OR 214 Renaissance Studies in Italy  
Instructor: John Skillen (program director)

The interdisciplinary course that provides a framework for the Orvieto program takes as historical point of departure the conditions of community life that promoted the rich production of religious and civic art in Italy during the Renaissance era. Students are invited to compare these earlier conditions with those of the past century in order to imagine how the cultural arts may be fostered by globally-sensitive communities of faith in the future.

The course is organized around six aspects of the community environment:
- The physical place of the community: architecture and civic townscape
- The community at worship: liturgy and art
- An answerable community: patrons and purpose of the arts
- A community with a shared story: the place of narrative and typology
- A community of learners: masters and apprentices in the workshop
- A community of readers: the books and ideas behind the scenes

OR 101: Italian Language Studies
Students without previous Italian language study are expected to enroll in the 2-credit course in Beginning Italian which unfolds throughout the semester mainly in small-group tutorial format, and with an emphasis on the conversational needs of daily life.

VISUAL ARTS COURSES

OR 372: Special Topics in Studio Art: Drawing  
Instructor: Matt Doll
Through intense in-studio drawing sessions that involve dynamic spatial constructions, still-life, the figure and the landscape, this course students emphasizes drawing as a way to engage, map and describe the details that are essential to any environment, but specific to the site of Orvieto. This dialogue with the city or urban context is intended to show how the inner life of notation, description and recognition can be intimately related to the outer world of making.

OR 374: Special Topics in Studio Art: Woodblock Printing  
Instructor: Peggy Parker
Woodcut is among the most direct of printmaking techniques: woodcut prints can be created entirely by hand with a minimum of equipment. For these reasons the woodcut was one of the earliest types of prints, and it has a long and distinguished history as a fine arts medium and also as a means of political, social, and religious commentary. In this course we'll tap into that tradition, first exploring the woodcut in its most basic form - the simple (but powerful) black and white image. We'll also create color woodcuts using multiple blocks and we'll study at least one experimental technique. Each student will complete a final project - a small portfolio of prints created in one woodcut technique or engaging one topic.

OR 370: Special Topics in Studio Art: Ceramics as Sculptural Medium  
Instructor: Marino Moretti
Orvieto’s stature as a center of ceramic art reaches without interruption back to its Etruscan origins before 500 B.C.E. A mark of this tradition has been the Umbrian openness to, and creative adaptation of, the ceramic art of other cultures, as in the geometric designs and comical bestiary motifs of medieval majolica, and the Renaissance refinements of the pottery of daily use.