THE WRITING WORKSHOPS IN BRUNNENBURG
PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION 2017
FACULTY & STAFF

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- Program Coordinator: Aneta Komendarczyk
- Literature Professor: Mary de Rachewiltz
- Student Ambassador: Melissa McLain
SOME THINGS TO DISCUSS:

- Passport & Visas
- Safe Traveling
- Arriving in Dorf Tirol
- Currency
- What To Pack
- Contact Information
- Housing
- Meals
- Medical
- Calendar
**Passport**

- Always travel with your passport.
- Keep a photocopy in your room and with someone back home, in case you lose the original.
- If it gets lost, contact the U.S. embassy in Milan, as well as the program staff.

**Visa**

- Students are required to obtain their own visa, if needed.
- Students who are U.S. citizens staying in the country less than 90 days are not required to get a visa.

http://studentsabroad.state.gov/
SAFE TRAVELING

- Never go anywhere alone! Always inform someone of where you are going.
- Understand & comply with the rules of the program.
- Be respectful of the different cultures and people you will be encountering. You are representing yourself, your school, and your country.
- Accept responsibility for your own decisions and actions.
- Become familiar with emergency procedures for obtaining emergency health and law enforcement services.
- Be aware of your surroundings and think ahead.
When traveling overseas, there are a number of precautions which you should follow in order to travel safely:

- Do not leave your bags or belongings unattended at any time.
- Do not let anyone give you something to carry when traveling.
- Never keep all your documents and money in one place and make duplicate copies of your documents (especially your passport).
- Always be alert to your surroundings and be cautious when traveling.
- Do not travel while intoxicated.
- Let people know where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Have sufficient funds and/or a credit card on hand to purchase emergency items such as transportation tickets.
- Be cautious when you meet new people and do not bring them back to your room.
ARRIVING IN DORF TIROL

Group transportation will be provided to any participant who can meet at the Munich airport by 2 pm on Monday July 10.

Participants will meet in Terminal 1, Level 2, between concourses B and C. The meeting point is next to a café by The Children’s Corner.

Anyone who is unable to meet at the designated time and location should contact the Academic Director for detailed instructions on traveling to Dorf Tirol via Merano, Italy.
**MONEY**

**ATM Card**

- Check with your bank or credit card provider to ensure that your card(s) can be used internationally.
- Let your bank know you are traveling internationally to prevent freezing of your accounts.

**Cash**

- While many banks in the U.S. and Italy can exchange dollars for Euros, it is usually cheaper to withdraw cash from an ATM.
- Be aware of your surroundings when withdrawing cash, and carry it in small amounts in a secure location.
- Traveler’s checks are not recommended.

**Exchange rate**

1 Euro = $1.10 (5/1/17)
**WHAT TO PACK**

**Computer:**
You should plan to bring your laptop for academic and personal use. There is Internet access in the castle.

**Clothing:**
Prepare for some cool nights as well as warm days. Layers are essential, as are good walking shoes.

**In Your Carry-On:**
Bring your passport, bank card, credit cards, and the pre-departure booklet. You can survive with these things even if you lose everything else.

Bring a backpack or smaller bag for our weekend trip to Venice, and any other travel you plan to take. Keep in mind that you will have to carry what you bring for four or more weeks. And you will likely bring home more than you take with you, so leave room in your suitcase for souvenirs.
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

Electrical outlets in Italy are 220-240 Volts. You will need to bring plug adapters (not converters) for electrical appliances such as laptop computers, camera chargers, etc. The adapter you need will be called "US to Italy Adapter" or “Grounded Universal Plug Adapter for Italy,” and can be found at travel accessory stores, electronics stores, or online.

Warning: do not bring devices with heating elements, such as hair dryers. They will NOT work!
**USING CELLPHONES IN ITALY**

**How can you call home?**

1. VOIP Programs, such as Skype, Google chat and WhatsApp.

2. European cell phones can be purchased relatively easily (and inexpensively) in Italy. There are numerous prepaid SIM card options, with various perks, depending on the provider.

3. Your U.S. cell phone may also be used, but it will probably be expensive.

4. When calling home, dial 001 before the number.
THE CROFT

- Students reside in a renovated 17th century farmhouse within the castle compound.
- Single and double rooms
- Shared bathrooms, laundry, and communal kitchen
MEALS

Breakfast and lunch: Breakfast and lunch are provided Monday through Friday.

Other Meals: One dinner per week is included. Breakfast is provided during the three-day excursion to Venice.

All other meals are on your own. For weekend meals and dinners not provided during the week, former participants have enjoyed purchasing supplies in the local markets for cooking and picnics, or discovering the local inns and restaurants.

Tipping is not required in restaurants in Italy
STUDY ABROAD MEDICAL INSURANCE

The University of New Orleans Study Abroad Insurance Plan coverage is included in the program cost. This is an accidental medical insurance plan, and covers hospital visits. Routine doctor’s visits are not covered.

To extend the policy for travel related to the trip before or after the official dates of the trip, contact T.W. Lord & Associates at 1-800-633-2360.

Available online at http://inst.uno.edu/insurance.cfm
MEDICAL ISSUES

Notify the program director if you are sick or injured during your stay. More serious illnesses or after-hour emergencies will be referred to local doctors or the hospital as needed.

Some things to bring with you:
- Multivitamins
- Antacid tablets
- Cold and flu medications
- Band-Aids and antibiotic cream
- Your prescription medications

Be aware if you have any medicines that require a prescription, you will not be able to refill them in Italy. Please bring the amount necessary to get through the entirety of the program.
Upon arrival in Brunnenburg you will receive a packet of information with a Statement of Responsibilities. As a participant on the program, you will be expected to comply with these regulations.
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Excursion dates subject to change
EXCURSIONS

Merano, Dorf Tirol, and Italian Alps

3 nights in one of Italy’s greatest cities. Hotel, breakfasts, and one other meal per day are provided.

Venice