

## **Humans on the Move: Migration, Justice and Identity**

**July 1 – 20, 2019**

Humans on the Move: Migration, Justice and Identity is a unique study abroad summer program that offers students the opportunity to study and explore two great cities in Europe; Rome and Malta.

The city of Rome, one of the most historic cities in Europe, capital of the Republic of Italy and home to an entire country, the Vatican State, is one of the two classrooms of this fusion experience. Layers upon layers of history draw the historic, artistic and cultural landscape of the eternal city of Rome where modern complexities of social justice, migration and displacement form part of the city's modern cultural identity.

Further south in Europe, situated in the center of the Mediterranean Sea, the island of Malta is unique in the Mediterranean region for its heritage and rich cultural and religious history. From 60 A.D. when St. Paul on his way to Rome brought Christianity to Malta, to 1530 when Charles V bequeathed Malta to the Sovereign Military Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Malta, just like Rome, has been on the crossroads of civilizations from Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Students enrolled in the *Humans on the Move; Migration, Justice and Identity* fusion program will register in ROST 382 Human Rights; The View from Rome and THEO 279 Roman Catholicism and will use Rome and Malta as their *classrooms*. This pairing of courses examine Human rights and social justice from the perspective of Catholic social thought and service and offer onsite lectures at breathtaking cultural sites in Rome and Malta, opportunities for meaningful service to the community and experiences tailored for full cultural immersion and cross cultural understanding.

Students will delve into the social, political and economic dimensions of Europe's migrant and refugee crisis in both locations. Interdisciplinary in scope, this fusion experience approaches human migration from a religious, philosophical and political perspective by debating over the universality of migration, social justice and cultural identities. Classes will take place in historic religious sites like *St. Ignatius Church* and *St. Peter's Cathedral* in Rome, *The Church of Our Lady of the Victories*, the oldest Church in Malta and the *Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel*, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Valetta, the capital of Malta. Students will also visit numerous humanitarian aid organizations and will engage in service learning at the Jesuit Refugee center in Rome and Malta, as both cities are currently crossroads and social hubs for migrants and refugees on the move.

The pairing of onsite lectures at religious sites with visits to humanitarian aid organizations will provide a deeper understanding of the interaction between religion and migration along with the role of religious organizations in fostering hospitality and respect while challenging polarization and division.

The format of this experience will begin with a week of courses in Rome, where students will participate in both on campus lectures and onsite visits to the city. The group will then travel to Malta for approximately 10 days, after which they will return to the Rome Center campus for the last few days of the session to regroup and sit for final exams before a mandatory departure on July 20. Please note that the schedule between July 2-19 is tentative schedule and subject to change.