session June 22.

Fortified by an introduction to the city of Rome and the history of Italian food and culture, you will begin to explore Rome and Italy through the digital camera.

The digital camera (and its accompanying online and software interface) is a documentary machine, an expressive device, and a useful instrument for examining the fusion experience in contemporary Italian culture. You will learn the proper and most effective use of the camera as an imaging device, and as an apparatus for surveying the historical and urban milieu of Rome, as well as its relationship to communities in Abruzzo.

As crossroads of cultural, socio/historical and contemporary environments, Rome and Abruzzo will provide a rich territory of living and archival material with which to trace the networks of exchange that define these adjacent, ancient landscapes. Toward this end you will learn to frame, record, and compose photographic images, while exploring the documentary possibilities of the digital environment, including recording of historical and contemporary forms, and using images to convey content through visual narrative.

In this class you will become familiar with how photographs are manufactured and processed in the camera, in the digital environment, in our culture and that of others, as well as how images are created and/or assembled to frame and present concepts and ideas. In addition, you will examine images and visual culture as framed by the Eternal City, and through its historical relationships to a medieval town in Abruzzo. Information will be witnessed LIVE through viewing and recording of historical architecture and artifacts, relevant exhibitions, readings, discussions, and presentations.

Although this class uses the online environment, and you will be exposed to the use of some computer software, the emphasis is on the camera and the use of it to record situations and generate ideas, your ideas. Your challenge is to learn to control and direct the conceptual structure of your photographs, as well as to foster your own intellectual development as a media artist.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course students should be able to:

- Properly use the digital camera as a documentary and expressive tool
- Employ Photographic and 2-D compositional practices to create documentary and expressive images
- Think critically about and deploy rudimentary image editing
- Use rudimentary sequencing of photographs and narrative to help construct content
- Think critically about the construction of images in contemporary culture

In this course you will be responsible for:

Two photographic projects and a collaborative Final project – each of these have a written component; verbal in-class analysis and written analysis of photographic images; and several camera exercises.

Grading and Evaluation of projects, assignments and exercises

Exercises, readings and discussions	25%
Project 1 w/ short written component	25%
Project 2 w/ short written statement	25%
Project 3 (Final Project) w/written component	25%



-- You are expected to participate and contribute. If you do not, points will be deducted from your grade.

~ Students will be evaluated on their comprehension of concepts, their participation in class discussions, and their engagement with the material as demonstrated by the quality of the construction and execution of their photographic projects, as well as the research and written components of this class.

Average work merits a “C” in this course. Simply following the requirements of the assignment does not result in an “A”. To achieve an “A” or a “B” work must be thoughtful, original, and go beyond the stated requirements of the assignment, as well as demonstrate excellent craft and superior knowledge of camera use and technique.

A = Excellence. Superior understanding of concepts, materials and techniques; using that understanding to produce excellent work.

B = Above average. Student demonstrates clear understanding of goals, materials and techniques, and exceeds the expectations for the assignment.

C = Average. Goals were met, but there is little motivation beyond this. Average understanding of materials, techniques or concepts.

D = Below average. Work of poor quality. Below average understanding of materials, concepts or techniques.

F = Unacceptable. Work of unsatisfactory quality throughout the semester. Little or no effort has been made to satisfy the criteria of the assignments.

Instructional Policy Cell Phone Use

- This course requires students to be responsible not only for the themes covered in lectures and class discussions, but also for textual material in photocopies and handouts. For this reason, and because of the short and extremely concentrated term of study in Summer session II, students are required to attend class. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the class notes and instructions from one of your peers.
- The classroom is intended to be a respectful place, in which students contribute frequently and listen attentively to their colleagues and other speakers. It is a space reserved for the pursuit of knowledge and the development of critical thinking.
- No cell phones may be used in the classroom. All cell phone are to be turned off during class periods, no matter the location. No texting or checking of email is allowed during class. Similarly, other forms of distraction and discourteous behavior will not be tolerated.

Required Text / Materials

There are no required texts for this course; all required readings will be on Sakai. It is a good idea to download them before leaving for Abruzzo as internet is limited there.

Attendance Policy

In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following attendance policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student. Any lateness or leaving class early will impact the final course grade.

Attendance is mandatory at every class meeting for each course. Absence due to sickness or injury needs to be corroborated by a doctor's note. Students arriving late to class twice will be credited with one absence in accordance with the JFRC's Attendance policy. Three (3) absences will result in an automatic failure, "F". Travel does not constitute reason to miss class.



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COVID and Campus Health

The JFRC will conduct all activity according to policies and best practices as prescribed by the Italian Ministries of Health and Education and in consultation with the Loyola University Chicago main campus. At present masking, social distancing and periodic testing are required to keep our campus and community safe. A complete set of COVID policies, taking into consideration the most up-to-date mandates and recommendations, will be provided at the start of the semester. These policies will be subject to change as the situation warrants. Please note that due to social distancing requirements, JFRC class capacities are rigid. Therefore special requests for extra seats, overrides or unofficial auditing will not be permitted.

PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND MATERIALS WILL INCLUDE INFORMATION THAT IS NOT REPRODUCED ELSEWHERE. CLASSTIME SHOULD NOT BE SPENT COLLECTING OR PREPARING MATERIALS, NOR SHOOTING OR RESEARCHING, UNLESS IT IS A FIELD TRIP OR A SPECIFIED TIME FOR SUCH WORK. If you can't keep up with a class assignment or project, please use lab time outside of the class time (approximately 5-7 hours per week) AND CERTAINLY COME TO SEE ME IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE KEEPING UP.

Late Work

Late work will be accepted only up to one meeting later than originally due, and will be lowered one full grade.

Incomplete work will not be accepted, and will be considered late until finished and handed in, as per the rule governing late work (above)

Academic Integrity

Please read the complete Academic Integrity policy in the Loyola University student handbook.

FNAR 115 DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY/Digital Fusion in Rome and Abruzzo Summer session

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

-DIGITAL CAMERA with the ability to make manual settings

***If possible, a Digital SLR camera, or a mirror-less camera with the ability to make independent manual settings is preferable. But consumer grade cameras are also very compatible with this class IF THAT CAMERA ALLOWS MANUAL SETTINGS.**

-camera storage card and spare card (8 gigabytes min.)

-card reader and/or USB connection for camera to download images (cable usually comes with camera)

-Storage device such as a large flash drive (10-20 gigabytes) or small external hard drive (50 - 500 gigabytes minimum)

-Small portable tripod for camera

- strongly recommended: lens shade and screw on UV/daylight filter for your lens

FEES FOR EXHIBITIONS/FIELD TRIPS

Practicum/site visit fees: \$100

Suggested software, if you have a LAPTOP or NOTEPAD: the class will be using Google Drive/Google Docs to save and compare photographs.

Also it is suggested that you will need some version of photograph editing software such as I-PHOTO, PHOTOSHOP or LIGHTROOM, or other photo editing software of some kind. Microsoft also has some basic editing software that comes with most PCs.

Also Microsoft Word for written assignments, and POWERPOINT for presentations.



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SUGGESTED READINGS

1. Berger, John, and Jean Mohr. Ch 1, *Ways of Seeing*. New York: Vintage Books.
2. London, Barbara, and Jim Stone. 1996. *A Short Course in Photography*. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. Especially: Pp. 15-19, 26, 38-39
3. Rodchenko, Alexander. The Paths of Modern Photography. Pp. 256-266 in *Photography in the Modern Era: European Documents and Critical Writing, 1913-1940*. Ed. Christopher Phillips. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art: Aperture, 1989.
4. “The Word Itself,” from *Discovering the Vernacular Landscape* by J.Jackson

Office Hours

While on Rome campus: 1:30 – 2:30.

While in Abruzzo at the agriturismo: everyday after lunch.

Alternative times can be arranged, but it is always best to make an appointment

Accessibility Accommodations

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.

Meals & Eating in Abruzzo

Porta dei Parchi is a dairy farm, which works almost exclusively with raw milk. There you will be provided with breakfast, lunch and dinner. Most, if not all of what we will be eating there, comes from their farm. Our diet will mostly consist of their dairy products and the fruits and vegetables they grow on their farm. Meat is served on occasion. Most importantly please remember any dietary restrictions, such as lactose intolerance, may make your stay difficult. We will be off-site for some afternoons, so it would be good to budget some lunch and gelato money.

In an effort to participate fully in life at La Porta dei Parchi students will be setting tables and helping out in the kitchen occasionally.



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FNAR 115 DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY/Digital Fusion in Rome and Abruzzo COURSE CALENDAR SUMMER SESSION II

This is an intensive photography course held in tandem with Litr 268R - Italian Cultural History: Food and Wine. Your experiences and studies in Litr 268R are an integral part of, and will contribute immeasurably to, your photography studies. Field trips made separately and in tandem will give you conceptual and imagistic material with which to construct your photographic projects. In addition there will be reading discussions and presentations designed to enlarge and enhance your conceptual development, as well as to work with the digital camera and environment.

Instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus with advanced notification by email.

WEEK 1

On Campus/Rome component May 22 – June 08

M May 22 9:30 – 11:30 with Professor Simari: Intro to study of Food & Contemporary Italian Food Culture

~2:30 – 4:30 PM - Digital Photography_INTRODUCTION– On Zoom.

There will be 1.5 – 2 hours for this class.

~We will be conducting an introduction to the course and to the Digital Camera

~PLEASE BRING YOUR CAMERA AND MANUAL

~Short discussion: What is digital photography?

~The DSLR Camera functions: ISO, White Balance, EV, shutter speed, aperture

~Intro to YOUR camera – functions, menu, settings

~Discuss white balance and Kelvin scale.

~Assignment: What Light? White balance and exposure exercises

~Intro: Exposure Challenges #1 – Review for use on ---
field trip

LEARN your manual and menu settings. How do you control the individual settings on your camera (aperture, shutter speed, ISO)?

review Exposure Challenges #1 sheet for Tuesday work

Due Thursday: Reading for discussion – *What is Landscape?*

T May 23 MORNING FIELD TRIP Testaccio Market and Neighborhood with Professor Simari

NO Digital PHOTO CLASS – Take photos in Testaccio, after the class, using Exposure Challenges #1 sheet

We will review photos on Wednesday, May 25

W May 24 Morning with Prof. Simari – Apiary study and research

2:30 - 4:30- Digital Photo – Review of Camera use and settings

~Review of Exposure Challenges #1 photos from Tuesday.

~review of Alexander Rodchenko photographs

~Short discussion: What is photography for Rodchenko?

~Exposure Challenges #2 for Thursday

~INTRODUCTION TO PROJECT ONE (Due June 13)



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Due Wednesday, June 01 : Reading for discussion – *What is Landscape?*

TH May 25 Morning: GO TO MARKETS FOR Presentation RESEARCH

2:30 – 4:30 pm - Digital Photo Online

~**INTRODUCTION TO PROJECT TWO (due June 19)**

~**Downloading your photos and working into/through exercises and Project One**

~ Exposure Challenge #2 for Mon. & Tues. May 30, 31

~ work with partners in groups of two and three and shooting in Market enviro

-looking for formal, functional, concept relationships in juxtaposition of objects, places, people

-basic compositional issues

FRI – Sunday Rome Free Time – Take photos for Project 1 & 2

WEEK 2

**M May 29 Student Presentations: the Ghetto (and possibly Trastevere)
(Bus will depart 8:30 am, and drop students off in front of the Synagogue;
students will be responsible for returning to campus)**

Digital Photo: No class - Take photos in Ghetto (and maybe Trastevere)

Exposure Challenges #2 and shooting in Market enviro for Wednesday, June 01

-work with partners in groups of two and three

T May 30 Student Presentations: Esquilino / Termini Markets with Professor Simari

T May 30 Digital Photo: No Class - Take Photos in Esquilino Market

- Exposure Challenges #2 and shooting in Market enviro for Wednesday, June 01

-work with partners in groups of two and three

W May 31 Morning. Food stylist workshop w/Alice Adams @ Latteria Studio

Digital Photo Online: 2:30 – 4:30 –

Review of Food stylist session

Review of Exposure Challenges #2 from Ghetto, Esquilino

Review of Reading: What is Landscape?

TH June 01 9:30 AM -11:30 Slow food at JFRC with Professor Simari

**TH June 01 - Digital Photo Online: 2:30 – 4:30 - Review of Exposure Challenges Photos from
Wednesday June 01**

~Review of Exposure Challenges #2 from Ghetto, Esquilino

~basic compositional issues

~ISO and exposure functions as concept generative tools (use of dark and light values in composition)

~looking for formal, functional, concept relationships in juxtaposition of objects, places, people



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FRI – Sunday Rome Free Time – Take photos for Project 1 & 2

WEEK 3

M June 05 9:30 AM IN-PERSON class with Professor Denlinger 9:30-11:30. SALA 6

Overall Review of Rome Photo work and Camera use.

~Review of Parameters and progress on Project 1 & Project 2.

~**Introduction: Final Project – set-up Collaborative Groups**

~**2:30 – 5:00 - Field Trip to Piazza Navona – leave as a group from JFRC- students will be responsible for returning to campus.**

T June 06 9:30 - 11:30 Review of Piazza Navona Camera work

1:30 – 2:30 PM Pre-departure meeting with Prof. Simari

3:00 – 5:00 **Individual Consultations: Overall Progress, Projects 1 & 2**

W June 07 8:30 – 11:30. Morning Photo field trip: Piazza di Popolo or Fontana di Trevi

2:30 am – 5:00 **Individual Consultations: Overall Progress, Projects 1 & 2**

MOVE TO ABRUZZO – Abruzzo component June 08 – June 19 – Pack your bags!

***During our time in Abruzzo class time will consist of a morning or afternoon activity, sometimes followed by a debriefing session to discuss how the reading and your hands-on experience fit together. Our schedule will be fluid and is subject to change due to local availability, for these reasons we ask for your flexibility and cooperation.**

TH June 08 9:30 Move to Abruzzo – Departure for La Porta dei Parchi (Loc. Fonte di Curzio, Abruzzo) arrival and settling in 4:30 pm Pasta Cooking Class

F June 09 9:30 Cheese-making demonstration and 3:00 pm Tour of farm at Porta Dei Parchi – photo exercises

Because Cheese is the ultimate “cultural” food product. Today we will stay onsite to discover how it is made at Porta dei Parchi. In addition to the production process, we will discuss the microbiology of cheese as well as its cultural context in contemporary Italy.

9:00 pm Movie – Michael Pollan - Fermentation

Sat June 10 12:00 Noon Intro to Wine before Lunch

3:00 PM Vineyard and Wine cellar at Casa Vinicola Pietrantoni

During our visit to the winery, we will taste and discuss the indigenous varieties from the area and continue our discussion of the sensory analysis of wine. We will also discuss how wine is a fermented product, like many others: cheese, oil, bread, chocolate, etc.



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Sun June 11 University Activities – Optional Photo walk in nearby nature sanctuary
10:00 AM **Morning walk in the Gola di Sagittario – bring your cameras**
Before dinner; Transhumance talk with Nunzio
Evening film: *On Slow Food*

WEEK 4

M June 12 Chocolate Factory & Confettificio at William Di Carlo Factory
Both confetti, traditionally eaten at rites of passage (births and weddings) and chocolate have been in Italy since the Renaissance. However, while chocolate was brought to Europe from the New World, confetti originated from the Old Continent from traditions surrounding fertility and renewal. Today we will look at how these sweet treats are made and the history behind each confection while touring a traditional candy factory.
***Following our trip to the confettificio we will make a stop in the town of Sulmona and have a picnic lunch**

4:30 PM Project ONE DUE: for Class-wide Critique and Evaluation

T June 13 Shepherding at Porta dei Parchi
Ever heard of transhumance? It's a phenomenon that is specific to Abruzzo whereby sheep migrate to different areas of the mountains depending on the season. Today we are going to act as shepherds for the day with the head "pastore" at Porta dei Parchi, Nunzio Marcelli, and learn about this phenomenon which has been occurring in the Abruzzo for hundreds of years.
***Wine presentations @ dinner**

W June 14 Abruzzo cooking class
Today students will enter the kitchen and help the kitchen staff prepare a traditional Abruzzese meal. Students will be split into two groups. One group will participate during this time, the other on Friday morning.

~Pre-dinner: Searching for Truffles

This afternoon/evening we will discover the incredible world of truffles. Accompanied by the staff of Porta dei Parchi (and their dogs!) we will learn how and when truffles are collected and the dogs are trained.

TH June 15 Visit to Lago di Scanno; with packed lunch - bring your cameras!
***Wine presentations @ dinner**

F June 16 10:00 AM Abruzzo cooking class
Work day for Photo Projects 2 and Final Project



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Sat June 17 Olive Grove and Mill at Della Valle Oliveto

Through the centuries olive oil has been essential to the Italian diet. During our visit to the olive grove, we will witness how this nectar of the ancient Romans is made. Just like wine, different oils have different properties and uses.

*Wine presentations at dinner

Sun June 18 4:30 PM Project 2 Due - Review and Class-wide critique

WEEK 5

M June 19 Morning Departure for Rome

**Final On Campus/Rome component - Finishing of all projects and class work
Take Final Rome Photos!**

T June 20 2:30 PM Review session for Final Critique with Professor Denlinger
There will be instructor meetings with collaborative groups for -Final Project progress review

Wed June 21 STUDY and WORK DAY. Assemble Final Project Presentations.

TH July 22. Due: Final Project - class-wide Critique – 2:30 – 5:30 pm

If you are staying on, have a great visit in Italy, and a happy return to the States!