

OIP Summer Programs
 Course Proposal Form, 2016
 Kevin Newmark
 "The Imaginary City: Why Writers Love Venice"

Brief Description of Program:

Venice occupies a special place in the artistic imagination of the west. Rising from the lagoon in a riot of color, form, and texture, the shimmering reflections of Venice incarnate the essence of beauty. This course will study some of the most important ways modern writers and thinkers have discovered in Venice an opportunity to explore and unsettle the traditional meaning that beauty holds for knowledge, art, and life.

Course Syllabus and Reading List:

Texts to be studied include:

John Berendt, The City of Falling Angels
 Joseph Brodsky, Watermark
 Henry James, "The Grand Canal," in Italian Hours
 Henry James, "The Aspern Papers"
 Thomas Mann, "Death in Venice"
 Judith Martin, No Vulgar Hotel
 Mary McCarthy, Venice Observed
 Friedrich Nietzsche, "Dionysus and Apollo" (The Birth of Tragedy)
 Marcel Proust, In Search of Lost Time (Selections)
 John Ruskin, The Stones of Venice (Selections)
 Plato, "Phaedrus"

Films to be studied include:

David Lean, "Summertime" (1955, 100 minutes)
 Nicolas Roeg, "Don't Look Now" (1973, 110 minutes)
 Paul Schrader, "The Comfort of Strangers" (1990, 105 minutes)
 Silvio Soldini, "Pane e Tulipani" (2000, 116 minutes)

PROPOSED SYLLABUS FOR SUMMER 2016

ENGL 2280: "The Imaginary City: Why Writers Love Venice"

May 29-June 25, 2016 – Venice International University, Isola di San Servolo, Venezia

Professor Kevin Newmark

This course will meet for four weeks, Monday to Thursday, usually from 9:00 to 12:00 at VIU. Alternative scheduling will occur in conjunction with on-site visits in or near Venice proper. The course is organized into four successive sections, each corresponding to a unit composed of interconnecting strands, canals, or mosaic tesserae, which join literature, cinema, philosophy, art history, and on-site exploring. The four main topics will feature literary texts by Joseph Brodsky, Thomas Mann, Henry James, and Marcel Proust. They are: Liquid Beauty, Paradoxes of Beauty, Inversions of Beauty, and Resurrections of Beauty.

Class attendance is mandatory. Students will be evaluated on the basis of regular participation, oral presentations, and both short and medium length writing assignments. A final written project of approximately 15 pages will be due a month or so after the conclusion of the course.

Week 1

Unit One: Liquid Beauty: "Finding your Feet on Water"

Class 1: Monday 5/30 - San Servolo:

Introduction to course (including explanation and dates of final projects) and discussion of Joseph Brodsky's Watermark with John Berendt's The City of Falling Angels 1-3; 43-47; 99-105), Judith Martin's No Vulgar Hotel (55-63; 88-93; 120-24)

Class 2: Tuesday 5/31 - San Servolo:

Discussion of Brodsky's Watermark

Class 3: Wednesday 6/1- San Servolo and Venice:

Henry James, "The Grand Canal," in Italian Hours

1:00-4:00

Lunch in Venice with short tour and visit to Santa Maria della Salute -- Da Bacco, Calle delle Rasse

Class 4: Thursday 6/2 - San Servolo:

Discussion of Plato's "Phaedrus" with Henry James, "The Grand Canal," in Italian Hours

Exposé 1: Plato's concept of Beauty --

Homework: 2-page reflection paper due on Monday, June 11. My first week in Venice: What I saw, what I read, what I learned...

Unit Two: Paradoxes of Beauty: "Getting lost is the only place worth going to." Venice Is A Fish, p. 10

Week 2

Class 5: Monday 6/6 - San Servolo:

Homework: 2-page reflection paper due on Monday, June 11. My first week in Venice: What I saw, what I read, what left a mark on me ...

Discussion of Thomas Mann's "Death in Venice" -- Exposé:

Exposé 2: Thomas Mann

Venice by Night Walk: 22.00-23.30

"The heels that echo as you walk the calli at night are the punctuation of your solitude." Tiziano Scarpa, Venice is a Fish, p. 57

Class 6: Tuesday 6/7 - San Servolo:

David Lean, "Summertime" (1955, 100 minutes)

Exposé 3: "Summertime" --

Class 7: Wednesday 6/8 - San Servolo:

Discussion of Thomas Mann's "Death in Venice" with Nietzsche's "Dionysus and Apollo" (The Birth of Tragedy) and John Berendt's The City of Falling Angels (99-104 "La Fenice: Apollo/Dionysus)

Nietzsche exposé --

Unit Three: Inversions of Beauty: How Do You Lay Solid Foundations on Slime? ...Up-side-down-trees-hammered-in-with-a-kind-of-anvil-hoisted-on-pulleys (Tiziano Scarpa, Venice Is A Fish, p. 4)

Class 8: Thursday 6/9 - San Servolo:

Nicolas Roeg, "Don't Look Now" (1973, 110 minutes)

Exposé 4: "Don't Look Now" --

Homework: 2-page reflection paper due on Monday, June 18. Topic to be determined ...

Week 3

Class 9: Monday 6/13 – San Servolo and Venice:

Homework: 2-page reflection paper due on Monday, June 18. Topic to be determined ...

Henry James, "The Aspern Papers"

Class 10: Tuesday 6/14 - San Servolo:

Henry James, "The Aspern Papers" with Mary McCarthy, Venice Observed, "The Loot" (19-35)

Exposé 5 --

3:00-4.00

Visit to La Scuola di San Giorgio degli Schiavoni: Carpaccio

7:30 PM Evening Private Guided Visit to Basilica di San Marco with Ms. Caterina Nardin

Class 11: Wednesday 6/15 – Torcello and Murano:

9:15 LN Pietà 10:36 Burano 11:26 Burano 11:59 Murano 2:00 Fornacia

John Ruskin, The Stones of Venice (Selections) with Mary McCarthy, "The Sands of Time" (81-100), and John Berendt, "Glass Warfare"

Torcello (Santa Maria Assunta) Exposé 7: John Ruskin—

Murano – Lunch at Busa alla Torre

Visit Fornace Formia, Rio dei Vetrai 138 or Archimede Seguso Fondamenta Serenella 18 Murano
Venezia Tel: +39 041 739234 email: enquiry@aseguso.com

Homework: 2-page reflection paper due on Monday, June 25. "Glass Warfare":
Berendt/Seguso...

Class 12: Thurs 6/16 – San Servolo:

Henry James, "The Aspern Papers," Tiziano Scarpa, "Face," Venice is a Fish (47-52)

Paul Schrader, "The Comfort of Strangers" (1990, 105 minutes)

Exposé 6: "The Comfort of Strangers"

Week 4

Unit Four: Resurrections of Beauty

Class 13: Monday 6/20 – San Servolo:

Homework: 2-page reflection paper due on Monday, June 25. "Glass Warfare": Berendt/Seguso...

Marcel Proust, In Search of Lost Time (Selections)
"Combray" and "Place-Names: The Name"
Exposé 8:

Treasure Hunt 1 in Venice handed out in class: Clues Taken from Works Studied in Class—to be done after class on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday afternoons and emailed before Thursday.

Class 14: Tuesday 6/21 - Padova:

San Servolo Vaporetto: 8:25
8:35 San Zaccaria

8:46 San Zaccaria Jolanda Vaporetto 52

9:12 Ferrovia

9:34 Train to Padova -- Arriving 10:27 Capella Scrovegni 11:00 and 11:20 = 40 minutes

Guide: Tiso Caterina

Marcel Proust, In Search of Lost Time (Selections)
"Combray" and "Sojourn in Venice"

Exposé 9:

Scrovegni Chapel (Giotto) 10.40 and 11.00
"Meager, primitive, undeveloped, [Giotto] is yet immeasurably strong." Henry James

Class 15: Wednesday 6/22 – San Servolo:

Marcel Proust, In Search of Lost Time (Selections)
"Combray" and "Sojourn in Venice"

"Sojourn in Venice" and "Time Regained, with "Fortuny II: Carpaccio's Material," by Peter Collier

Silvio Soldini, "Pane e Tulipani" (2000, 116 minutes)

Exposé 10:

Class 16: Thursday 6/23 – San Servolo:

Marcel Proust, In Search of Lost Time (Selections)

"Sojourn in Venice" and "Time Regained, with "Fortuny II: Carpaccio's Material," by Peter Collier

2:30-4:00

Visit Museo dell'Accademia – Vittorio Carpaccio: Sant'Orsola Cycle

Visit Museo Fortuny

Exposé 10 --

Class 17. Friday 6/24 –

–Treasure Hunt 2 in Venice: Clues Taken from Works Studied in Class—to be delivered on San Servolo at 9:00 AM. First team to complete the clues wins a prize.

9:20 San Zaccaria: delivery of clues for Treasure Hunt Part Two to all three teams

Farewell Dinner: Time and Place to be Determined