



# AU in Tuscany: Arts & Religion

Aesthetics or Religion Core  
Meets the CCI Requirement

May 5 - 19, 2025

**ASHLAND**  
UNIVERSITY  

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STUDY ABROAD

# Retreat to the Italian countryside!

## CONTACT

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**Study Abroad Office**  
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## HOW TO APPLY

1. Submit \$500 non-refundable deposit, check made out to Ashland University or a debit/credit card, to the Study Abroad Office (Bixler 211) prior to the deadline. You can call 419-289-5870 with debit/credit card information. Limited seats, so apply early!
2. Register for spring semester course linked to tour.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST & SCHOLAR RETREAT

Students studying art will use on site studios to work on pieces which reflect on art as it relates to modern philosophical thought. Students will have to the opportunity to study and interact with artifacts in Italy.

Students studying religion will participate in readings and reflections on the history and spirituality of monasticism. Additional content will facilitate understanding the religious and cultural significance of the churches and religious sites on our itinerary.

Students will stay in a dormitory space in a renovated monastery outside Siena, Italy. The monastery includes three-studio classrooms for artists, several discussion rooms, and presentation spaces.

## SPRING SEMESTER 2025 COURSE OPTIONS (CHOOSE ONE): COURSEWORK TAKEN SPRING SEMESTER PRIOR TO THE TOUR.

- REL 234 History of Christian Worship – Religion Elective (#1 Recommended)
- REL 106 Exploring the Bible – Religion core class
- REL 107 Exploring World Religions – Religion core class
- REL 305 Advanced New Testament – Religion Elective
- ART 150 Art and Ideas – Aesthetics core class
- ART 160 (all concentrations) – Aesthetics core class
- Any Art major/minor in 200/300/400 level studio class – Art Elective

## ESTIMATED PROGRAM COST

**Approximately \$2,300** (Tentative until flights are booked)

**INCLUDED:** Round trip flight from Ohio to Rome, two nights' accommodation in Rome, day trip to Florence, public bus transportation to Siena, 3 meals a day while at the monastery, international health insurance.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Meals in Rome, Siena and Florence (\$100+), taxis & public transportation (\$60), expenses for passport (\$165), ETIAS travel visa (\$7-\$9), personal spending.

DAY	LOCATION	TENTATIVE ITINERARY
1	Travel	Depart from USA
2	Rome, Italy	Arrive in Rome. Visit the Galleria Borghese, viewing some of the greatest artworks from the Baroque period, including several by Gian Lorenzo Bernini.
3	Rome, Italy/Travel	Explore the Papal Museums at the Vatican. Travel by private bus to Monasterino della Conoscenza, near Siena, Italy.
4	Monasterino della Conoscenza	Participate in art-making and topic discussions while experiencing the Tuscany countryside in and around an 11 <sup>th</sup> century monastery. Days may include visits to a local apiary, special food-tasting activities, and welcoming interactions with area residents.
5	Siena, Italy	Spend the day visiting the Siena Cathedral and surrounding sites.
6	TBA	Participate in a unique service project, focused on interaction with local populations and places.
7	Monasterino della Conoscenza	Participate in art-making and topic discussions while experiencing the Tuscany countryside in and around an 11 <sup>th</sup> century monastery.
8	Florence, Italy	Visit the prominent sites of Florence, Italy, including Brunelleschi's Duomo, the Torre di Giotto, and the Basilica of Santa Croce.
9	Monasterino della Conoscenza	Participate in art-making and topic discussions while experiencing the Tuscany countryside in and around an 11 <sup>th</sup> century monastery.
10	TBA	Free day for students to explore the Tuscany region according to their small group itineraries.
11-12	Monasterino della Conoscenza	Participate in art-making and topic discussions, culminating in a final display and presentation of student achievements for the group and the monastery staff.
13	Rome, Italy/Travel	Return to Rome for a final day exploring the eternal city.
14	Travel	Return to the USA