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**Italy Study Tour**

**Special Topics: Responsible Leadership in History**

MGMT 4910/5910

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1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course develops and critically examines principles of leadership through the lens of history, specifically the history of medieval and Renaissance Italy. Students will study themes such as the life of St. Francis of Assisi, the rise of the Republic of Florence, Renaissance humanism, the development of commercial banking, and the politics of the Catholic Church in post-Roman society. The goal of these investigations will be to apply what we learn from this history to formulate lessons that can inform contemporary business management and responsible leadership within organizations. This course will include ten days of travel in central Italy, based in the town of Sansepolcro, where we will experience this rich history through visits to business organizations, cultural landmarks, museums, churches and monasteries.

Central questions addressed in this class include:

* What are the virtues the underpin effective leadership?
* What is the relationship between holding power and responsibly using that power?
* Can one be an effective leader without being an ethical leader?
* How do leaders responsibly deal with widespread disagreement among their followers?
* How can networks of organizations be lead with a common purpose?
* How can art and science help leaders develop novel solutions to difficult problems?

2. Learning Objectives

* Critically discuss and apply relevant texts in Italian history
* Develop and critically examine principles for effective and responsible leadership
* Experience and reflect upon intercultural experiences while traveling abroad
* Improve professional communication through written analysis and oral presentations

3. TEXTS

Cox, V. (2015). *A Short History of the Italian Renaissance*. London: I.B. Tauris. ISBN: 978-1784530785

Johansson, F. (2017). *The Medici Effect: What Elephants and Epidemics Can Teach Us About Innovation*. Cambridge: Harvard Business Review Press. ISBN: 978-1633692947

A collection of articles from sources such as the *Harvard Business Review*, the *New York Times* and

other publicly available sources.

4. assignments

Preparation, Reflection and Participation (25% of the final grade)

It is expected that all students actively participate and contribute to an active learning environment by: following class on the Canvas site; attending all face-to-face, pre-departure sessions and completing all readings assignments; regularly contributing to in-class discussions; be present and engaged for all meetings and site visits during the travel time in Italy.

Assigned Reading Reflections (25%)

Be prepared to turn in three detailed reflections (500-600 words) on the assigned reading materials (or class discussions) as part your pre-departure work. These reflections will be available on Canvas and will also ask that you provide substantive engagement (100-200 words) with at least one of your peers.

Research Paper and Presentation (30%)

All students are asked to complete a group research paper (approximately 8-10 pages) on a course-specific topic and present the findings of this research during one of our class meetings in Italy. Possible topics will be posted on Canvas in time for the first pre-departure meeting.

Final Reflection Paper(20%)

This paper asks you to reflect on what you are taking away from this study tour by combining what you have learned through the readings, research, company visits, and cultural experiences through a daily journal and summary reflection. This final paper will be a combined assignment for this course and the marketing course that is being taught concurrently in Italy.

5. COURSE SCHEDULE

Full details of the schedule, assignments, course expectations and other important announcements will appear on the Canvas site for this course.

Pre-departure meeting 1: A Model for Leadership and Leadership Virtues (mid June)

Pre-departure meeting 2: Leadership: Influence, Power and Persuasion (mid July)

Pre-departure meeting 3: Leadership: Collaboration, Creativity and Service (mid August)

Study tour in Italy: First 10 days in September (approximate)