

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Summer Program 2007

Course on the History of Art

V43.9650.001

MASTERS AND MONUMENTS

FLORENTINE ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF THE RENAISSANCE

Prof. Silvia Giorgi

Time: Monday and Wednesday, 9:00 am – 12:00 am

Office hours: after class or by appointment Email: silviagiorgi1@libero.it

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This course is an introduction to Renaissance Art in Florence, by exploring in depth the historical, political and cultural evolution of Florence between the 14th and the early 16th centuries. This overview will be not confined to works of art but will include social and patronage issues - i.e. the role of the guilds, the differences in private, civic and church patronage - that affected the style, form and content of the Italian rich artistic output, which reached a peak often nostalgically referred to by later generations as the "golden age". Themes such as humanism, interpretations of antiquity, patronage, urbanism, and Florentine civic ideals form a framework for understanding the works of art beyond style and iconography.

The course analyzes the historical and social background of the beginning of the early Renaissance during the XIV century and the impact of the Black Plague on art and patronage. It then focuses on the early XV century art in Florence and deals with the Medici Family's age at the middle of the XV century. Lastly it analyzes the beginning of the 'golden Age' of Renaissance, specifically focusing on Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo Buonarroti and Raffaello Sanzio. By the end of this course, students gain a thorough knowledge of the Italian Renaissance Age, developing practical perception, understanding the relationship between both historical and artistic events and valuing the importance of patronage. As the Renaissance works are often still in their original physical settings, during field-studies to museums and churches in Florence students will have a unique opportunity to experience the works as their original viewers did and as their creators intended. The Friday field-trips outside Florence (to Ravenna, Roma, Verona, Mantova, Siena) although not required, are highly recommended for students enrolled in this class.

TEACHING METHODS

Weekly meetings are composed of a series of classes with visual presentation, supplemented by thematic visits to churches, buildings and museums in Florence. The power point presentation, CD-ROMs and DVDs will help in focusing on the subject in class. The several field-studies will provide great opportunities to see some of the most important Renaissance works in their original location.

ASSIGNMENTS AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT

(25 %) *SITE VISIT PREPARATORY-SHEETS*: they are conceived as a substitution for the midterm test. Before each site visit, students are asked to produce a handwrite or typewrite *site visit preparatory-sheet* with a short analysis of the monument he/she is going to visit that day. Information for each *site visit preparatory-sheet* should be taken from the required readings. The course's instructor will collect the *Site visit preparatory-sheets* each time. Any exception will result in a lowering of your grade. An outstanding collection of *Site visit preparatory-sheets* will also be considered as significant extra-credit work.

(25%) *FIELD STUDY JOURNAL - LOOKING ASSIGNMENTS*: Each week, students are asked to do several looking assignments, which are intended to give them the opportunity to look at and to study works of art independently. These assignments are to consist of a series of notes, observations, analysis and sketches in the Field Study Journal, which will be collected by the course professor on **July 30th, Monday**. Any exception will result in a lowering of your grade. Plagiarism will result automatically in the grade of "F".

(20%) *RESEARCH PAPER*: Students are asked to produce a 10-12 page research paper on a significant monumental work. Topics have to be approved by the course professor. The written papers must be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date (**July 23rd, Monday**). Any exception will result in a lowering of your grade. The written paper has to be typed, stapled, and can be 10-12 pages, excluding illustrations. Its formal aspect must follow this structure: TITLE AND INTRODUCTION, PAPER WITH NOTES OR FOOTNOTES, BIBLIOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATIONS. Plagiarism will result automatically in the grade of "F".

(30%) Written Final Exam: It is comprised of two sections: 1) Slides identification and / or slide comparison; 2) from two to four questions based on material considered in class, and/or required readings, and/or *preparatory-sheets* collection.

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND ACTIVE CLASS PARTICIPATION

Successful progress of the Program depends on the full cooperation of both students and faculty members: regular attendance and active participation in class are essential parts of the educational process. Students are expected to actively participate and contribute to class discussion. Student are required to fulfil looking assignments and required readings, and are expected to express their thoughts and perceptions about them. Attendance at and participation in all class meetings and field-trips are required and mandatory. Lateness and/or unexcused absences during class will also lower your grade.

N.B. During site-visits students are kindly advised not to carry bulky backpacks or troublesome objects. Photography, with or without flash, is in general forbidden in museums and churches.

READINGS

Required:

TURNER: Turner A. R., *Renaissance Florence. The Invention of a New Art*. London 1997

PAOLETTI-RADKE: Paoletti, J. T. - Radke, G. M. *Art in Renaissance Italy*. London (1997) 2001

Suggested:

MACADAM A., *Blue Guide of Florence*, Black Norton, London-New York 2005

GOMBRICH E., *The Story of Art*, Phaidon Press, London-New York 2001.

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WEEKLY SYLLABUS

WEEK 1: OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS. MEDIEVAL FLORENCE.	
June 25 th , Monday, class	Unit 1: Introduction to the course. The role of the Antiquity, Renaissance and Renaissances. Artistic techniques; the Geography of Renaissance Italy. The Republican Age during the XIV century.
June 27 th , Wednesday, site visit	Unit 2: Medieval Florence Tour: Santa Croce's Church, Santa Maria Novella's Church and Cloister (meet in Piazza della Repubblica, under the column at 9.00) Journal: Museo Davanzati, Orsanmichele's Church Reading: Turner, pp. 6-40; Paoletti-Radke, pp. 54-98, 152-173.
WEEK 2: EARLY RENAISSANCE FLORENCE	
July 2 nd , Monday, site visit	Unit 3: Early Renaissance Florence Tour: Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, Duomo (Santa Reparata's Church), Brunelleschi's Dome (meet in front of the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, Piazza Duomo, 9, at 9.00)
July 4 th , Wednesday, site visit	Unit 4: Bargello Museum (meet in front of it, Via del Proconsolo, 4, at 9.00) Journal: Ospedale degli Innocenti (external), Duomo (Paolo Uccello's and Andrea del Castagno's frescoes) Reading: Turner, pp. 40-89; Paoletti-Radke, pp. 204-250.
WEEK 3: RENAISSANCE FLORENCE	
July 9 th , Monday, site visit	Unit 5: Medici Tour: Palazzo Medici-Riccardi, S. Lorenzo's Church, St. Mark's Museum (meet in front of the Palazzo Medici-Riccardi, Via Cavour 3, at 9.00)
July 11 th , Wednesday, site visit	Unit 6: Uffizi Gallery (meet in front of the reservation entrance at 9.00) Journal: Santa Trinita's Church (Sassetti Chapel by Domenico Ghirlandaio) Reading: Turner, pp. 90-161; Paoletti-Radke, pp. 251-288.
WEEK 4: HIGH RENAISSANCE FLORENCE	
July 16 th , Monday, class	Unit 7: Leonardo da Vinci and the young Michelangelo Buonarroti
July 18 th , Wednesday, site visit	Unit 8: Casa Buonarroti Museum and Academy Museum (meet in front of Casa Buonarroti Museum at 9.30) Journal: S. Apollonia's Refectory (Cenacolo), Ognissanti's Church (Botticelli's and Ghirlandaio's frescoes) and Ognissanti's Refectory (Cenacolo). Reading: Turner, pp. 161-168; Paoletti-Radke, pp. 362-396.
WEEK 5: HIGH RENAISSANCE FLORENCE	
July 23 rd , Monday, site visit	Unit 9: SS. Annunziata's Church, Chiostro dello Scalzo, Laurentian Library, Medici Chapels (meet in front of SS. Annunziata, P.zza SS. Annunziata, at 9.00) <u>Research Paper due.</u>
July 25 th , Wednesday, site visit	Unit 10: Palazzo Pitti: Palatine Gallery, Argenti Museum, Boboli Garden (meet in front of Palazzo Pitti, Piazza Pitti, at 9.00) Journal: Piazza della Signoria (statues), S. Felicita's Church (Capponi Chapel) Reading: Paoletti-Radke, pp. 397-424, 437-452.
WEEK 6: REVIEW AND EXAM	
July 30 th , Monday, class	Unit 11: Final Review class. <u>Field Study Journal due.</u> <u>Reading-review due.</u>
August 1 st , Wednesday, class	Unit 12: Final Exam.