

EARLY MASTERS OF RENAISSANCE PAINTING

Instructor: Dr. Alan Pascuzzi

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course will explore the achievements of the most important Italian painters of the 15th century studied through their major artistic commissions. Primarily focusing on the paintings in Florence, we will study the most significant masterpieces of the Early Renaissance by visiting the churches, museums and monuments in the city in order to experience them first-hand. The course will also focus on the role of pictorial narrative, the development of perspective and the social function of art in the Renaissance. Special attention will also be given to the drawing and painting techniques of the Early Renaissance with hands-on lectures on silverpoint drawing, fresco, gold-leafing and egg tempera to give a unique insight into the artistic process of the works studied.

LECTURES:

Course consists of two lectures a week on **TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS** from **9 AM to 12 NOON**. Lectures will be either in class, on-site in the various museums and churches of Florence, or in the art studio.

TEXTS:

Hartt, F. *History of Renaissance Art: Painting, Sculpture, Architecture*

Baxandall, M., *Painting and Experience in 15th Century Italy*

Alberti, L.B., *On Painting*

Cennino, C., *The Craftman's Handbook*

Vasari, G. *Lives of the Artists*

GRADING:

Course grade will be based on the following:

1. class attendance
2. two short written assignments
3. Assigned short essays
4. final exam

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

Students will be assigned three short essays dealing with various aspects of Renaissance painting such as patronage, iconography, interpretation and progression of style.

FINAL EXAM:

Final exam will follow the standard art-historical testing:

1. slide identifications
2. definition of terms
3. short essays

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COURSE OUTLINE:

WEEK ONE (June 26): Introduction to Renaissance painting and Florence

- Historical perspectives, and the role of the artist

(June 28): The Proto-Renaissance, its Byzantine origins and Giotto di Bondone

- Site visit: San Miniato, S. Croce
- Essay: Byzantine styles and the Proto-Renaissance
- **JUNE 29th RAVENNA**

WEEK TWO (July 3): *L'arte del dipingere*

- In-class workshop on Renaissance painting techniques:
buon fresco

(July 5): Sienese art of the early 14th century

WEEK THREE (July 10): The masters of the Proto-Renaissance

- Site visit: Uffizi

(July 12): The Beginnings of the Early Renaissance: Albertian Perspective and its impact on artists

- In-class workshop on perspective drawing, gold leafing and egg tempera
- Essay: The impact of perspective

WEEK FOUR (July 17): Early Renaissance

- Site visit: S. Maria del Carmine, S.M. Novella, Duomo

(July 19): The Blessed and the Damned: Diverging Early Renaissance Styles

- Site visit: Medici Chapel, S. Apollonia, SS. Annunziata, S. Marco

WEEK FIVE (July 24): Forefathers of the High Renaissance

- In-class lecture

(July 26): Forefathers of the High Renaissance

- Site visit: Uffizi, Ognissanti, S.M. Novella
- Essay: Craftsmen or geniuses?

WEEK FIVE (July 31): Putting the Renaissance into Perspective

- In-class review for final exam

(August 2): FINAL EXAM

