

# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA STUDY ABROAD CONSORTIUM

## NEWSLETTER

Vol: 5

Florence, Italy  
9 March 2026



### NCSAC WEEK 5

#### NCSAC WEEK 5

During the fourth week, students had many academic visits around Florence, a guest lecture in the Creative Non-Fiction course, an Italian Life & Culture lecture on Food Culture and Regional Italian Cuisine followed by a cooking class on Thursday and some students spent the weekend in Venice with AIFS staff. Another week full of activities. Just one more week to go before the Spring Break! Enjoy-



[www.aifscustomized.com](http://www.aifscustomized.com)

## ARTDM136 VISIT THE BOBOLI GARDENS

Students in the Introduction to Digital Photography class visited the Boboli Gardens here in Florence; a large historic park behind the Pitti Palace that was created in the 16th century for the Medici family. The gardens are famous for their sculptures, fountains, and carefully designed landscapes that became a model for many European royal gardens. Such a great place to take pictures!



## GUEST LECTURE IN ENG164

On Monday, students in the Creative Non-Fiction course invited, Kamin Mohammadi, a guest lecturer into their class. She did a lecture on non-fiction memoir writing. This is great for students as it gives them an opportunity to get a new perspective and learn from someone new!

## BIO300 VISITS LA SPECOLA

On Tuesday, students in the Biology 300 course visited La Specola, one of the oldest scientific museums in Europe, founded in 1775 as part of the University of Florence's natural history collections. It is famous for its detailed 18th-century anatomical wax models and its large zoological collection displayed in historic cabinets.



## ILC LECTURE / CHEFACTORY COOKING CLASS

As part of Italian Life & Culture, students were split into two groups for a cooking class on Thursday. They made a potato souffle as an appetizer, homemade pasta with a meat sauce and a vegetarian sauce and panna cotta as dessert. Students love this activity as they get to also enjoy the food after and will receive the recipes to make for friends and family upon their return.



## WEEKEND IN VENICE

On Friday, some students took a weekend trip with AIFS Staff to Venice! Leaving early on Friday morning via high-speed train and arriving to Venice in the late morning. They had a historical guided walking tour of the city and then had the opportunity on Saturday to take a private boat to Murano to see a glassblowing demonstration. With plenty of free-time, students were able to explore the “floating city” and return to Florence in the early evening on Sunday.

## COMING NEXT:

This week, students are preparing for Spring Break but we are still keeping them busy – a challenge of time management! This week, students from the PSYCH356 class will attend a lecture at our other AIFS Study Center in Florence in regards to International Women’s Day. ATR42 and ASTR4 students will visit the Galileo Museum here in Florence and Art History students will visit the Palazzo Medici. Students then have an ILC lecture on Italian Politics on Tuesday and Seminars with their home faculty on Thursday before heading off on Spring Break.

