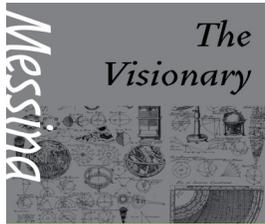
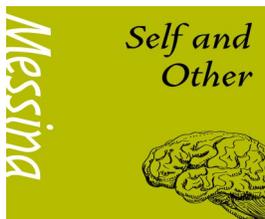


MESSINA



“This theme explores how the creativity and imagination of the visionary can transform the world.”



“It explores how we imagine the other and how those imaginings shape our willingness to learn from, sympathize with, and open ourselves to the other.”

More than just a class By David Campos

Worried about making new friends? The class size? Messina's got you! Loyola's first-year program, Messina, offers a variety of classes for students to take. All first-year students must take a pairing of classes through Messina. But what makes Messina important? It consists of four themes: The Visionary, Self and Other, Stories We Tell, and The

Good Life. The themes help students learn in a different way inside and outside the classroom. Each of the themes has a different vision, but they all have one common goal: make first-year students comfortable at Loyola and in Baltimore. Messina helps students get acclimated to their new home because of the learning experience it offers.



How does Messina work?

The pairings are two linked classes, one in the fall and one in the spring, connected to a Messina theme. For example, a pairing of classes connected to the Stories We Tell theme will be “Stories We Picture” (Photography) and “Stories We See” (English). Another pairing which is connected to the Self and Other theme will be “Victims and Villains:

Writing about Peace and Violence” (Writing) and “You, Me, and Society: What's your story?” (Sociology). A pairing connected to The Visionary theme is “Criminal Law and *The Wire* in Baltimore” (Law and Social Responsibility) and “Empathy, Art, and Imagination” (Fine Arts). Finally, a pairing connected to The Good Life theme is

“Theology and The Good Life” (Theology) and “Foundations of Philosophy” (Philosophy). The classes are taught in the different first-year residence halls on campus. And in addition to having your two teachers during the year (one of them is your advisor), you're also paired with an administrator mentor and an Evergreen who are with you all year.

Where is the fun part about Messina?

When you move in to the university, you meet with your Messina group, who are the students in the class, and your Evergreen, who is an upper-class student at Loyola. Together you go over the activities you will be doing during Fall Welcome Weekend. It's fun when you get to spend time with your group for the three days.

Some activities you will be doing include eating lunch at Boulder, going to information sessions, and reflecting after each session. The lectures vary from either the Messina program or the student life at Loyola.



Learning outside the classroom

During the enrichment hour, which is an extra hour added once a week to a normal class time, we look at topics like Housing, Registration, and Getting Around Baltimore. In our extended enrichment time, trips are planned to different places in Baltimore. Some of the trips include the Inner Harbor,

historical museums, restaurants, and interesting neighborhoods in Baltimore like Fells Point, Hampden, and Federal Hill. This gives you the opportunity to explore the community you will be living in for your next four years. It's important to know your surroundings or even to know where to go

on the weekends. So instead of staying in the classroom, you and your group go explore Baltimore. Your first semester is over? Don't worry! More trips are coming your way. Although your class changes, you stay with your group for the entire school year.

Personal experience with Messina

Let me tell you about my experience with Messina. Like you, I was not familiar with the program when I committed to Loyola. Therefore, when I got the survey I picked random pairings of classes. My Messina pairing was Spanish 203 (fall semester) and Latin American History 108 (spring semester), which is connected to the theme Stories We Tell. Something I

liked about my pairing was that I got to know the professors well. I went to their office hours to ask for advice because they're a great resource. With my class, during the fall semester, we went to The Walters Art Museum to learn about the different events that happened in Spain back in the day through paintings. After that, we went to a restaur-

ant called Tio Pepe to taste the variety of food from Spain. We had a fun time learning about the Spanish culture. Keep in mind, your Messina group is the first group of people you meet when you move in to Loyola. The friendship keeps on growing as the semester goes by.

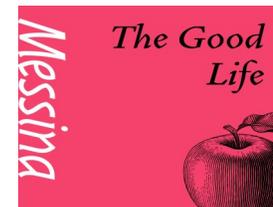
The outcome

Messina helps students get acclimated to the Loyola community and to Baltimore, especially if you're from far away like me—making you feel like you never left home. Even though Messina is a requirement for incoming first-year students, don't see it as a class—but as a learning experience. Not all colleges have a program like Messina so take advantage of it! You're lucky to attend a place where people care about your success!



"We use stories to explain ourselves to others, to make sense of our history and our experience.

Ultimately, we use them to organize our world. This theme explores the power of the stories we tell."



"The good life, above all, is defined by values—most notions of the good life include a sense of belonging, spiritual fulfillment, and the attainment of knowledge. How do we aspire to specific ways of being, and how do those aspirations shape the way we live?"