

❖❖ Learning Tuscany, Summer 2027 ❖❖

Week of Monday, May 31

Wednesday, June 2: STUDENTS LEAVE US

- 6/3 (Th): **Arrive Rome:** Check in at Albergo Santa Chiara; orientation at IES, sleep!
6/4 (F): **Rome:** Ancient Day: Colosseum, Forum, Campidoglio, Pantheon; **group dinner**
6/5 (Sa): **Rome:** Renaissance Day: Vatican Museums, St. Peter's
6/6 (Su): **Rome:** Baroque Day: Gesù, S. Luigi dei Francesi, Borghese

Week of Monday, June 7

- 6/7 (M): **Rome:** Medieval Day: Roman Ghetto, medieval frescoes and mosaics, Trastevere: **group dinner**
6/8 (T): **Siena:** by coach bus: Get settled, brief walking tour, **welcome dinner**
6/9 (W): **Class:** introduction and orientation am, visit to Mercato (market); ART pm
6/10 (Th): **Class:** Piazza del Campo, Palazzo Pubblico am; ART pm
6/11 (F): **Florence (Firenze)** by rail. Walking tour of the major monuments of the city. Return by bus.
6/12-13 (Sa-Su) **FREE WEEKEND**

Week of Monday, June 14

- 6/14 (M): **Class:** Siena Duomo, crypt, and baptistery am; ART pm
6/15 (T): **Class:** Duomo Museum am; ART pm
6/16 (W): **Class:** Ospedale di Santa Maria della Scala am; ART pm, **group dinner in Selva contrada**
6/17 (Th): **Class:** San Domenico, Santuario di Santa Caterina, Fonte Branda am; ART pm
6/18 (F): **Florence (Firenze)** by rail. San Marco and the Duomo Museum. Return by bus after long weekend.
6/19-22 (Sa-T) **LONG WEEKEND**

Week of Monday, June 21

- 6/21 (M): **Return from long weekend**
6/22 (T): **Return from long weekend**
6/23 (W): **Class:** SM dei Servi am, Porta Romana: ART pm
6/24 (Th): **Class:** Biccherna museum (Archivio) am; ART pm
6/25 (F): **Florence** by rail; Uffizi
6/26-27 **FREE WEEKEND**

Week of Monday, June 28

- 6/28 (M) **Class:** San Francesco am; ART pm
6/29 (T) **Class:** Pinacoteca am; ART pm
6/30 (W): **Class:** Work on Projects; ART pm
7/1 (Th): **Class:** Work on Projects; ART pm
7/2 (F): **Palio Day**
7/3-4 **FREE WEEKEND**

Week of Monday, July 5

- 7/5 (M): **The Italian Countryside (maybe Monte Oliveto Maggiore?):** agricultural visit and lunch or dinner?
7/6-8 (T-Th): **Class:** finish Projects; ART pm
7/9 (F): **Student Exhibition; farewell dinner**
7/10 (Sa): Check out of apartments a.m.; **departure from Siena**

Learning Tuscany: Course Descriptions, Summer 2027

Learning Tuscany, ART 319T / ART 352J / ART 379T

Drawing Invisible Cities

Instructor: Farima Fooladi, Assistant Professor, Studio Art (ffooladi@austin.utexas.edu)

How do artists experience a city differently from tourists? This course invites students to move beyond the familiar images of Rome and Siena to discover the cities that emerge through sustained observation, drawing, and return. Working primarily in sketchbooks and on location, students will develop a daily drawing practice that explores overlooked spaces, fleeting moments, architectural details, and personal encounters. Through readings, discussions, museum visits, and repeated engagement with the same places, each student will construct an "invisible city" a unique visual record shaped not by guidebooks or monuments, but by their own attention, memory, and imagination.

Learning Tuscany 2027, ARH 331J (VAPA)

Holy Ground: Art and Pilgrimage in Medieval and Renaissance Italy

Instructor: Dr. Ann Johns, Distinguished Senior Lecturer, Art History

(acjohns@austin.utexas.edu)

Why did people travel in the Middle Ages and Renaissance Italy? How were these journeys reflected in art and architecture, whether as portable objects (small altarpieces), illustrated books and manuscripts, narratives of journeys, pilgrimage churches (such as San Domenico and the Ospedale of Santa Maria della Scala in Siena), or large-scale paintings of experienced or spiritual travel, such as Ambrogio Lorenzetti's *Good Government* frescoes in Siena? And how different was the medieval pilgrim, collecting her religious tokens along a pilgrimage route, from today's cultural "pilgrim", who might collect T-shirts, post-cards, or even countries themselves? Italy has long been a destination for travelers of every ilk: foreign merchants, religious pilgrims, travelers in seek of adventure, and cultural enthusiasts. In the Middle Ages and Renaissance, the economies of Siena, Florence, and Rome were greatly enriched by both religious pilgrims and lay travelers, resulting in the spectacular development of art and architecture that we know today. In this course, we will explore the notion of pilgrimage in the art and architecture of central Italy, through reading, discussion, site visits, presentations, and post-field trip analyses. While we will study and visit the great, canonical works of central Italy, we will also explore smaller and more personal elements of material culture, including relics, small paintings, and modest churches and hospitals. Throughout, we will use the issue of travel and pilgrimage as a prism with which we can focus our explorations.

"Typical" Days on the Learning Tuscany program

1. A Field Trip Day (not Rome)

We leave for Florence (3 times) or the Italian Countryside (once) by train or coach bus **early** (around 7:00 or 7:30); give yourselves plenty of time to get to the train or bus station, and remember that it gets light around 5:00, so it's not as hard to get up. You'll also want to make sure your knees, stomachs, and shoulders can be covered for church visits. Try to grab some coffee and breakfast for the train/bus ride; more bars are selling coffee in "to go" cups, which are fine for the train but less so for a bus. We'll arrive in our city/town and have time for coffee/bathroom/more food. We'll look at art/have time to make art as a group until lunch, and usually have some free time. We'll meet in the afternoon for more looking at art/ART. For the 3 Florence trips, you'll have a return bus ticket so that you can take one of the many express buses back to Siena. So you can go back to Siena to eat dinner, stay in Florence, or go somewhere for the weekend. You will have taken a preparatory quiz prior to each field trip, so you'll be prepared. We go to Florence at the ends of 3 weeks, so that you can catch another train if you want to travel over the weekend. We'll give you time in the morning to check your overnight bags in the Florence train station.

2. A Field Trip Day, Rome

The breakfast buffet at our hotel opens at 7:00. There is a large selection of food (cereal, rolls, juices and coffee, yogurt, cheese, meats, and eggs) but be sure to eat in the breakfast room; they get freaked out if you try to take food out of the breakfast area. We will usually be ready to hit the streets of Rome by 8:30, and they are LONG and FABULOUS days, with all of our classes on site. You will have breaks for lunch. There should be a mini fridge in your room; you could go to an *alimentari* (grocery store) and get some lunch supplies to keep in your fridge. This is a great way to save some money. You will need to be rested, fed, and hydrated for these days, because we do a lot of walking (at a brisk pace) and looking (you'll need to develop your museum stamina if you don't have it already)!

3. Days in Siena

Your weekdays in Siena will typically be very full. Even at the end, you'll have projects and you'll be getting ready for your Siena (and later VAC) exhibition, so you need to keep up with your work. Don't get frustrated! Remember that this is not a vacation; you are getting 6 hours of credit for this, and surely you want to learn a lot! But if you're feeling overwhelmed, please come talk to Ann, Farima, and/or your TA, because our intent is to teach you as much as possible while still giving you time to explore Siena.

Typically, we will meet somewhere around 9:00 for the art history class. This will be onsite at the Duomo, a museum, the Ospedale, or even a café for discussion of the readings. Expect to stay focused for much of the morning. We will then give you time for lunch and errands. After lunch, you'll have Farima's studio class, usually from 2-5. Some days you'll be in the classroom, but much of the time you'll be in the city, making your work. These are full days!

For the art history component of the program, you will begin working in groups on your group project at the end of the program. So, at the end, I'll meet with individual groups on a rotating basis, which means I won't meet with each person every day. You'll have Farima's class in the afternoon, as you work toward your final exhibitions.