There are hardly words to describe how amazing and influential the class in Italy was on me. To encounter some of the greatest works of art ever made left a lasting mark on me. Most importantly, being given the chance to make my own art in another country opened previously unknown doors. We were fortunate enough to experience the radiant culture of Italians which was truly a gift. The Experimental Drawing in Italy course was honestly a life-changing experience.

- Rachel Strilec

The month I spent in Italy was, without question, one of the best experiences of my life and of my college career. It was a month spent learning through both knowledgeable teachers and enthusiastic exploration. The experiences that I had there greatly influenced my work and my outlook on life, and I would do it again without hesitation.

- Anthony Montuori

My experience with the summer study abroad program in Italy with Hudson Valley Community College was life-changing. Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance, is the ideal place for an art student to begin their studies. The month-long trip gave me a whole new perspective. Not just on the history of art, but also with regard to what I will choose to do with the knowledge that I gained.

- Theresa DiCesare

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Hudson Valley Community College
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ARTS225
Experimental Drawing in Italy

For more than a decade now, Hudson Valley Community College’s Department of Fine Arts, Theatre Arts and Broadcast Communications, in partnership with the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS), has offered a three-credit, month-long Experimental Drawing in Italy course. During four weeks in Rome and Florence, students explore their relationship with the ideas, images and architecture of the Italian Renaissance.

The class

Experimental Drawing in Italy makes critical use of the unrivaled art and ideas surrounding the students on a daily basis in two of the most beautiful and historically rich cities in the world. Students will come face to face with the works of masters of the Italian Renaissance and will chart their own artistic paths as they explore the ideas, techniques and contexts of the foundations of contemporary Western art.

Co-taught by Hudson Valley’s Fine Arts Professors Thomas Lail and Tara Fracalossi, the class is a three-credit, Fine Arts studio course that fulfills a required elective for the Fine Arts Program. Studio space is provided in Florence, but Experimental Drawing in Italy also will meet at other museums, galleries, architectural sites and locations throughout Rome and Florence. A museum fee, included in the tuition, covers nearly all museum entrance costs during the month. As a prerequisite to this course, students must have successfully completed a college-level Drawing 1 course or have permission of the professors to enroll.

Sites and museums to be visited include:
- The Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter’s Basilica (Rome)
- The Roman Forum (Rome)
- The Capitoline (Rome)
- The Colosseum (Rome)
- The Pantheon (Rome)
- The Uffizi Gallery (Florence)
- The Academia, (Michelangelo’s “David,” Florence)
- The Palazzo Pitti (Florence)
- San Lorenzo and the Laurentian Library (Florence)
- The Academia (Venice)
- La Scuola Grande (Venice)

And many more…

The month

Departure from New York: Saturday May 30, 2015
Departure from Italy: Saturday June 27, 2015

Upon arrival in Italy, students and faculty spend four days in Rome visiting museums and sites throughout the city from their centrally located hotel in Rome. Two group dinners in Rome are included.

Students and faculty move to Florence for the remainder of the month. Unlike many academic programs abroad, this one provides students with apartments in the historic center of the city, within walking distance of all major museums, sites and the studio. Little to no transportation will be needed once in Florence. Shared apartments are furnished and come equipped with full, working kitchens. Students may request roommates.

A meal plan is also included while in Florence, providing ten meals at a variety of great Florentine restaurants.

Students are not expected to possess Italian language skills, although most learn some words and phrases simply by living in Florence. English is widely spoken in both Rome and Florence, and AIFS on-site staff and faculty speak Italian and will be available to assist students with any language needs.

Cost of tuition and fees

Experimental Drawing in Italy is a complete and comprehensive experience. Wherever possible, costs have been included to minimize hidden and additional expenses.

The month-long package includes:
- Round-trip airfare from New York to Italy
- Hotel lodging in Rome (double/triple occupancy) with breakfast each day
- Transportation to and from Florence
- Accommodations in Florence in shared, centrally located, furnished apartments (two students per room)
- Meal plan for ten lunches or dinners at a variety of Florentine restaurants
- Museum fee covering most museum/historic site entrances
- Day trip to Venice and museum entrances
- Day trip to Siena and museum entrances
- Studio space in Florence
- Accompanying faculty members’ travel and accommodations and helpful staff at American Institute for Foreign Study’s Italy Study Center
- Travel insurance (details available)

Package cost: $6346 + $125 refundable deposit (including Hudson Valley Community College credits and museum fee)

*Materials, required books/textbooks, spending money etc. not included

Deadline for deposit

Tuesday March 3, 2015
Deposit of $450

Enrollment is limited. Costs are based on minimum enrollment of 13 students and are subject to change.