

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR INTERIM ABROAD APPLICATION  
RELIGION 262: CATHOLIC ROME, LUTHERAN WITTENBERG**

Since we will be spending a lot of time together in a different cultural environment, it is important that we create a good group. Therefore, before I select the group, I would like to know a little more about you. No need for really long answers, but you should think carefully about these matters before you respond. It would probably best to type out your answers on another sheet of paper. Please submit this to me around the time you turn in your application form or shortly thereafter. Please also indicate if you are agreeable to the conditions for participation – sign and hand in.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Alias: \_\_\_\_\_

**1) ACADEMIC BACKGROUND AND INTERESTS:**

Major(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Other notable interests (academic or otherwise): \_\_\_\_\_

Have you studied any topics that would be relevant background for this course on religion and culture (religion, history, politics, sociology, classics, fine arts etc.)? Does your personal religious background provide you with resources to analyze/evaluate what you will see in Italy and Germany (experience /knowledge of Catholicism or Protestantism)?

Do you have any knowledge of Latin, Italian or German languages? Are you interested in the optional FLAC credit – for those who would like to do some reading and conversation during the course in German?

**2) MOTIVATION FOR TAKING THE COURSE:**

What do you most want to get out of this overseas interim? What are your goals? Are there particular aspects of the course which are most appealing to you?

**3) TRAVEL AND CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE:** Have you ever traveled before in a foreign or different cultural setting? If so, where and in what kind of a program (with a group? by yourself?) Have you ever spent time traveling or living closely together with a group such that you know what it might be like to be with a group in Italy and Germany for a month?

**4) WHERE THIS FITS IN YOUR PLANS:** Why do you want to do this program as opposed to other St. Olaf offerings? Does this course fit in any way as a piece in the larger academic or personal plan you have for yourself or is it an adventure unrelated to your usual interests?

**5) PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:** Do a little self-analysis. How particular are you about what you eat? Do you plan out your days very carefully or are you more spontaneous in your time-management? Do you like to be surprised or do you work best when you can anticipate what you are going to encounter? What do you do to relax and re-energize yourself when you feel stress or frustration?

[Note: There isn't a 'right' answer I'm looking for. I want to see, however, how well you 'know yourself' and have thought about what works for you as coping mechanisms in daily life.]

**6) CONCERNS:** In order to help you get the most out of the program, I need to be sensitive to your personal needs as well as your academic interests and qualifications. Do you have any worries or concerns about the program? Do you have any special needs I should know about?

**7) PREPARATION:** What kinds of things would you like me to do by way of orientation before we take off? Do you hope to prepare yourself for the trip in any special way?

**Check if you are agreeable to these expectations:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that this is an academic program, and consequently I will be expected to attend classes, do assigned readings and prepare some writing assignments in addition to enjoying various experiential and touristic activities while in Italy/Germany.

\_\_\_\_\_ Although the program begins in January 2009, I will make my best effort to be involved in all orientation activities in prior months. I am also willing to put in some time to make myself knowledgeable about Italy and Germany before the program begins.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I am agreeing to being part of a group and that it is possible that at times I may need to sacrifice some of my personal preferences in order to contribute to the welfare of the whole. I am willing not only to be tolerant of others and cooperative but also to look for ways in which I can take some initiative to make this a positive experience for all involved.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will not knowingly engage in any activities that are detrimental to my own health, my full participation in this academic program or the reputation of the group. I will accept the advice of the accompanying professor if there are any questions about what is appropriate as we study abroad in a foreign culture

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

