

THE SMU CENTER FOR
DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND
CONFLICT MANAGEMENT
PRESENTS

RELIGION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

IN
FLORENCE ITALY



A WEEK IN ITALY
JUNE 21 - 27, 2009



The SMU Center for Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management cordially invites you to join its Study Abroad program in Florence, Italy featuring the class ***Religion and Dispute Resolution***. Professor Richard Blackburn will lead the group in this exciting study-tour focusing on religion and conflict against the backdrop of the artistic and ecclesiastical history of the Italian Renaissance. Rev. Blackburn serves as Executive Director of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in the Chicago area.

The program will be offered for 7 days and 7 nights from June 21 - 27, 2009. A majority of students in previous classes have used the opportunity to add extra days to visit Rome, Tuscany and other sites easily accessible by train from Florence. If a friend or spouse would like to join you for the trip, but not take the class, a limited number can be accommodated at the hotel and for the on-site lecture tours at a very attractive rate.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The context of this class is truly unique. It will educate students in a powerful transformative mediation model, interspersed with on-site tours that highlight the spirit of artistic rivalry and revival, conflict and creativity, that blossomed into the Italian Renaissance. This interactive course is designed to prepare leaders to deal effectively with interpersonal, congregational and other forms of group conflict. Although primarily focused on the religious environment, the skills learned are directly transferable to other settings, and will be invaluable to managers in business, attorneys, mediators, and other professionals who manage conflict. This class satisfies the State of Texas mediation requirements; for-credit students earn 3 graduate credit hours.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Classes will be held at the spectacular Florentine estate and formal gardens of the Villa La Pietra, one of the most famous villas in Florence. The Villa dates to the 15th century and is situated on 57 lush acres with gorgeous views of the surrounding Tuscan countryside. It is conveniently located within a 10-15 minute drive from the heart of Florence. A shuttle bus will transport students to the Villa for classes. Students will stay at the beautiful Hotel Carolus in the heart of Florence – convenient for shopping and evenings out with classmates. For further information: <http://smu.edu/education/disputeresolution/studyabroad/studyabroad.asp>



Cost

The cost is \$2199 per person based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available at an additional charge, please call the Dispute Resolution office for more information. SMU tuition and airfare is separate. Non-credit tuition is \$1230; for-credit students pay the standard \$2094.00 per class rate. Students are responsible for obtaining their airfare and making travel arrangements to the Hotel Carolus in Florence.

Reservations

Reservation deadline is February 16, 2009. The class is limited to 24 people. A deposit of \$500 is required upon making your reservation. The balance is due March 9, 2009. Tuition is due according to regular registration policies and deadlines. To make reservations contact Kay Barclay at 972-473-3435 or kbarclay@smu.edu.

Read some comments from past participants:

"An outstanding course in an outstanding venue...regardless of whether or not one plans to mediate in a congregational setting. It is a model that can be easily applied within any organizational environment."

"The Study Abroad program provided me with an entirely new perspective on learning. Infusing another culture with your studies is immeasurable"

"The class is truly a life-changing experience and I highly recommend it to anyone involved in the life and ministry of the church."

"I loved the Villa, so incredibly scenic and beautiful. Add that to the instructor's depth of knowledge in both the mediation model and Renaissance art and it made for an unforgettable experience."