Anatomia Italiana del Sud
Connecting Art and Anatomy in Southern Italy
(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:
  - have an interest in the history of anatomy education, as well as Italian art and culture.
  - wish to participate in a 12-day experience traveling in Italy exploring the historic and cultural background to anatomy education.
  - have an interest in incorporating the humanities into their classes though an art and anatomy interdisciplinary vehicle.

COURSE FORMAT

1. Pre-travel experience: May 1 - 31, 2024
   - Online directed learning activities of academic readings and discussions prior to attending the travel experience.

2. Travel experience: June 2 - June 14, 2024
   - A 12-day travel experience in Italy visiting two university anatomy museums, as well as several traditional cultural museums and other venues that address art and anatomy.

3. Post-travel experience: June 15 - 30, 2024
   - 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 southern Italy, with nine of those days in Sicily, and three days in Naples and the vicinity. The itinerary explores Sicily, a Mediterranean island at the crossroads of cultures for 3,000 years, as well as unparalleled Southern Italy. Examine ancient Greco-Roman depictions of the human form in sculpture, painting, and mosaic – including the body as a vehicle for religious expression in three Capuchin Crypts. Visit university anatomy museums in Palermo and Naples, as well as the ruins of Pompeii, a Roman city covered with volcanic ash 2,000 years ago. Highlights also include the Riace Bronzes, 4th century BCE sculptures that are amazingly accurate anatomically as well as culturally important. These masterpieces will be considered with the context of how they were influenced by the dissections conducted by the artistic masters.

A more detailed itinerary can be found here.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:
1. Critically analyze and integrate select peer-reviewed literature and scholarly books in the history of anatomy, as well as its connection to art and culture.
2. Use the knowledge acquired through the assigned readings to develop a perspective that connects art and anatomy in Sicily and Southern Italy.
3. Identify and visit important venues in the history of anatomy education along the southern Italian Peninsula.
4. Visit and reframe many of the visited artistic masterpieces within the context of how human dissection conducted by the ancient masters influenced these works of art.
5. Apply the knowledge acquired in the course through the incorporation of an interdisciplinary element into a currently taught anatomy course so as to deepen and enrich the student learning experience.

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.

The below map describes the itinerary.