

PSY 498

Psychology and Aesthetics: A Focus on Italy

Summer 2024



Savor the Beauty of Italy!

The course will explore aesthetics, the nature of art, beauty and personal tastes, from a psychological perspective. We will focus on the human visual, auditory, gustatory and olfactory senses in an attempt to explore how an understanding of these sensory systems can help make sense of aesthetic preferences.

The highlight of the course will be a 2-week trip to Italy. While in Rome, Siena and Florence, we will focus on the history of Italian ideals of aesthetics in the realms of sights, music, flavors and smells. We will marvel at masterpieces of artistic and architectural splendor. We will learn from expert chefs, perfumers, and winemakers to study our relationships to beautiful scent and flavor. We will study with composers and musicians to ask why pieces of music trigger deep emotions like joy and anguish. Savor Italy with us!

Prerequisites: PSY 100 & instructor approval. For an application and more info, contact Dr. Karen Kostan: 231 Health Science Building or kostan-k@mssu.edu.