



SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY



Fresco of La Pietra - Acton Collection



**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.”*

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THE SMU CENTER FOR  
DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND  
CONFLICT MANAGEMENT  
PRESENTS

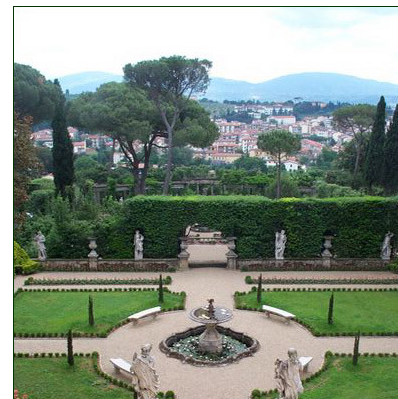
RELIGION  
AND DISPUTE  
RESOLUTION  
IN  
FLORENCE  
ITALY



A WEEK IN ITALY  
JUNE 24–30, 2012

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.

The program will be offered for 7 days and 7 nights from June 24 - 30, 2012. 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.



Garden Tour

**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 credit hours for the trip.

**FACULTY**

The program will be taught by Richard Blackburn, Executive Director of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in Chicago. Professor Blackburn is an ordained Mennonite minister and teaches courses in dispute resolution across the United States and abroad, in addition to serving as a consultant and mediator for churches of all denominations.

(Cont.)

## FACILITIES



*Michelangelo's The Holy Family with St. John the Baptist*

### **Prof. Blackburn, cont.**

Professor Blackburn also has an M.A. in Art History from Northern Illinois University and undertook doctoral studies at the University of Chicago (ABD), specializing in Medieval and Italian Renaissance art, prior to being called to the ministry. He has taught art history both in the United States and Italy, with the art of the Italian Renaissance being a particular area of expertise.

Professor Blackburn's unique background will offer students a truly extraordinary experience as he leads students on tours of some of the most important art collections in the world. He will integrate reflections on the interpersonal, civic, and religious conflicts that gave impetus to one of the most creative artistic revolutions in human history.

### **Villa La Pietra**

Classes will be held at the spectacular Florentine estate and formal gardens of the Villa La Pietra, one of the grandest and 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 be provided to transport students to the Villa for classes.

The Villa La Pietra is particularly distinguished by its beautiful formal gardens, one of the world's premier private art collections and all modern conveniences. Students will receive a tour of La Pietra, including the private art collection which is only open to the public twice each year. For more information on La Pietra, you may visit their website at: [www.nyu.edu/global/lapietra](http://www.nyu.edu/global/lapietra)



*La Pietra*



*Lobby, Hotel Carolus*

### **Accommodations**

Students will be provided stately accommodations for 7 nights during the program at the beautiful Hotel Carolus in Florence. This gracious hotel offers four-star accommodations including private bath, air conditioning, in-room internet port, satellite TV, direct dial telephone, hairdryer and in-room safe. The hotel is ideally located in a quiet Florentine neighborhood, yet conveniently situated within walking distance to the major sights of Florence. Most accommodations are double occupancy, but there are a limited number of single rooms available. Students may choose a roommate, or the program can provide assistance to students in finding a roommate. For more information on the hotel, you may visit their website at [www.carolushotel.com](http://www.carolushotel.com).

### **Escorts**

Professor Richard Blackburn will deliver all lectures and tours. An SMU staff member will also be onsite to coordinate the program.

### **Meals**

The program includes daily buffet breakfast at the Hotel Carolus, five lunches, and one gala farewell dinner on Saturday evening.

### **Also Included**

Tours and entrance fees to the museums listed in the itinerary, transportation between the Hotel Carolus and the Villa La Pietra, and most tips and taxes.

### **Not Included**

Passports, trip insurance, personal tipping, airfare, airport taxes where applicable, airport transfers, lunches and those dinners not specified in the itinerary, laundry and room service, phone calls and textbooks.

### **Cost**

The cost is \$2,449 per person based on double occupancy. A limited number of 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 \$1,462; credit students pay the standard \$2,352 per class rate. Students are responsible for obtaining their airfare and making travel arrangements to the Hotel Carolus in Florence.

### **Dates**

Sunday, June 24 to Saturday, June 30, 2012. Check-out of the Hotel Carolus on Sunday, July 1, 2012.

### **Reservations**

Reservation deadline is March 14, 2012. The class is limited to 24 people. A non-refundable deposit of \$500 is required upon making your reservation. The balance is due March 14, 2012. Tuition is due according to regular registration policies and deadlines. To make reservations contact Kay Barclay at 972-473-3435 or [kbarclay@smu.edu](mailto:kbarclay@smu.edu).