You are due on campus for orientation in Rome on Friday, June 28th. Class will begin on Monday, July 1 and we will meet Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. LITR 268R Italian Cultural History: Food & Wine will meet from 9:30-12:15 and and FNAR 115 Photography will meet from 2:30- 5:15 pm.

*Class time is however subject to change and a more detailed schedule follows.

**Rome**

While in Rome students will attend classes at the JFRC with their individual professor as well as meeting onsite with both Professors Simari and Denlinger.

Onsite classes in the Eternal City will include visits to some of Rome’s most interesting neighborhoods (Testaccio, Trastevere, Esquillino, and the Jewish Quarter). One afternoon we will have lunch together at a traditional Roman trattoria.

Here you will learn the basics of photography and the food culture of Italy in general and more specifically in Rome.

**Abruzzo**

After one week in Rome, we will depart Abruzzo with a private bus. For the duration of our visit we will be staying in a traditional agriturismo, called La Porta dei Parchi, which is located near the small village of Anversa degli Abruzzi. (It is important to note that Porta dei Parchi is essentially a dairy farm in the mountains, and students will be in contact with farm animals). During this time, we will be visiting various points of interest to the food and wine of the region. Most days will consist of one structured activity (at either La Porta dei Parchi or another location off site) and then a debriefing session with Professors Denlinger or Simari. These debriefing sessions will be scheduled around these events. There will also be pockets of time throughout the day to study, photograph, relax, hike, etc. We ask that everyone be prepared to be flexible, as we hope these days will be fluid. After ten days in Abruzzo, you will return to Rome with a private bus transfer.

Activities in Abruzzo will include: a cheese making demonstration at La Porta dei Parchi’s dairy farm, a visit to chocolate factory Confettificio William Di Carlo, Casa Vinicola Pietrantoni winery and wine cellar, and a visit the Della Valle Olive Grove and Press. We will work as shepherds for a day, following the sheep up the mountain where they eat the fresh mountain herbs and grass. Students will also participate in several cooking classes where they will learn how to make pasta, traditional Abruzzese dishes and jams and marmalades.

*All activities in Abruzzo are subject to change

**Suggested Packing / Apparel**

During our time on the road, we will be living on a farm, where the nearest village (which is a short walk away) has a population of 350. We can occasionally stroll down into town for an aperitivo, however students will need to stay at the farm in the evenings after dinner, as the roads are not lit. We will be outdoors quite a bit, as well as traveling to and from various places in rural areas. We would suggest bringing clothes that you can easily layer (while it will be hot during the day, it could be cool at night). We would also suggest bringing a pair of good, sturdy shoes or hiking boots. Tennis shoes or sneakers will not be sufficient, as we will be hiking up the mountain one morning (moderate hike). Sunscreen, hats, long pants and tall socks are also recommended, as well as common medicines for allergies/headaches, etc. if you
You will also need a swimming suit and towel since we will be spending a day at a lake or beach.

**Laundry Services**
Please note that while there are washers and dryers available for use at the Rome Center campus during your stay, use of these facilities will be limited in Abruzzo. Please organize accordingly.

**Necessities**
You will be expected to complete various assignments while on the road so you must bring a laptop or tablet on which you can type. **But please remember we are going to the countryside and wifi is available but is limited.** This will allow students to detach from city life and **appreciate the farm life!** For this reason, it is a good idea to bring a deck of cards and/or a good book. You must also have a digital camera, preferably a DSLR camera, or one on which settings can be made manually and separately from each other. Do not plan on using your cell phone- it will not be able to handle the demands of the assignments. Also it would be good to bring a lightweight, portable tripod for Rome photography - if you have questions regarding camera specifics, please write directly to Tom (tdenling@depaul.edu).

**Meals**
Porta dei Parchi is a dairy farm, which works almost exclusively with raw milk. There you will be provided with breakfast, lunch and dinner. Most, if not all of what we will be eating there, comes from their farm. Our diet will mostly consist of their dairy products and the fruits and vegetables they grow on their farm. Meat is served on occasion. Occasionally, we will be off site in the afternoon so it would be good to budget some lunch and gelato money.

*Most importantly please remember any dietary restrictions that run contrary to this diet, such as lactose intolerance, may make your stay difficult.*

**Final Exams and Departure**
We are scheduled to return to Rome so that we have four days of class to recap and reorient yourselves back at the Rome Center. We will also prepare for your final exams in these classes, both of which will take place on **Friday, July 19** along with all of the other final exams for the JFRC's Summer Session. Your departure from the Rome Center will be on **Saturday, July 20**.

Before we sign off, we wanted to share with you some of our students’ experiences from years past.

"I have to say that Abruzzo in its entirety has given me a totally different perspective on the country of Italy. The wide open spaces, wild mountain flowers and passion-fueled people of all trades (most having something to do with sheep..) have given me a taste of what Italy is outside of the bustling streets of Rome. I will forever be grateful for the hospitality we received from those on the farm, for the hammock naps while taking in the breeze of the mountains, for the opportunity to see how so many delicious foods are made, and for the thought-provoking stories of each business owner and the history that has made their trade what it is”. **Mary Ennis – Fusion 2016**

"I’m probably being dramatic (but also probably not) when I say my stay in both of these towns was life changing. It really opened my eyes to so many things I had forgotten about being so attached to the city way of life from living in Chicago and Rome for the previous two weeks. First, the people were truly some of the most hospitable people I’ve met.... Being in the countryside made you appreciate the place where most of the food we eat anywhere in the world actually comes from, not just in Italy. As Andrea (a Porta dei Parchi employee) said,
we need to work on treating nature as our mother and learning from it, not trying to manipulate it. And it seems that’s what the Abruzzo region has done in terms of their food, bringing their knowledge of farming to create sustainable ingredients for a large population”.  
Diana Greis - Fusion 2016

"I really enjoyed the Fusion experience! I feel as though I have gained so much knowledge about where food comes from and with that a greater appreciation for it. I thought travelling to Abruzzo was absolutely amazing. Being able to see how much and care is taken to preserve tradition is inspiring. I never imagine how much I would be touched by the simple things in Italian life. Have the opportunity to see a part of Italy that many tourists and people never even learn about has been priceless”. Marissa Morton – Fusion 2017

"I really enjoyed the content of both photography and food & wine. I loved being on the farm with everyone and getting to experience the farm-to-table lifestyle. The people at the farm were so welcoming, loving and nurturing. I learned so much about the farm and food in general from them that I will never forget”. Robin Olsen – Fusion 2017

"The Fusion program was one of the best experiences of my life - because it was both educational and fun. Elizabeth and Tom are interested in getting to know you as a person and want to give you the best experience possible. I wish I had more time on this program, as it really has been amazing. I would highly recommend it to anyone". Katie Schilmoeller – Fusion 2018

"Often summer classes are difficult because it's hard to find motivation to study during the summer but your humor, knowledge and positivity made it much it easier. I am very glad I came here out of my comfort zone and took the classes I did. It was a blast and I guarantee I will never forget it." - Owen Wolf – Fusion 2018

We’re looking forward to having you on board for an exciting summer.

All the best,
Elizabeth Simari & Tom Denlinger