

GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

VART 397 Renaissance Art

3 Credits

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OFFICE HOURS

MTR 9:40-10:40 - by appointment or simply open door policy

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course counts as elective credit for a Major/Minor in Italian Studies.

A survey of Italian Renaissance art covering three centuries, from Byzantine and Gothic painting and sculpture to the Early, High and Late Renaissance. Every Wednesday morning the students will experience a full immersion into Renaissance Florence by joining the Florence of the Medici class for a two hour guided tour throughout the city and Florence's major museums. This is one of the courses in the Renaissance track but can be taken singly, without being enrolled in the track.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1) To understand why Early Renaissance art began in Florence c. 1400 when the humanist Leonardo Bruni referred to Florence as a new Athens, comparing the public works sponsored by the guilds to those done by Pericles in Athens when he rebuilt the Acropolis. The 1401-1402 competition for a new set of Baptistery doors, sponsored by the Calimala Guild, brought forth the Early Renaissance both in sculpture and architecture. Private funding, provided by merchant families to decorate their funerary chapels in Florentine churches, started Early Renaissance painting.
- 2) To show how Florentine artists took the Early Renaissance to Venice and Rome.
- 3) To have students realize how the High Renaissance, started in Florence by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael, moved to Rome when Michelangelo started work on the Tomb of Julius II and the Sistine Chapel ceiling, Bramante started St. Peter's, and Raphael frescoed the Vatican Rooms for Julius II.
- 4) To see how Late Renaissance/Mannerism came to the fore in an attempt to imitate Leonardo's "sfumato", Raphael's elegance, and Michelangelo's monumental works. It instead brought forth the emerging artists' virtuosity, originality, and technical skill.
- 5) To see how the Renaissance style was adopted by the rest of Europe in the 16th century when Italian artists were called to France by king Francis I and Northern artists, like Albrecht Dürer, came down to Italy.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

If taken in the Renaissance track, students will become Renaissance savvy. If taken singly, they will have a lasting love and appreciation for the Renaissance and its enormous impact on world culture.

GRADING AND OTHER POLICIES

Students are graded on three exams, a two page written assignment on each tour, and a final paper. Weekly tours are a required part of the course. A two-page written assignment with your personal impressions is due the following day. No research is required for this assignment. There will be no tour questions on the exams but the final paper topic **must** be chosen in part, or totally, from them.

Students can only miss **one** tour. If another tour is missed, it **must be made up** or the grade goes down of half a point letter grade. Absent students will go on their own with the tour handout, will comment on the listed things, and there will be no grade change. A ticket stub **must be included** to prove that the missed tour was made up. Tickets always have the date and entrance time. A used ticket with the date of the missed tour clearly shows the tour was not made up.

Grades

A	100	94
A-	93.5	89
B+	88.5	85.5
B	85	84
B-	83.5	79
C+	78.5	75.5
C	75	74
C-	73.5	69
D+	68.5	65.5
D	65	59
F	58	0

University policy allows a maximum of six absences for a three credit course. At the seventh absence the student's grade is lowered of a half point letter grade; from A (100-94) to A- (93.5) B+ to B, and so on.

REQUIRED READING

Frederick Hartt and David G. Wilkins, *History of Italian Renaissance Art*, 6th edition, 2006. Pearson Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey.

COURSE OUTLINE & SCHEDULE

The course is divided into three parts with an examination after each part. The final exam only covers the third part of the course, and, is therefore **not** comprehensive.

Part 1 – From the thirteenth century to the Early Renaissance – First Test: January 28.

January

- 11 Duecento Art in Tuscany and Rome, chapter 2.
- 12 The sculpture of Nicola and Giovanni Pisano. Gothic architecture in Florence, chapter 2.
- 13 **Tour to Santa Croce**
- 14 Written assignment on tour. Florentine early Trecento art: Giotto's early works, chapter 3.

- 18 Giotto and his followers, Andrea Pisano's Baptistery doors and bell tower panels, chapter 3.
- 19 Sienese early Trecento painting: Duccio and Simone Martini, chapter 4.
- 20 **Tour to Santa Trinita and Santa Maria Novella**
- 21 Written assignment on tour. Sienese Pietro and Ambrogio Lorenzetti, chapter 4. Art after the Black Death, chapter 5.

- 25 Beginnings of Early Renaissance sculpture, chapter 7. Students will select the works they wish to present on the field trip. Review for the test
- 26 Field trip to the North Doors and the statues at Orsanmichele with students as presenters.
- 27 **Tour to the Uffizi Gallery (Botticelli's *Birth of Venus*, Michelangelo's *Holy Family*, etc.)**
- 28 First exam
 - 1) The first part takes 10 minutes and involves ten slide identifications for a total of 40 points.
 - 2) Students will discuss **four** of the identified slides and all the images in them for 40 points.

- 3) An essay question (with at least three choices to choose from) for a total of 20 points.

**Part 2 – From Brunelleschi to Sandro Botticelli and Filippino Lippi – Second Test: February 25
February**

- 1 Brunelleschi's dome and his Early Renaissance buildings, Michelozzo's works for the Medici family, chapter 6.
- 2 Masaccio and Early Renaissance painting, Masolino's International Gothic pieces, chapter 8.
- 3 **Tour to the Accademia with Michelangelo's *David*.** Possible afternoon tour to Masaccio's Brancacci Chapel (to be confirmed)
- 4 Written assignment on the Uffizi and the Accademia. Masaccio's followers Fra Angelico and Fra Filippo Lippi, chapter 9. Students will choose pieces to act as presenters.
- 8 Second Renaissance architects Alberti, Rossellino, and sculptors Ghiberti, Rossellino ch. 10.
- 9 Field trip to the Angelico Museum in San Marco with students as presenters chapter. 10.
- 10 **Tour to Casa Buonarroti with Michelangelo's early works**
- 11 Written assignment on Casa Buonarroti. Paolo Uccello, Domenico Veneziano, Andrea del Castagno, chapter 11. Students will choose pieces by Castagno to act as presenters
- 15 Piero della Francesca, ch. 11.
- 16 Tour to Andrea del Castagno Museum with students as presenters. The scientific trend of Antonio del Pollaiuolo and Andrea del Verrocchio, chapter 13.
- 17 **Tour to The Medici Tombs by Michelangelo**
- 18 Written assignment on the Medici tombs. Sandro Botticelli and Filippino Lippi, chapter 13. Students will choose works they want to present during the review for the test.
- 22 Student-led class discussions on possible essay questions to review for the test .
- 23 Student presentations to review for the test.
- 24 **Tour to the Bargello (Competition panels, Donatello's *David*, Michelangelo's *Bacchus*)**
- 25 Exam with same format of first test.

Part 3 - From Ghirlandaio to High Renaissance and Mannerism - Final exam date to be posted

March, April

- 1 Ghirlandaio, painter of Florence's jet set, chapter 13; other central Italian masters, chapter 14.
- 2 Field trip or virtual visit to the Cathedral Museum with students as presenters
- 3 **Tour to Palazzo Vecchio and Piazza Signoria**
- 4 Written assignment on Palazzo Vecchio and Piazza Signoria. Early Ren. Painting in Venice (Jacopo Bellini, Andrea Mantegna), ch. 15
- 8 Early Renaissance in Venice: Gentile Bellini, A. da Messina, Giovanni Bellini, chapter 15.
- 9 High Renaissance Florence: Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, chapter 16.
- 10 **Opificio or Stone Inlay Museum, Santissima Annunziata**
- 11 High Renaissance Florence: Raphael, chapter 16.
- 22 High Renaissance Rome: Bramante's architecture, Michelangelo's Tomb for Julius II, ch. 17.
- 23 Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling, chapter 17.
- 24 **Pitti Palace Gallery**
- 25 Raphael's works for Julius II, chapter 17.
- 29 High Renaissance and Mannerism: Michelangelo's works for the Medici popes, chapter 18.
- 30 Frescoes in Santissima Annunziata, Andrea del Sarto, Pontormo, Rosso, chapter 18.
- 31 **Boboli Gardens/Silverworks Museum depending on the weather**
- 1 High Renaissance in Venice: Giorgione and Titian, chapter 19.
- 6 Michelangelo's later works and the Mannerist Benvenuto Cellini, chapter 20.
- 7 **Silverworks Museum**

- 8 Mannerist artists in Florence at the time of Cosimo I, chapter 20. Students will choose pieces they want to present for the review and the last field trip. **Final paper due**
- 12 Student-led class discussions on possible essay questions to review for the test
- 13 Field trip to the Santissima Annunziata frescoes with students as presenters.
- 14 **Science Museum**
- 15 Student presentations to review for the test.

Final Project

A ten page research paper, with a minimum of five sources, is due on **April 8**. A two point penalty will be given for each day of delayed consignment. It can be on a favorite artist or a comparison between an Early Renaissance, a High Renaissance, and/or a Mannerist work with the same subject. (David, Adam and Eve, etc.) Please ask the professor for approval before starting the project.