Globalization, Culture and Ethics
Prof. Richard Keeley

May 31 - June 28, 2015

Trade made Venice *the* global city of its heyday and trade spawned innovations in bookkeeping and finance that have persisted to this day. Trade meant a remarkable fluidity between cultures and opportunities for the growth of a vigorous commercial class. Cultures—East and West, Roman and Venetian—met and clashed in Venice and on the sea but cultures were also in dialogue, witness the splendors of San Marco. Business and government worked out relations sometimes complementary, sometimes competitive. Each of these sets of themes has its parallel in the current discussions of globalization, ethics and culture.

This course will emphasize globalization and its consequences for moral reasoning; nations and transnational corporations and issues of governance and accountability; and emerging issues stemming from information and communications technology when these conflict with state purposes. But I will inflect the course using Venetian history, practices and places.

By the conclusion of the program, a student will:
1. Develop a good, general knowledge of the history of Venice;
2. Appreciate the historical dimensions of globalization;
3. Identify ethical challenges posed to contemporary practice of business and investigate strategies and policies responding thereto;
4. Strengthen abilities to analyze difficult business problems and present them before a general audience
5. Create, in collaboration with classmates, a study of business and culture within a Venetian *sestiere*

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The Imaginary City: Why Writers Love Venice
Prof. Kevin Newmark
May 31 - June 28, 2015

Venice has always occupied a unique place in the artistic imagination of the west. Rising out of the lagoon in a riot of color, form, and texture, the shimmering reflections of Venice have come to incarnate the essence of how we think of beauty itself. 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. The class will consist of in-depth examination of novels, essays, films, and specific sites in the city of Venice.

Starting with the post-romantic era, we will focus on how several literary giants refashion the beauty of Venice into a paradox of great richness and complexity. For Henry James, Thomas Mann, and Marcel Proust, the beauty that is everywhere visible in Venice also possesses a hidden side of risk and peril. The course will study the specific ways that each of these writers—along with John Ruskin before and Joseph Brodsky after them—reveals Venice to be an imaginary site of powerful tensions, traversed by the competing forces of growth and decay, desire and knowledge, truth and illusion. The course will also offer students the means for experiencing their own stay in Venice as a valuable source of self-reflection, an intellectual voyage into unfamiliar territory and waters. To encounter the beauty of Venice fully can open new perspectives on what it means to live, to love, and to understand wherever we find ourselves.

Alongside its central focus on literary masterworks from the modern European tradition, the course will also develop three complementary areas of instruction: a philosophical context stretching from Plato to Nietzsche and beyond; a cinematic dimension composed of "Summertime," "Morte a Venezia," (Death in Venice) "Don't Look Now," "The Comfort of Strangers," and "Pane e Tulipani" (Bread and Tulips); and a regular supplement of on-site visits to Venice itself—the marvel of its churches, palazzi, museums, pathways, and waterways.

Drawings from the Venetian Masters
Prof. Alston Conley

May 31 - June 28, 2015

Classes will introduce basic drawing skills and then we will apply them by drawing from masterworks. The course emphasis therefore is twofold: first, the command of basic formal concepts and skills: the page, how mark, shape, value, scale, and composition interact to become a visual language, and secondly, an introduction to the great masterworks of Venice. The goal of this class is to connect to that tradition by synthesizing, visual language, images that one would want to contemplate and retain. Much of the class time will be spent visiting

museums and churches to view and draw from the great works. The class will challenge the students to absorb and understand the visual cultural of Venice; it's traditions and achievements.

Housing & Meals

Students will be housed in residence halls at Venice International University with either two or three other students. All students will receive meal vouchers for breakfast and one other meal per day. Students should budget for additional food costs.