

October 2019

**General Message to Students interested in the
Rome Social Science Summer 2020 Program**

Program Dates: May 23 to June 27, 2020

Dear Prospective Rome Summer 2020 Students:

The Social Science Italy Program for summer 2020, which will be held in the “Eternal City” of Rome, is open to all majors in all colleges at MSU. The program will focus on current global dynamics, including urban dynamics, in economic, political and cultural globalization. A special focus will be placed on factors of international interdependence, cooperation, and conflict, and all explored through the lens of urban sustainability. About ten Italian professors and international experts will be invited as guest speakers to deal with issues of the international economy, urban dynamics, international affairs, the European Union, European politics, the Middle East, Africa, and Italian history, art and culture. The role of the European Community and transnational corporations (TNCs) in contemporary dynamics of globalization, including within urban regions, and how they impact America’s international role will be important foci of the program.

The list of courses you may choose for Rome 2020 is included below. You may also check the following link:

<https://osa.isp.msu.edu/Programs/program/index/109179>.

Students will be required to enroll for a minimum of 7 credits (see below), but not more than 8 credits, to participate in the program. Opting for more than 7 credits will require written approval by the professor leading the program and will involve more work prior to and/or post study abroad period.

You may choose any two of the following courses numbered 1 to 7 to satisfy the minimum requirement. You may also combine courses with fixed credits (listed 1 to 4) with variable credits (listed 5 to 7). In consultation with your academic advisor, you may also get all of the required credits from SSC 496. (Numbers in brackets are the fixed or variable credits that each course carries.)

1. ISS 315: Global Diversity and Interdependence (4)
2. GEO 211: Environmental Policy and Practice (3)
3. GEO 413: Urban Geography (3)
4. GEO 453: Metropolitan Environments (3)



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5. GEO 490: Independent Study (1-4)
6. GEO 495: Field Study (1-4)
7. SSC 496: Field Study (3-10)

Although students in the Rome program may sign up for any two or three courses out of those listed above, all students will be in one class in which guest lecturers and the professor leading the program will teach the material in thematic sequence using an integrative design. In other words, there will not be a separate session for each course listed in the program.

Ability to speak Italian is not required. All lectures, including guest presentations, will be in English. Italy is a tourist Mecca and many of those tourists are American. Therefore, most that come in contact with tourists often speak English. The program includes a 15-hour Italian short course to enable Rome students to say greetings and thanks, ask for directions, order food, make simple conversations, and so on.

Classes will be held at ITALIAIDEA, an Italian language-training institute, located near the famous Piazza Campo de Fiori, one of the most attractive piazzas (town squares) in central Rome. Piazza Navona, which is the most famous piazza in Rome, is just a two-minute walk from ITALIAIDEA and the hotel where students will be accommodated. Classes will be held at ITALIAIDEA from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9 AM to noon. Some afternoons will be used for tours, and other special programs scheduled by ITALIAIDEA. Most afternoons are free for students to do their field projects while doing trips within Rome and its environs. The professor will be available from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM on Mondays and Tuesdays for arranged student appointments or review sessions. Beginning on Thursday afternoon until Sunday evening students are free to use the time for travel inside and outside Italy on their own. The lead professor and/or the Program Assistant(s) will be available for consultations on sites in and outside Italy for student visits. However, they will not accompany students on trips that are not connected to academic programs.

A Program Assistant (PA) or two may be hired from past Rome students to help new students get acclimated to the city of Rome and the neighborhood where the student accommodation and classroom are located. The PA(s) will reside in the same hotel as Rome 2020 students and will be on call for any help that may be needed. The PA's responsibility includes helping the professor(s) insure the safety and wellbeing of students in the program and to let him/her/them or MSU safety officials know if there are problems that require their immediate attention. The PA(s) will also serve as an information source for Rome students for a variety of matters including shopping,



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touring, banking, dining, etc. The PA(s) will take a roll call at the beginning of classes on Mon, Tue and Wed at 8:30 AM and on Thursday at 9 AM.

Students really enjoy the Rome program. On many occasions, students have said that they have had a very good time learning about new places and relationships and visiting some of the most famous archeological, architectural and artistic relics of ancient Rome and the Renaissance.

We all regularly use the long week-ends to travel to Florence, Venice, Bologna, Pisa, Siena, Milan, Naples, Palermo and even to some delightful tourist attractions like Sorrento, Positano, Cinque Terre, the famous Amalfi Coast, Isles of Capri and Ponza, historic Pompeii, Sicily, the town of Bellagio (on the magnificent Lake Como), Stresa (on Lake Maggiore), Isle of Elba (where Napoleon Bonapart spent his years of detention), and many of the romantic and historic hill towns on the Apennine Mountains like Assisi, Orvieto, Civita Di Bagnoregio, Todi, Gubbio and Montepulciano, all within a few hours from Rome by train or bus.

In the last summer 2019 program, 32 students participated in the Rome program. We had a successful summer and students did very well in the program. You are welcome to view student comments filed in the Office of Education Abroad at the International Center. The following are direct quotations from some of the letters, cards and email messages that I/we have received over the years from students that participated in the Rome program: (1) *"Thank you for contributing to one of the greatest experiences of my life. The Rome Study Abroad program was carried out better than I ever expected."* (2) *"First and foremost thank you endlessly for allowing [me] to accompany you and the Michigan State University students to Rome. It was without a doubt the best trip that I have taken in my 20 years of existence."* (3) *"I had such a wonderful time and nothing but good memories to share with my friends and family. Thanks for everything; it was a pleasure to be in your class and to take the trip"*. (4) *"First off, thank you for doing an excellent job running the Social Science in Rome program. It was awesome and I loved all of it."* (5) *"It was a great experience. Class was set up perfect, good learning environment, and relaxed atmosphere."* (6) *"This program was expensive but it was worth it. The professor is really great and I learned a lot. Also, Italy is a wonderful country and great place to spend a summer."* (7) *"While looking back on my college career and all of the many great opportunities MSU offered me, the study abroad program not only impacted my personal life but also helped me determine what I wanted to do in the future. The personal accounts you shared in class really inspired me to fight for human rights and sparked a desire to experience all the things the world has to offer."* (8) *"Social Science in Rome was a great experience and I would definitely recommend it to everyone. Thank you for making the experience even better."* (9) *"... thank you so much for the amazing*



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opportunity you gave me and I appreciate everything you did for us. I really learned a lot, in and out of the classroom.” (10) “Looking back at my four years as an MSU student, one of the most memorable and life changing experiences was attending the Rome Social Science Study Abroad program. Not only did the experience leave me with lifelong friends, but also a desire to better understand and be part of the interconnectedness of the world's past, present and future. Your passion for teaching and contagious desire to shape us into global citizens of the world left a lasting impression, which has renewed my inspiration to continue my education.” (11) “Before I went to Rome, I was deadset into going into the medical field. But your teaching and enthusiasm, as well as my own exploration of Rome and Europe, convinced me that I was making the wrong decision. I had to do what I loved, and what I love is history. I am so thankful for having been able to go, especially while I was a freshman, just going into my sophomore year. It made the transition from one major to another easier. Thank you again for this opportunity and I hope future students find the program as inspiring as I did.” Your program was the best experience of my life. The schooling didn't even seem like school, but more of like informational vacation which was awesome and something I'll never forget.” (12) I have learned so much since I have gotten to Rome. I thank you for setting up such a wonderful program. You have had amazing insight on every topic that was discussed and made me think outside my normal zone. Thanks for letting me meet your family. You are an inspiration to me and the parent/grandparent I want to be.” (13) Thank you so much for an amazing experience that I will remember for the rest of my life. Your class was truly enlightening. I have learned things from you that I will take with me for the rest of my life.” (14) Thank you so much for everything! This experience has been incredible and unforgettable and I am so grateful for every minute. You are such a wonderful, gifted teacher!” (15) I am so happy I got the chance to study abroad in your program. I had so much fun and it was the best experience I have had in my life.



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If you are seriously interested in the Rome program and you have not enrolled yet, I advise you to sign up as early as you can. And please do tell your friends if you think that they will find it of interest. Enrollment is currently open and we are limited to 30 students. Students from any field who are in good standing at MSU or other universities in the U.S. may apply to join the program. Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 (out of 4.0) of college credits at time of application. They will be admitted on a first-come-first-served basis. No essays are required. Therefore, early enrollment helps in assuring a spot in the program. You may enroll online:

<https://osa.isp.msu.edu/Programs/program/index/109179>

Or visit Room 108 at the International Center.

The first **Informational Meeting** for all students enrolled and interested in the Social Science Rome 2020 program will be held on **Wednesday**

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November 6, 2019 (5 PM to 6 PM) in Room 201 at the International Center. Second and third information meetings will be scheduled in January and April. Those enrolled and interested will get a reminder from me by email one to two weeks before dates of informational meetings. Meanwhile, please feel free to call or email me. My contact numbers are: 517-355-7718 (office) or email me at (vojnovic@msu.edu). You may also come and visit me by appointment in 447 Berkey Hall, Global Urban Studies).

We look forward to hearing from you...and hopefully seeing a lot of you in Rome in May and June of 2020.

Thank you all!

Sincerely,



Igor Vojnovic



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