



September 1, 2016

Interested in studying in Italy in January 2017? Then perhaps **Families in Italian Society: Changes and Challenges** is for you!

First, a bit more about this unique class. At St. Thomas, this course “counts” for major and minor credit in Family Studies, Italian, Justice and Peace Studies, Sociology and Criminal Justice, and Women’s Studies. While this will be Dr. Karraker’s 5<sup>th</sup> (!) sociology course in Italy, we have never been able to offer the kind of Italian language and cultural immersion that we can offer in January 2017. Most mornings, after breakfast at our hotel, we will have instruction and practice in elementary conversational Italian and culture. Then, most afternoons, we will take off for experiences around Naples, Rome, and Florence. For example:

- In Naples, we will visit a mozzarella production cooperative organized on land reclaimed from the Mafia. (And pizza! “Invented” in Naples, you’ll never have anything like it!)
- In Rome, we have planned an evening with Comunità di Sant’Egidio, an organization begun by students over three decades ago to promote peace and justice and who have as their home one of the oldest churches in Rome. (We’ll end that evening with dinner at a restaurant the Comunità runs to provide work experience for folks living with developmental disabilities.)
- In Florence, we will learn about one of the most famous families in history, the Medicis, from an Italian scholar. (Afterwards, we will be treated to a special tour of that most-beautiful city.)

And, throughout our time together, expect to taste wonderful food (and to cook some yourselves), view impressive historical and artistic sites (including Michelangelo’s David), and meet with a variety of Italian scholars and professionals who are “in the trenches” with Italian families (Catholic sisters living in solidarity with the poor, social workers, and others).

If the possibility of this course excites you as much as it does us, we strongly encourage you to officially register at your earliest possible convenience. Any questions? Want to talk with one of us face-to-face? Glad to! You will find our emails below. (Also, please note: Dr. Karraker had the pleasure of serving as Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology at St. Olaf 1989-1990 – so she KNOWS what great students we’d have from St. Olaf!)

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