Connecting Art and Anatomy in Italy
Rome ~ Assisi ~ Florence ~ Bologna ~ Padua ~ Venice
(3 Credits)

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WHO SHOULD TAKE THIS COURSE

• Faculty who are teaching or planning to teach courses in human anatomy, or human anatomy and physiology who:
  o have an interest in the history of anatomy education, as well as art and culture.
  o wish to participate in a 12-day experience traveling to Italy exploring the historic and cultural background to anatomy education.
  o have an interest in incorporating into their classes an art and anatomy interdisciplinary element.

COURSE FORMAT

1. Pre-travel experience: May 17 - June 5, 2020
   • Online directed learning activities of academic readings and discussions prior to attending the travel experience.

2. Travel experience: June 7 - June 19, 2020
   • A 12-day travel experience in Europe visiting two university anatomy museums, as well as several traditional cultural museums and other venues that address art and anatomy.

3. Post-travel experience: August 2 - 28, 2020
   • Completion of a final project via production and peer-review of individual instructional modules exploring the relationship between art and anatomy.
COURSE DESCRIPTION

This international experience is preceded by an online curriculum that employs a series of academic readings placing the travel experience into context, and are followed by the development of a teaching module after the travel experience. This interdisciplinary program allows for students to connect art and anatomy in a unique manner. The result is a deeper and richer understanding of the historic and cultural underpinnings of anatomy education.

Students will participate in a 12-day visit to Rome, Assisi, Florence, Bologna, Padua, and Venice. The itinerary examines Greco-Roman, Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque depictions of the human form in sculpture and painting. Masterpieces within the world’s greatest museums such as the Vatican Museums, Uffizi Gallery, Bargello and more are considered with the context of how they were influenced by the dissections conducted by the masters. Historic university anatomy museums in Rome, Florence, Bologna, and Padua explore the evolution of anatomy education and medicine along the Italian Peninsula. The body as a vehicle for religious expression in reliquaries and ossuary shrines is also considered.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Critically analyze and integrate select commentary, journal articles and scholarly books in the history of medicine and anatomy, as well as the history of Renaissance art.
2. Utilize the knowledge acquired through the assigned readings to develop a perspective that connects anatomy with art, history, and culture.
3. Identify the most important venues in the history of anatomy education along the Italian Peninsula.
4. Reframe European masterpieces within the context of how human dissection influenced their art.
5. Analyze the influence of Renaissance art on early anatomy texts and anatomical wax modeling.
6. Compare and contrast the accuracy of early anatomy texts with the anatomical representations of select Renaissance masters.
7. Apply the knowledge acquired in the readings, seminars, and international travel by producing an interdisciplinary teaching element.
EVALUATION

Participants will be evaluated on a “credit/no credit” basis. A total of 100 points may be earned with a passing grade being designated as a 70%. Points will be distributed as follows:

1) Participation in pre-travel experience activities 25 points
2) Participation in travel experience activities 50 points
3) Post-travel experience final project 25 points

100 points - total

1) Pre-travel experience activities
In the weeks prior to the travel experience, students will complete an online curriculum. Students will submit discussion question responses that follow the readings.

2) Travel experience participation
Students will attend all visits to the scheduled venues, and actively and substantively participate in the visits and the discussions that follow.

3) Post-travel experience final project
All course participants will create a final project. The goal is to apply what they have learned to their specific college teaching duties. The theme of these projects is to create an interdisciplinary teaching element connecting art and anatomy, is grounded in the professional literature, and informed by the travel experience. It may take any reasonable form, such as a PowerPoint presentation, written proposal or curriculum document, specific learning activity or module, or other teaching/learning resource, or the delivery of a lecture at a conference.