**ENGL 318: The Writing of Fiction: Writing Rome**  
**John Felice Rome Center**  
**Summer 2020**  
Tuesdays | 9:00-12:00pm  
**Classroom: TBA**  
**Prof. Nefeli Misuraca**  
**Email: nmisuraca@luc.edu**  
**Office Hours: by appointment**

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**Course Description**

This Writing Intensive, Core Course will discuss techniques of fiction writing and offer guidance in generating original fiction that utilizes the city of Rome as inspiration. The course will stimulate the students to imagine places, streets, piazzas, to relate to those who talked about works of art without having seen them, to learn how to use imagination to create a realistic literary world.

The first focus will be on the descriptions of imaginary cities—readings from Calvino’s *Invisible Cities*. The second focus will be Rome through the eyes of a foreigner. Students will examine famous descriptions of Rome from traveling writers like Montaigne, Stendhal and Mark Twain. Students will try their hand at describing the same places detailed by these writers, visiting them through live cams together with the professor. In the wake of the Corona Virus pandemic, the students will be invited to reflect on how much a major capital city has changed, how its people and its businesses now function, and they will have a first-hand view of these changes.

By discussing together these issues, the students will find their own narrative path throughout Rome. Every class will be centered on a foreign traveler and on a location. Art and urban setting will go hand in hand in revealing the point of view of each particular writer.

Additionally, guest lecturers, such as New York Times food critic Katie Parla, will give them an insider’s look on one of the most famous Italian exports: its gourmet eating habits.

Through the studied practice of descriptive writing and the examination of the Rome setting as a vital literary component, students will produce their own fictional interpretations of the Eternal City. (Note: English 318 is an elective for non-English majors and English majors not in the CW Concentration & a requirement for English majors in the CW Concentration.)

**Learning Outcomes:** Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the technical vocabulary and critical skills necessary for discussing, analyzing and formulating arguments about fiction writing, and will produce a portfolio of their own original fiction. Through experiential learning, students will gain a deeper understanding of the multidimensional and ongoing influence of the city of Rome upon Western culture, history, art, and ideas and, in particular, literature and literary fiction.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge Area(s) satisfied:</th>
<th>Artistic Knowledge</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Skill(s) Developed:</strong></td>
<td>Critical Thinking &amp; Dispositions, Writing</td>
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**Required Text / Materials**
- Writing Fiction: The Practical Guide from New York’s Acclaimed Creative Writing School, Bloomsbury USA, ISBN 1582343306
- Assigned readings posted on Sakai

**Attendance Policy**
Please note that course attendance is based on prompt class attendance, preparation and active participation in class discussions. In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student.

For all classes meeting once a week, students cannot incur more than one unexcused absence. For all classes meeting twice a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences. For all classes meeting three times a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.

This course meets once a week, thus a total of one (1) unexcused absence(s) will be permitted. Unexcused absences beyond these will result in a 1% lowering of your final grade after the “approved limit.”

**Assessment Components**
10% Participation / Preparedness / Attendance
10% Peer Reviews for Workshops (Conscientiousness of editing classmates’ work)
10% Homework (Reader Responses & other assignments uploaded to SAKAI)
10% Free Writes & Online Presentations (e.g. poem, lists, etc. all required for full credit)
60% Final Portfolio*

* Final list of portfolio contents TBA. In general, portfolios include polished original work (e.g. the postcard 15%) and polished revisions of the key assignments, such as the snapshot 15%, micro-fiction 15%, micro-story 15%, assignments may vary by semester.
** Participation (in class & on site) writing assignments, reader response assignments, peer reviews of story drafts, and a final portfolio to include polished revisions and a process analysis for each piece.

**Grading**
94-100: A
90-93: A-
87-89: B+
84-86: B
80-83: B-
77-79: C+
74-76: C
70-73: C-
67-69: D+
60-66: D
59 or lower: F

**Academic Honesty**
Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago’s guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola’s standards here: [http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml). You are responsible to comply with the LUC Student Handbook.

**Late or Missed Assignments**
Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor.

**Accessibility Accommodations**
Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.

**Course Schedule**

**NOTE**: This schedule is an approximation and is subject to change due to the availability of scheduled museum visits, etc. A detailed overview of dates, assignments, and locations will be provided the first day of class. Readings on Sakai or given in photocopies.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Artwork</th>
<th>Places</th>
<th>Formal assessment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 29 -3 June</td>
<td>Invisible Cities</td>
<td>Italo Calvino, “Invisible Cities”</td>
<td>Quartiere Coppedè, the most incredible architecture in the whole city.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2 6 - 10 June</td>
<td>Castel Sant’Angelo</td>
<td>Readings from Montaigne</td>
<td>From Castel Sant’Angelo, where Beatrice Cenci was beheaded in 1599, a walk through the Ponte degli Angeli to reach Piazza Navona, the neighborhood where the artists lived at the time, including Artemisia, who was 6 years old when she attended the beheading.</td>
<td>Writing 1</td>
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<td>Week 3 13 – 17 June</td>
<td>Rome from above</td>
<td>Stendhal “Henry Brulard”</td>
<td>Descriptions of Rome as seen from its high points: Pincio, Giardino degli aranci, osservatorio</td>
<td>Writing 2</td>
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<td>Week 4 20 - 24 June</td>
<td>Villa Borghese</td>
<td>Goethe: Readings from his “Travels to Italy”</td>
<td>The history of the famous Villa Borghese, its statues, its heroes. The little cafés and the little lake. The Casa del Cinema and the Globe Theater</td>
<td>Writing 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 27 – 1 August</td>
<td>Romanticism in Rome</td>
<td>Readings from Lord Byron’s travels</td>
<td>Piazza di Spagna and the House of Keats and Shelley. The Spanish steps, via del Corso down to Piazza Venezia, where Rome’s early 19th century art is.</td>
<td>Writing 4</td>
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FINAL EXAM