

# GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

Course: VART322: fresco  
Credits: 3 Credits  
Instructor: Lucy Jochemowitz



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## Tuesday 3.35 / 6.15pm

### OFFICE HOURS

By appointment  
[lucyjg@virgilio.it](mailto:lucyjg@virgilio.it)

### PREREQUISITES

This course is beginner level. To be enrolled in this course no entrance exam is required.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is for beginners who have interest in learning the Fresco painting technique. No previous requirements necessary.

This is a theoretical and practical course which aims to give the fundamental principles needed to carrying out wall painting. It introduces the students to the mentality of wall painting, to the close relationship between the painting and the structure that holds it, to the history and to the maestros that have made this technique their own.

The course includes guided visits to diverse churches and museums to observe/appreciate and acquire direct knowledge from parietal painting (Beato Angelico, Masaccio, Paolo Ucello, Santa Maria Novella, San Marco).

The course intends the student undertake the elaboration of diverse mural paintings with different goals and technical results:

- From the preparation of “malta” to the painting of the wall.
- The “arriccio”
- The “intonacco”
- The “strappo”
- Fresco painting on tile
- The proper use of pigments
- The “Sinopia”
- Giornata pittorica

A sketchbook will be utilized in order to keep notes, sketches and annotations regarding personal research, thoughts and feelings. Aesthetic and formal qualities as well as philosophical and visual references should be constantly considered when analyzing the language of drawing.

Exploration of materials will be strongly considered as a means of personal expression, as it is important to try to understand the use of materials and techniques in relationship to one's personal ideas and concepts.

Drawing will be used as a creative means of expression of one's personal ideas.

Students will be asked to make a wall painting inspired on a favorite artist of choice as well as write a paper on the artist that inspired their work. The final exam consists of presenting a portfolio containing all work done during the course, including all sketches, as well as the final project.

Weekly assignments given out also form part of the final grade.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

To learn to properly paint frescos as well as to be introduced into the spirit of parietal painting of the Renaissance period.

The course firstly aims to technical skills, and to move into a more personal and sophisticated handling of creations as the students work on individual projects. The project will set the foundation for further technical as well as conceptual consideration which the student will be encouraged to explore. It aims to get to a body of work by the end of the semester and clearly demonstrate the students improvement in visual sensitive, technical skill and ability to communicate through the color, form, and some “elaboration” of a project.

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Each class consists of three historical hours where the students in the beginning of the semester work from visual information in order to improve their sensibility before moving towards a more personal work. Each day talk makes up a very important part of the course as techniques as well as philosophical concerns in Art will be discussed. The excises and projects that will be introduced in the beginning of the day are supplemented with slide lectures, guided visits, and/or practical demonstrations. The class evolved in practical workshop and individual contact between the teacher and student. It is advisable to keep a notebook for the slide lectures, talks and the individual discussions to better benefit from all the information given.

Assignments will be given and presented in class so as to create interactive discussions. Students are expected to spend additional hours outside of class in order to develop his/her projects.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Each lesson is geared towards the elaboration of specific projects and assignments given in a very structured way. As noted, homework assignments will be given during the course as to further elaborate the classroom exercises: Individual critiques will be given during the course.

Final Exam will consist of a final group critique

The Final group critique consists of the following:

Each student must present a portfolio of the entire work done during the semester. A final project based on a personal idea will be presented in a group critique along with the consignment of a FINAL RESEARCH PAPER

## **GRADING AND OTHER POLICIES**

### **EVALUATION & GRADING SYSTEM**

25%	Attendance
30%	Final Critique
20%	Final Paper
25%	Participation

Grading is based on over-all effort, improvement, and the ability to comprehend and apply concepts presented during course.

0 - 59 = F,    60 - 69 = D,    70 - 72 = C-,    73 - 76 = C,    77 - 79 = C+,  
80 - 82 = B-,    83 - 86 = B,    87 - 89 = B+,    90 - 92 = A-,    93 - 100 =

Attendance and punctuality are mandatory.

Students are presumed to have sufficient maturity to recognize their responsibility for regular class. Since illness or other good reasons may prevent attendance, Gonzaga has a standard policy on absences. This policy stipulates that the maximum allowable absence is 2 class hours (100') for each

class credit. A correct, active and responsible participation is strictly recommended. All deadlines must be respected. Homework assignments are an integral part of this course and are therefore mandatory.

### **REQUIRED READING**

Ceninni, Cenino. Manual of Painting.

Dooerner, Max. The Materials of Art.

It will be necessary to consult the library as well as various bookstores in Florence in order to fulfill the requirements regarding the research papers.

### **COURSE OUTLINE & SCHEDULE**

- 1 week Presentation and introduction to the course. Materials. Trip to the art store to buy materials Salvini via degli alfani
- 2 week Studio rules. theory of color: warm and color, primary, secondary, complementary. Working on sketchbook.  
Homework:  
Chose detail of 10x10cm ( Cappella dei Magi, palazzo Medici Riccardi/Santa Croce:Giotto: first exercise.
- 3 week First exercise on tile.  
Assignment: scale of primary, secondary and complementary with white.  
Pick up details of a Fresco painting that you would like to copy as your first Project (“Maestri del colore”).
- 4 week Preparation of Lyme (plaster + sand) on tile and painting on tile.
- 5 week Visit: Palazzo Medici Riccardi (Melozzo Gozzoli
- 6 week Start Fresco painting: 1 “giornata”.
- 7 week Homework:Make a drawing of your fresco in the sketchbook.  
Enlarge exact size of the tile.
- 8 week Tracing of drawing / Preparation of lyme and synopia / Preparation of pigments and Bianco di S. Giovanni. Start first Fresco / start painting
- 9 week PERSONAL PROJECT painting fresco.
- 10 week work in progress
- 11 week work in progress.
- 12 week work in progress
- 13 week Review / critique Last day to complete and finishing touch.
- 14 week . Final critique. Presentation of two fresco painting

## **ALTERNATIVE LESSON**

Should the instructor be indisposed or otherwise unable to attend, a substitute teacher (whenever available) will conduct the scheduled or a pre-prepared alternative lesson at the regular class time. Or at the following meeting a make-up class will be arranged with the students.

## **MATERIAL LIST**

Each student must provide the following materials for personal use:

During the first lesson, the professor will accompany the students in order to purchase these materials. Any materials that a student already has must be OK'd by the Professor.

1. PENCILS: a set of pencils type HB, 3B
2. PENCIL SHARPENER
3. ERASER : 1 for pencil; 1 soft putty eraser
4. one pigment
5. small FRESCO BRUSH and two point SOFT BRUSH n.00, 03
6. PORTFOLIO: 50x35, big enough to hold your drawings and your sketches
7. 2 sheets of fabriano drawing paper.50x 70 cm
8. PLASTIC PALETTE, 1 large
9. 2 CONTAINER for water
10. MASKING TAPE
11. 2 TILES: 40x 40
12. SHEET TRACING PAPER
13. 1 PALETTE KNIFE
14. a set of gouasche colors: white, yellow lemon, cadmio yellow, pozzuoli red, cadmium red, carminium red, ochre yellow, raw siena, sap green, cobalt blue, oltremarine blue, black.

of all materials is approximately 49.80Euro.

These materials will be purchased at the following store: Masini in Via del Sole, Salvini in Via degli Alfani 127r. Other recommended stores: Rigacci in Via dei Servi; Zecchi in Via dello Studio 19r; Lory in Piazza Frescobaldi 8r.