

# GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

Course: VART 390: History of Art I  
Credits: 3 Credits  
Instructor: Mercedes Carrara



---

Study Abroad, 502 E. Boone Ave, Spokane, WA 99258-0085 • (800) 440-5391 • [www.gonzaga.edu/studyabroad](http://www.gonzaga.edu/studyabroad) • [studyabroad@gonzaga.edu](mailto:studyabroad@gonzaga.edu)

---

## OFFICE HOURS

8:25-9:25 am. MTR or by appointment

## TEXTBOOK

H. W. Janson and Anthony F. Janson, *History of Art*. New Jersey: Pearson Education, 2004, sixth edition revised.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is divided into three sections. There will be an examination at the end of each section. The first examination will be on **Thursday, October 11**. The second examination will be on **Thursday, November 8**. The date for the final examination depends on the Administration and will be posted with the Final Examination Schedule. Each section is tested separately thus the final examination is not comprehensive.

## FIRST EXAMINATION: OCTOBER 11

This section begins with art works produced by mankind from cave paintings and artifacts of the Old Stone Age to the first attempts at architecture of the Neolithic or New Stone Age.

The students are then introduced into Ancient Art starting with Egyptian Art. Old Kingdom architecture will concentrate on the funerary districts including one of the earliest Step Pyramids and the Great Pyramids of Giza.

Mesopotamian art around the Persian Gulf area will then be discussed pointing out the differences and similarities between the three Near Eastern civilizations: Sumerian, Assyrian, and Persian.

The Cycladic, Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations, ancestors of Greek art, start using Greek mythology in their works.

All the periods of Greek art will conclude the first part of the course.

Students **are required** to read the **first five chapters** in Janson's *History of Art*. Every chapter starts with the general characteristics of the civilization discussed. That section is essential for a better understanding of the period. After the introductory paragraphs students are only responsible for the pictures discussed in class. Reproductions of all the images and an image outline will be distributed before each lecture. It is suggested that students read the textbook after each lecture in order to add

all extra information on the pictures to their notes. Clipping each reproduction to the notes will make studying so much easier. A **CD with all the reproductions** is available for 5 euros. The money goes to Matt Madison's scholarship fund which was started last year by the GIF students after Matt's untimely death. A review session of the slide images will be held on Tuesday October 9. Art history tests usually follow the same format. The first part of the test involves image identification and discussion. Students are shown two images at a time. The two images will be discussed, compared, and contrasted for ten minutes. There will be three pairs of images that will be shown for the first half of the class.

The second part of the test involves slide identifications of one minute each and an essay question with a choice of three or more topics.

### **SECOND EXAMINATION - NOVEMBER 8**

The test covers from **Chapter Six to Chapter Nine**. It covers two ancient civilizations, that of the Etruscans and that of the Romans. Roman architecture (domus and apartment house, temples, an aqueduct, the Colosseum, and the Pantheon will be carefully analyzed. Early Christian structures such as Old St. Peter's, sarcophagi, and Byzantine monuments of Ravenna, Istanbul, and Venice with their mosaics. The Early Middle Ages with Celtic art, Irish illuminated manuscripts, Carolingian, and Ottonian art will end the test material.

Exam format is just like the first examination's. Image outlines and reproductions will be handed out before each lecture.

### **FINAL EXAMINATION - DATE TO BE DECIDED**

The test material covers **Chapters Ten and Eleven** with Romanesque and Gothic art in all parts of Europe. National and regional differences will be emphasized in churches, sculpture, illuminated manuscripts, and stained glass windows. The International Gothic style of 1400-1420 ends **Chapter Eleven** with the realistic details and atmospheric effects of illuminated manuscripts and tempera panels. **Chapter Fifteen** and the introduction of oil painting by the Flemish masters c. 1425 uses the International Gothic as point of departure thus the reason for its inclusion in the last part of the semester.

A review session of all the slides will be held on the final day of classes. Exam format will be practically the same except for the last part which will be explained at the right moment.

### **ABSENCE POLICY**

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 grade: from A to A-, A- to B+, B+ to B, and so on. Exams missed for traveling will be made up orally with a 10 point demerit, that is 90 or A- will be the maximum grade.