



CIEE Study Abroad

Course title:	A City within a City: The Vatican and Rome. History, Politics, and Society
Course number:	HIST 3004 CIEE / ITST 3002 CIEE
Programs offering course:	CIEE Summer Online
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Summer 2020

Course Description

How old is the Vatican? Albeit its bimillennial history, this city-state is a relatively new country, less than ninety years old. Yet, from the day when Peter, a simple Galilean fisherman was chosen to be the rock on which Jesus would build his church, to the innovative figure of Pope Francis, an unparalleled sequence of events and people has brought to the quasi-paradox of the world smallest state ruled by the most influential leader on earth. This course will go through those events and meet the relevant people: Roman emperors, Popes, saints, heretics, kings, as well as artists and political leaders of our era. In fact, the Vatican is the repository of 2,000 years of political, cultural, theological, philosophical, scientific, artistic, sociological history and, at the same time, a modern state engaged in the most critical issues of the 21st century. Moreover, it is an endless source of inspiration for works of fiction, often aiming at quenching the public's interest for scandal and mystery, rather than at providing accurate historical accounts. The key points of this vast universe will be analyzed during the course, with a constant focus on their impact both on the city of Rome and worldwide. Art and site visits will be given a special place, to help the students recognize the interplay between the Papacy and its seat. Primary sources, both textual and visual, will be extensively used to accompany students throughout this Vatican journey.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Distinguish the relationship between architecture, society and politics in the Vatican;
- Examine social and religious implications through the history of the Papacy;
- Formulate consistent arguments in observing, interpreting and evaluating the historical relationship between Rome and the Vatican;
- Manage a clear knowledge of specific vocabulary in the field of the Vatican political system: structure, government and laws;
- Value the cultural and artistic role of the Papacy;
- Investigate the political and diplomatic role of the Vatican in the 20th and 21st centuries;
- Research representations of the Vatican through the media.

Course Prerequisites

None.

**Students are responsible for having course approval conversations about how their prior courses meet pre-requisites with their home school advisors.*



CIEE Summer Online courses will involve asynchronous instruction. Instructors will apply theory and deliver the learning objectives using a rich array of online teaching methods and resources from CIEE host countries and communities. Full details, including dates and deadlines for assessments, will be provided in the final syllabus shortly before online learning begins.