

SIENA OVERSEAS ORIENTATION



Wednesdays 4:45-6:15; Miller 208
Professor Bruce Suttmeier

INTRODUCTION:

These orientation sessions are designed to get us ready to spend a semester in Siena, a process that involves:

1. familiarizing ourselves with Siena, the SIS program, classes, homestays, etc;
2. necessary bureaucratic procedures (visas, plane tickets, packing, etc);
3. intangible processes (getting to know each other better, establishing group guidelines, setting personal and community expectations, awareness of culture shock, heading off potential misunderstandings / problems, etc).

We will meet a total of 7 times throughout the semester, on selected Wednesday evenings (Attenzione! I have not scheduled orientation sessions for the Wednesdays before Fall or Thanksgiving break! This means some consecutive Wednesday sessions in the middle of the semester). The 6th session will include mini-presentations by everyone; the 7th session will be for discussing final logistics and answering any final questions.

As per the rules from the Office of Overseas Studies, you are expected to make all orientation sessions. If you have to miss one, you must email the instructor in advance (not 5 minutes before). Missing two or more orientation sessions is grounds for removal from the program. You cannot *make up* orientation sessions.

DATES OF ORIENTATIONS SESSIONS:

The following Wednesdays will have orientation sessions (subject to change...but let's hope not).

September	October	November	December
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1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4	1	1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	28 29 30 31
		30	

SCHEDULE

10 Sept: Orientation Session #1: BBQ and Overview*

MAKE NOTE OF LOCATION!!!! - @ Bruce's house: 2630 SW Taylors Ferry Rd

READINGS: Severgnini, "La Bella Figura"

Hess, "Studying Abroad, Learning Abroad"

Tozzi, "A Bender" (fiction by Sienese writer)

HW: fill out google form: "What I read/saw over summer"

- include title, author/director, one sentence summary

- Discuss orientation Schedule and Topics
- General Overview of Program / basic expectations for semester abroad
- Discussion of readings / summer item read-watched
- About Dina Dodds scholarships for research abroad
- Finalizing plane reservations (due Sept 14)

24 Sept: Orientation Session #2: Culture and Culture Shock

READINGS: Radke, "Art in Renaissance Italy"

"Blue Guide – Siena" (skim... then choose one item to read in depth)

- Discussions with Ben David (art history) / Karen Gross (English)
- More than pretty pictures – art in Siena and around Italy.

15 Oct: Orientation Session #3: Some Bureaucracy // Berlusconi's Italy

READINGS: Severgnini, "Mamma Mia"

Saviano, "Gomorrah"

Stille, "The Sack of Rome"

Hess, "Culture Shock"

During session: choose groups of 3 for mini-presentation (topic due 10/22)

- Visas / packing / bureaucracy
- Advice from former participants
- How to pack / what not to bring
- Maintaining health, culture shock and other adjustment issues
- Discussion: the ugly underbelly of modern Italy



detail from
Ambrogio Lorenzetti
*The Effects of Good
Government in the City
and in the Country*,
from a series of frescoes
in the Palazzo Pubblico
(Siena), 1338-39

22 Oct: Orientation Session #4: SIS / Studying in Siena

**** visit from Lavinia Bracci, founder and head of Siena Italian Studies ****

READINGS: Gilmour, "Fascist Italy" (skim for general knowledge of context)

Duggan, "Fascist Voices"

Explore SIS website before class – prepare questions

HW: hand in mini-presentation topic (work in groups of 3)

- Course-work in Siena / a student's life in Italy
- What to expect from SIS
- site discovered on Siena memoryscapes website (print out page to hand in) (<http://library.lclark.edu/overseas/trip/10/tag/223/>)

5 Nov: Orientation Session #5: Life Beyond the Classroom

READINGS: Lis Harris, "The Palio"

- Life with a host family
- Expectations / norms for Italian family life
- Traveling in Italy (from quick day trips to spring-break touring)
- Dos and don'ts from a former participant

12 Nov: Orientation Session #6: Mini-presentations

READINGS: La Cucina Italiana (assorted articles)

- 5-minute presentations + Q&A
- Italian dinner!!!
- office hours in Siena / weekly dinners / resources while abroad
- battling the mid-program slump

3 Dec: Orientation Session #7: Wrapping it up

- hand in 'anxiety paper' / discussion
- keeping in touch while abroad – internet, family and other necessary distractions
- last minute preparations and Q&A

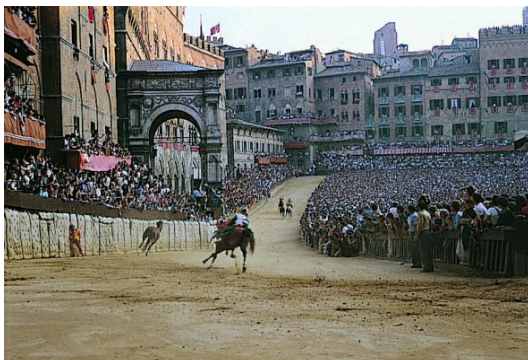


photo of the Palio, the Campo (Siena)



Vincenzo Rustici, Caccia ai tori nel Campo di Siena (1585 ca.)