



SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY
COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO ART HISTORY
COURSE CODE: LAAHAH210

3 Semester Credits

1. DESCRIPTION

This introductory art history course will take students through Italian and European art from the classical Greek and Roman periods up to and including the eighteenth century. Special emphasis will be given to Florentine and Italian art of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries and to the “Golden Age” of the Renaissance. The course is aimed at students who have not taken a history of western art course before. Lectures will alternate with on-site teaching in Florence including architectural walking tours and visits to relevant museums, churches, and palaces.

2. OBJECTIVES

This course aims for students to become conversant with the major developments of Western Art and become familiar with many masterpieces of Florentine Renaissance art between 1250 and 1600. Students will also be able to identify works of different styles and techniques and place them in their proper context. The students will learn to analyze, identify, and date paintings, sculptures and works of architecture created by the most important artists from Classical Antiquity to the twentieth century. The main artistic innovations and techniques will be discussed in the context of historical, political, and religious events and ideas affecting the visual arts in Europe. Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Gain general familiarity with artistic production through the ages;
- Become knowledgeable about the historical and political background of artistic production and patronage;
- Develop of visual skills necessary to recognize different styles and periods;
- Gain general familiarity with the language of art, including specific artistic terminology, iconography and symbolism related to the subject matter of this course;
- Gain awareness of the main artistic trends and in particular the artistic and technical innovations from Classical Antiquity to the twentieth century;

- Recognize main artists of Renaissance in Florence and to the extent of their indebtedness to ancient art and architecture;
- Recognize the history of the Medici family and of the importance of Medici art sponsorship as a tool of cultural politics;
- Gain firsthand experience of the works and styles of the main Italian artists through the ages.

3. REQUIREMENTS

There are no prerequisites for this course

4. METHOD

This course consists of lectures, class discussions, and visits. Mediums for instruction used will include, but are not limited to, interactive and hands-on activities which challenge thought processes, academic texts and studies, videos, slides, guided problem solving, and experiential and/or field learning activities where applicable.

5. TEXT BOOK – FURTHER READINGS – RESOURCES

Stokstad, Marilyn and Michael Cothren. *Art: A Brief history*. 5th Edition, Pearson, 2008.

The text book is mandatory for successful completion of the course.

Where applicable, additional materials, handouts and/or notes will be provided by the instructor.

FURTHER READINGS

Books listed below are available in the FUA library)

- Charles Avery, *Florentine Renaissance Sculpture*, John Murray, chaps.1-7;
- Kenneth Clark, *The Nude*, Penguin;
- Hall, *Dictionary of Subjects and Symbols in Art*, Harper & Row; (Essential for those unfamiliar with religious subject matter - Old and New Testament - which constitutes most of the subject matter of early Renaissance art. Also useful for mythological subject matter)
- Frederick Hartt, *A History of Italian Renaissance Art*, Prentice Hall & Abrams, part 2;
- F.W. Kent, *Lorenzo de Medici & the Art of Magnificence*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore 2004;
- Lauro Martines, *April Blood*, Jonathan Cape, London 2003;
- Peter Murray, *The Architecture of the Italian Renaissance*, Thames & Hudson, chaps.2-4; Roberta Olson, *Italian Renaissance Sculpture*, chaps. 1-6;
- John T. Paoletti & Gary H. Radke, *Art in Renaissance Italy*, Laurence King;
- Giorgio Vasari, *The Lives of the Artists*, Penguin, vol.1;
- Evelyn. Welch, *Art and Society in Italy 1350-1500*, Oxford University Press;

LIBRARIES IN FLORENCE

The FUA library is located in Corso Tintori 21. Please consult the posted schedules for official opening times. Also, note that the library is for consultation only and it is not possible

to borrow materials. The library is equipped with a scanner and internet access so that you may save or email a digital copy of the pages needed.

Students may also utilize additional libraries and research centers within the local community:

Biblioteca Palagio di Parte Guelfa

Located in Piazzetta di Parte Guelfa between Piazza della Repubblica and Ponte Vecchio. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:
http://www.biblioteche.comune.fi.it/biblioteca_palagio_di_parte_guelfa/

Biblioteca delle Oblate

Located in via dell'Oriuolo 26. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:
www.bibliotecadelleoblate.it

The Harold Acton Library at the British Institute of Florence

Located in Lungarno Guicciardini 9. Please consult the library website for hours of operation. This library requires a fee-based student membership. For information:
www.britishinstitute.it/en

6. FIELD LEARNING

This course may include a field learning activity.

7. COURSE MATERIALS

No additional course materials are necessary.

8. COURSE FEES

Course fees cover all course-related field learning activities, visits, and support the instructor's teaching methodologies. Book costs are not included in the course fee. The instructor will communicate the exact amount on the first day of class.

9. EVALUATION – GRADING SYSTEM

10% Attendance

15% Class Participation, Home Assignments and Reading

20% Mid Term Exam

25% Final Paper and/or Presentation

30% Final Exam

A = 93-100 %, A- = 90-92%, B+= 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B-=80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C=73-76%, C-=70-72%, D = 60-69%, F= 0-59%, W = Official Withdrawal, W/F = Failure to withdraw by the designated date.

10. ATTENDANCE – PARTICIPATION

Academic integrity and mutual respect between instructor and student are central to the FUA academic policy and reflected in the attendance regulations. Student presence is mandatory and counts toward the final grade.

On the **second absence**, the attendance and participation grade will be impacted. Please note that missing certain field learning activities may count for more than one absence.

On the **third absence**, the instructor may lower the final grade by one letter grade.

(Example: Final grade average of 93% or A will become a B).

The fourth absence constitutes automatic failure of the course. Students with excessive absences will be asked to withdraw with a W (if before the deadline) or leave the course with a WF.

Late Arrival and Early Departure

Arriving late or departing early from class is not acceptable. Two late arrivals or early departures or a combination will result in an unexcused absence. Travel is not an exceptional circumstance.

Travel (or delays due to travel) is NEVER an excuse for absence from class.

It is always the student's responsibility to know how many absences he or she has in a course. If in doubt, speak with your instructor!

11. EXAMS – PAPERS – PROJECTS

Attendance and participation

Satisfactory participation will be the result of contributing to class discussions by putting forth insightful and constructive questions, comments and observations. Overall effort, cooperation during group work and in-class activities, responsible behavior, and completion of assignments will be assessed.

Home Assignments (Online Discussion Board)

Home assignments aim at documenting your knowledge and understanding on specific aspects relating to the course topic. After each lecture, a question may be posted on the course's blog page (MyFUA) relating to the lecture. Students are expected to contribute a short, thoughtful response. Responses must be posted before the start of the next lecture (all posts are time stamped, late postings (after 9 am) will not be accepted). Be creative, in addition to your short text you can post pictures and videos if you'd like.

Reading and quizzes

Reading of the text book is mandatory for successful completion of the course, further reading is highly recommended. Regular reading quizzes have been designed to ensure that you are completing the reading and engaging in active learning and critical thinking about course concepts outside of class. They are also designed to help you prepare for the final exam in manageable increments. Quizzes may be open-note, which means you may use your notes to assist you in taking the quiz. Notes must be originals (not photocopied) and in your own handwriting. Quizzes will NOT be open book.

Paper

The instructor will provide you with specific information concerning the paper topic and paper length. Make sure your paper conforms to academic standards in terms of style and register. Your paper must include quotations and/or citations from scholarly books, journals, or articles. Your paper must be properly referenced and must include a bibliography. Include a word count at the end of the paper (you may go 10% above or below the word limit).

Evaluation

To mark your paper, the instructor may use the following score sheet:

1. Pertinence & Coverage: _____ out of 10
2. Analysis & Understanding: _____ out of 10
3. Organization & Structure: _____ out of 10
4. Language & Accuracy: _____ out of 10
5. References & Bibliography: _____ out of 10

TOTAL _____ out of 50 ----- GRADE _____

Presentation

The instructor will provide you with specific information concerning the presentation topic. Please, read the following information carefully:

Structure

- Title
- Introduction and research question
- Literature review and methodology (summary)
- Answer to the research question with supporting examples
- Conclusion and, if appropriate, suggestions for further research

Guidelines

You must support your presentation with carefully selected examples that illustrate, support, and extend your analysis. Make sure your presentation conforms to academic standards in terms of style and register. Your presentation must include citations from scholarly books, journals, and articles.

Length of the presentation

- 10 – 12 minutes (your presentation will be timed by your instructor and must not exceed 12 minutes)
- Additional time provided for questions and answers (NB questions will be asked by both the instructor AND the participants)
- Visual aid: Between 3 and 5 PowerPoint slides

What you need to turn in after your presentation

- The PowerPoint Presentation
- Any notes used at the time of delivering the presentation (notes must be in the form of bullet points and include key words and brief sentences, DO NOT read out entire paragraphs or your presentation will be marked down)

Evaluation

Your presentation will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Presentation skills (delivery speed, eye contact, clarity, audibility, tone);
- Content (sets out relevant issues, explains key terms, confident with material, aids understanding);
- Structure (logical, easy to follow, provides headings, each section relates to overall purpose);
- Use of visual aids (uses handout or other visual aids, relevant to content);
- Response to questions (willing to answer questions, actively seeking questions).

Exams

The Mid-term exam will take place on Lesson 7 whilst the Final Exam will take place on week 15. Note, **the date and time of the exams cannot be changed for any reason**, so please organize your personal activities accordingly.

Format (for both exams): the exam is divided into three sections:

- Part I: 10 Multiple choice questions. Each correct answer is worth 2 points, for a total of 20 points.
- Part II: 10 short-answer questions. Each correct and complete answer (concise explanations, main ideas, key words, names, etc.) is worth 5 points, for a total 50 points.
- Part III: two essay questions; each correct and complete answer is worth 15 points (based on content, vocabulary, detail, etc.) for a total of 30 points.

12. LESSONS

Lesson 1	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Course overview, content, structure, assessment and expectations. Art of ancient Greece and the Aegean world. Survey how archeology has recovered, reconstructed, and interpreted ancient Aegean material culture. Trace the emergence of a distinctive style and approach to art and architecture during the early centuries of Greek civilization.
Homework/ Assignments	Provide the answer to one of the questions enlisted in the 'Think about it' section of the textbook, p.127. Note, the instructor may assign different homework relevant to this class.
Reading	Textbook, chapter 5

Lesson 2	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Etruscan and Roman art. Examine how Etruscan funerary art celebrates the vitality of human existence. Trace the development of portraiture as a major form of artistic expression for the Romans.
Homework/ Assignments	Provide the answer to one of the questions enlisted in the 'Think about it' section of the textbook, p.157. Note, the instructor may assign different homework relevant to this class.
Visit	City Walk – Roman Florence: Outside the Roman Walls
Reading	Textbook, chapter 6

Lesson 3	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Jewish, early Christian, and Byzantine art. Explore how aspects of early Jewish and Early Christian art developed from the artistic traditions of the Roman world. Recognize the ways Early Christian and Byzantine artists used narrative and iconic imagery to convey the foundations of the Christian faith.
Homework/ Assignments	Provide the answer to one of the questions enlisted in the 'Think about it' section of the textbook, p.183. Note, the instructor may assign different homework relevant to this class.
Visit	The Great Synagogue
Reading	Textbook, chapter 7

Lesson 4	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Early Medieval and Romanesque art. Appreciate and understand the variety of styles and subjects used to illustrate medieval manuscripts. Explore the emergence of Romanesque architecture across Europe.
Homework/ Assignments	Provide the answer to one of the questions enlisted in the 'Think about it' section of the textbook, p.259. Note, the instructor may assign different homework relevant to this class.
Visit	San Miniato al Monte
Reading	Textbook, chapter 10

Lesson 5	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Gothic art Investigate the ideas, events, and structural innovations that led to the development of Gothic architecture. Appreciate how gothic artists communicated complex theological ideas and moralizing religious stories in stained glass, sculpture, and illustrated books.
Homework/ Assignments	Provide the answer to one of the questions enlisted in the 'Think about it' section of the textbook, p.291. Note, the instructor may assign different homework relevant to this class.
Reading	Textbook, chapter 11

Lesson 6	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Early Renaissance Art

	Analyze how and why Flemish painters lavished attention on describing objects from their world in paintings saturated with religious meaning. Evaluate the motivation, development, and use of both linear perspective and the Classical past in fifteenth-century Florentine paintings.
Homework/ Assignments	Provide the answer to one of the questions enlisted in the 'Think about it' section of the textbook, p.323. Note, the instructor may assign different homework relevant to this class.
Visit	Uffizi (Room 55) – Focus on Pieter Paul Rubens and Antoine van Dyck
Reading	Textbook, chapter 12 Review all reading assigned so far in view of the mid-term exam.

Lesson 7	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Mid-term exam

Lesson 8	
Lecture	Academic break

Lesson 9	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Art of the High Renaissance and Reformation Trace the shift in the artistic center of Italy from Florence to Rome during the High Renaissance, and recognize the efforts of Pope Julius II to create a new "golden age".
Homework/ Assignments	Provide the answer to question 13.1 in the 'Think about it' section of the textbook, p.365. Note, the instructor may assign different homework relevant to this class.
Reading	Textbook, chapter 13

Lesson 10	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Mannerism Explore the intentional subversion of Classical style and decorum in the work of Mannerist artist.
Homework/ Assignments	Provide the answer to question 13.2 in the 'Think about it' section of the textbook, p.365. Note, the instructor may assign different homework relevant to this class
Visit	Museo del Cenacolo di Andrea del Sarto – Focus on Andrea del Sarto's Last Supper

Reading	Textbook, chapter 13
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Lesson 11	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Barocco Explore the work of Bernini and Caravaggio and how it blossomed into Baroque, spreading its influence across Europe. Analyze the way that seventeenth-century artists created works that embodied the power and prestige of the monarchy.
Homework/ Assignments	Provide the answer to one of the questions enlisted in the 'Think about it' section of the textbook, p.401. Note, the instructor may assign different homework relevant to this class
Visit	San Firenze
Reading	Textbook, chapter 14

Lesson 12	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Rococò Discover how the ornate style of the Rococo era was a reflection of salon life among the aristocracy in eighteenth-century France.
Homework/ Assignments	Provide the answer to question 17.1 in the 'Think about it' section of the textbook, p.473. Note, the instructor may assign different homework relevant to this class.
Reading	Textbook, chapter 17, pp.448-456.

Lesson 13	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Neo-classicism Investigate Neoclassicism as a reflection of Enlightenment values with roots in the study of Classical antiquity in Rome.
Homework/ Assignments	Provide the answer to question 17.2 in the 'Think about it' section of the textbook, p.473. Note, the instructor may assign different homework relevant to this class.
Visit	Appartamenti Monumentali in Palazzo Pitti
Reading	Textbook, chapter 17, pp.457-463.

Lesson 14	
Meet	In class

Lecture	Romanticism Explore the many subjects of Romanticism, from the sublime in nature to the turbulent political climate in France, linked by a common interest in emotion and feeling.
Homework/ Assignments	Provide the answer to question 17.3 in the 'Think about it' section of the textbook, p.473. Note, the instructor may assign different homework relevant to this class
Visit	Giardino Torrigiani
Reading	Textbook, chapter 17, pp.464-472. Review all reading assigned so far in view of the final exam.

Lesson 15	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Final exam