

Study Abroad Itinerary - May 15 - 26, 2026  
Leaders: Jodi Lightner & Mark Earnhart

**ARTH 494: Contemporary Practices: Venice Biennale and Renaissance Art History**



Experience the art from the Renaissance in Florence to Contemporary times at the Venice Biennale and explore how artists' studio practices respond to our ever-changing world.

This study abroad learning experience will be connected to Advanced Studio Workshop: ARTZ 494 for 1 credit. It will be open to all MSUB students who are currently enrolled or who express an interest in the subject matter. This learning experience will be primarily focused on visiting sites of art and culture with the intention to better interpret global visual communication.

**Learning Objectives:** Students will

1. Collect information on art and artists and identify trending themes in the Venice Biennale.
2. Converse together to examine and analyze contemporary art in the Venice Biennale during multiple group dinners.
3. Draw connections between the art/architecture of the Renaissance Art History of Florence, Italy, and contemporary art at the Venice Biennale to locate their own studio practice in art history.
4. Navigate international locations and cultures by practicing various wayfinding and immersion techniques.



## ITINERARY. May 15 – 26, 2026

**May 14** Faculty Depart Billings for Florence, Italy  
Arrive in Italy on Monday, May 15

**May 15** Students Depart Billings for Florence, Italy  
Arrive on May 16 – Tramway from airport to city center  
(\$5)

Orientation to Florence

[Hotel Nizza](#)

Via del Giglio, 5 - 50123 Firenze, Italy

Tel. [+39 055 2396897](tel:+390552396897)

[info@hotelnizza.com](mailto:info@hotelnizza.com)

**May 16 – 19** Florence Itinerary:

**May 17** 9 am Depart Hotel

1. Accademia – Michelangelo
2. Lunch at the Market- *Mercato Centrale*
3. Medici Chaple – Michelangelo Baptistry

**May 18** 8:30 am Depart Hotel

1. Uffizi Gallery in the morning
2. Choose your own museums in the afternoon using Firenze Card

**May 19** 9 am Depart Hotel

Duomo Tour

Sacred Renaissance: Duomo, San Lorenzo, Michelangelo Baptistry, Brancusi Chapel, Sante Croce, etc.

Political Renaissance: Pitti Palace, Palazzo Vecchio, etc

Group Dinners# 1 - 2



**May 20** Depart Florence for Venice via Train in AM

**May 20 – 26** Venice Itinerary

[Al Ponte Mocenigo Hotel Venezia](#) (6 nights)

Afternoon: San Marco Basilica/Square, Walking tour

**May 20** Attend **Venice Biennale** either Giardini or Arsenale site (open 11 am – 7 pm)





Typical Day begins with hotel departure 10 am  
Visiting Biennale sites from 11 am – 5 pm  
Group Dinner # 3

**May 21** Examine other satellite sites for the Venice Biennale  
Afternoon at [Lido Beach](#) (Ferry fee to get there/chair rental, etc)

**May 22-24** Visit Venice Biennale Giardini and Arsenale for further research.  
Group Dinners # 4-5

**May 25** – Free Day

**May 26** Return flight home – Vaporetto Transport to Venice Airport. Plan your return flight to leave mid-morning or later if possible.



### Meals and Free time

- The daily itinerary will start with breakfast at the hotel followed by group attendance at the art or cultural institution scheduled.
- Be prepared to purchase your own lunch. At the Biennale, the only onsite food option is a café with various menu items including salads, sandwiches, desserts, coffee and other beverages.
- Typically, in the mid-late afternoon there will be open time for students to do self-exploration, shopping, or visit other entities not required for the group. If there is a group dinner planned, a meeting time and place will be established and announced in the morning. Group dinners will be scheduled for late evening around 8 pm (as per the Italian culture.)



**Application Process:**

1. Complete the Application by December 1<sup>st</sup>:  
<https://www.msubillings.edu/internationalstudies/studyabroad/faculty-led/Italy.htm>
2. Apply for a Passport, or check that your current passport will be valid for 6 months after travel.
3. Attend an interview with OIS and Art Faculty leaders for more trip info.

**Spring semester:**

1. Register For ARTZ 494-002: Study Abroad
2. Attend trip meetings Tuesday Evenings TBA
3. Prepare for trip by doing research on the Venice Biennale, Florence, and Venice sites/culture/food/etc.
4. Purchase Flights – Travel partners are a possibility.