

**Call for Applications for Lectureships**  
**Globalization Program**  
**Appendix 2 - Course Abstracts**

**Course abstracts** - candidates are invited to consider the following outlines when drafting proposals.

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**History of Venice**

(Applications are not sought for this course as it will be assigned to permanent VIU Faculty)

The course is meant to offer a broad introduction to the History of Venice from its origins to the present, also illustrating the interaction between environmental setting, urban morphology, political institutions and social life. It should involve site visits.

*Possible topics of interest:* the foundation of the city; construction and development of the built environment; historical characteristics of the Lagoon and environmental management; the rise and fall of the city's maritime economy and military power; developments of the political regime, from the election of the first doge to the end of independence in 1797; Church-State relations; Civic rituals and the Carnival; welfare institutions of the Republic; condition of women; Napoleon in Venice; representations of the city in European literature of the 1800s; the 1848-49 Revolution; the development of industry in the historic center and the significant presence of women workers; the foundation of Marghera and "Greater Venice"; the development of the Lido; Biennale and cultural institutions; trends of mass tourism; the impact of 1966 and the debate on Saving Venice; the impact of the port on the Lagoon; crisis of "Greater Venice" and future perspectives.

**Italian Contemporary History in Films**

(Applications are not sought for this course as it will be assigned to permanent VIU Faculty)

The course should revolve around movies portraying key moments of Italian History. The aim is to provide students with insight into both historical themes related to Italy and Italian Cinema as the main 20<sup>th</sup> Century art of the country, comparing the situation of Italy with that of other countries, so as to stimulate students to spot differences and similarities with the histories of their own countries.

*Possible topics of interest:* history and historiography; the Risorgimento, Fascism, Resistance, Economic Miracle, First and Second Republic; gender, family, psychology and daily life; cultural contexts in which movies were produced; cinematographic critique; relationship between movies selected and the artistic itinerary of their directors and Italian History of Cinema.

**Art and Architecture in Renaissance Venice**

The aim of the course is to provide an understanding of the development of the Venetian pictorial and architectural language. The period covered should run from the end of the Gothic-Byzantine to the late Renaissance. The course should include an introduction to method and language issues of history of architecture

and history of art. Site visits are expected, providing first-hand knowledge of works of architecture and art in their environmental context.

*Possible topics of interest:* Venetian art and architecture in the context of European Renaissance and of cultural exchanges with the Middle East, Northern Europe and other Italian cities; notions about the physical form of the city; patronage system and artist or architect relationship with patron; the art market; religious and public buildings; structures and areas related to trade and hosting foreigners; *Scuole*, hospitals, charitable and social institutions; key episodes and selected Renaissance works; most notable architects and artists and their ways of working; issues of restoration and preservation of the Renaissance heritage.



### **Italian Fashion Design**

This course should provide students with an understanding of the history and/or the present situation of Italian Fashion Design, illustrating its peculiarities. Visits to companies in Venice and neighboring areas or elsewhere in Italy are welcome.

*Possible topics of interest:* characteristics of the industry before World War II; the birth of Italian fashion in the post-war period; Italian fashion design and economic miracle; developments since the 1970's; present time crisis and challenges; reasons for the success of Italian fashion design; the peculiarities of Italian fashion design styles, techniques, materials; the centrality of the *stilista* and other specificities of the business; characters and structure of the companies (e.g. relevance of family ownership and relationship to industrial districts); lifestyles and consumption related to fashion design in Italy; a number of case studies (products and companies). Reference to China as competitor and as potential market for Italian fashion design products would be very useful.

### **Intercultural Communication**

The aim of the course is to help students to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes that increase intercultural competence particularly in university and working environments, in order also to improve their communicating abilities in the VIU multicultural context. Part of the course should be theoretical. The other part should be practical, inducing students to practice communication, making use of the mixed nationalities present in the student body of the class.

*Possible topics of interest:* Philosophy, Sociology, Psychology and Politics of Communication. Topics and practice that develop: awareness of cultural differences and of dynamics occurring when people from different cultures interact; understanding of how communication processes differ among cultures; ability to identify challenges that arise in intercultural interactions and learn ways to creatively address them; consciousness of the importance of the roles of context and power in studying intercultural communication; awareness of the implications of the use of English as Lingua Franca e.g. in the VIU context.

### **Gender Studies**

This course should consist of an introduction to the study of gender. It should be based on constant exemplification and case studies. The use of sources and case studies representative of the countries represented in the VIU consortium is expected.

*Possible topics of interest:* gender as a subject that permeates senses of self, culture, relationships, economics and power in society; gender, sex, sexuality,

gender differences, gender gaps and gender socialization; how gender shapes and is shaped by popular culture and advertising, sexual relationships, modes of production in the economy, and state policies; gender and modernity; gender and psychoanalysis; gender and art; gender and colonialism/post-colonialism; gender and power; gender and rights; gender equality; gender and family, gender and marriage; gender and multiculturalism; gender and race; masculinities; lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender (LGBT) issues.

### **Comparing East and West**

The course should consist of: an introduction to cultural studies and/or comparative studies, its methods and challenges; and /or a comparison between Eastern (namely Asian and especially Chinese and Japanese) and Western (European and American) cultures. Students should be encouraged to relate the themes of the course with their own life experiences.



*Possible themes of interest:* analysis of representations of Easterners by Westerners and viceversa; religion; philosophies; values; economy; business attitudes; art, literature, poetry; architecture and music; cinema; food; consumer behavior; human rights; urban development and policy; history of law and governance; citizenship and civic action; public policy; electoral systems; legal traditions and systems.

### **Identity, Heritage and Globalization**

The course should provide an overview of globalization and consider its effects on identity and tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The use of Venice as one of the case studies, or even field-work is welcome.

*Possible topics of interest:* how electronic highways, the expansion of jet travel, satellite technology and trade liberalization have made transnational communication and cultural, political, and economic connections closer and faster than ever before; meanings and implications of these global processes for people's everyday lives; what have these global transformations of space and time meant for local identities (nationality, gender, class, race, sexuality) and enactments/meanings of culture; Westernization or Americanization of culture; the revival of local identities and traditions; ethno-regionalisms; glocal phenomena; internet; migration; multiculturalism; diaspora communities; transnational cultures; effect of tourism on local cultures and responses to it.

### **Globalization, Ethics, Welfare and Human Rights**

The course should revolve around the effects of globalization and the ethical problems involved, also regarding welfare and human rights. The use of sources and case studies of the countries represented in the VIU consortium is welcome.

*Possible topics of interest:* analysis of the outcomes of the financial crisis, globalization of markets and climate change; increased inequality in different areas in the world; weakening States; neoliberalism and privatization; public welfare systems at risk; transnational organizations and the spread of human rights; internet, new accessibility to culture and information, new forms of democracy; strategies to solve challenges posed by these processes (esp. in the field of Welfare and Human Rights), including whether imposed humanitarian interventions to export democracy or human rights are fair, and whether it is fair

for international organizations to impose strict budgets to contain deficits, at the cost of reducing welfare rights.

### **Global Governance for Peace and Security, Cooperation and Development**

This course should focus on the interplay among states, international organizations (such as the UN, WTO, IMF, and World Bank), multinational corporations, civil society organizations, and activist networks in global governance.

*Possible topics of interest:* peace and security, economic relations and the environment; the evolution of global governance arrangements and what difference they make, in light of globalization and emerging geopolitical changes; analysis of the political, economic and social development of international relations in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, exemplifying case studies and also focusing on recent areas of major conflict, e.g. those related to water scarcity.



### **SPECIALIZATION TRACK: Economics, Management and Digital Technologies applied to Cultural Heritage**

This track typically includes 3-6 courses:

The aim of this specialization track is to introduce students to concepts such as Natural and Cultural Heritage, both tangible and intangible; to the challenges posed by their management, preservation and development, in relation to development policies and/or citizenship issues.

Courses may consider opportunities offered by the Digital Age and, whenever possible, use Venice among case studies considered. At least one course should be more practical and devoted to learning digital tools applied to one or more aspects of Cultural Heritage.

Courses related to opportunities and challenges posed by Tourism to Local Communities and/or Historic Cities are particularly welcome. Multidisciplinary and comparative approaches are also welcome.

Examples (candidates may wish to address one or more of these topics, or propose similarly compatible topics):

Introduction to Cultural Heritage;  
History of Cultural Goods;  
History of Cultural Heritage;  
Literature and Cultural Heritage;  
Philosophy of Cultural Heritage;  
Preservation of (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites;  
Safeguard and Preservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage;  
History of Restoration;  
Reconstruction and Restoration of Cultural Heritage;  
Preservation and Governance of Historical Cities;  
Economics and Management of the Arts;  
Museum Management;  
Cultural Management;  
Cultural Resources and Economic Development;  
Cities and Cultural Production;  
The Economics of Creative Goods;  
Cultural Tourism and Management;  
Cultural Diversity;  
Cultural Heritage and Knowledge;

Curatorship;  
Creativity and Welfare;  
Accessibility to Cultural Heritage;  
Cultural Heritage, Individual and Collective Identity and Human Rights;  
Digital tools for Multiculturalism;  
Digital Tools for Humanities;  
Digital Culture;  
Cultural Heritage, Innovation and Technology.

**SPECIALIZATION TRACK: Environmental Management and Sustainable Development**



This track typically includes 3-6 courses:

The aim of this specialization track is to develop awareness of Sustainability concepts and issues, applied to the Environment and the Economy, learning about sustainable practices and management, adopting ethical and cultural approaches. Courses may provide tools of analysis of Environmental changes and of impact valuation (including digital tools), knowledge about policies, law and governance; climate change; sustainable energy; food and water security; corporate social responsibility and industrial ecology; the role of lead firms in fostering environmental innovation; justice and development.

Courses which use the Venetian Lagoon as a case-study are welcome. Humanities courses on Sustainability or Environmental issues are also welcome.

Examples (candidates may wish to address one or more of these topics, or propose similarly compatible topics):

Globalization, Environment and Sustainable Development;  
Cities, Global Change and Sustainable Development;  
Sustainable Consumption;  
Urban Sustainability;  
Sustainable Welfare;  
Coastal Wetlands, Lagoons and Estuaries: Environmental Monitoring and Management;  
Satellite Remote Sensing;  
Economic Valuation of Non-Market Goods;  
STATA Data Analysis Software Workshop;  
Global Environmental Challenges: Energy, Climate Change, Food Security;  
Environmental Institutions and Governance;  
Sustainable Communities;  
Land and Water Resources;  
Biodiversity Conservation and Management;  
Food and Globalization;  
Food Communities and Sustainable Thought;  
Fast Food and Slow Food;  
International Environmental Agreements;  
The Role of Environmental Regulation;  
International Environmental Law;  
Green Growth;  
Globalization and Competitiveness: Global Value Chains;  
Ethics and Development;  
North-South Disparities;  
Climate Change;  
Ethics of Climate Change;

Environmental History;  
Sustainability Represented in Literature and/or Films.

**Additional courses**

Should be compatible with the goals of the Globalization Program, yet may be more flexible. Preference will be given to courses:

- which are related to the core clusters of courses (Italy, Cultures of the World, Global Challenges) and the specialization tracks (Sustainable Development and Cultural Heritage);
- which exploit the location of the program, and which include field-work in Venice and the Veneto;
- which exploit the international, multicultural and interdisciplinary classroom ;
- which run across disciplines and, in particular, which mix Humanities and Social Sciences;
- which read global issues and/or topical present-day issues through the lens of these disciplines;
- which adopt comparative approaches



**For further information:**

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