



ART 403: EARLY RENAISSANCE ART IN ITALY

FALL SEMESTER 2017-18

Class-time Thu 9.30-12.15

PROF. MARCO CIANCHI mcianchi1@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS: one hour before and after class and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: General survey of the development of Italian art, particularly of Tuscan art, from the dawn of the Renaissance around 1300 in the art of Giotto to its full flowering in the mid-late 1400s.

CLASS ORGANIZATION: Lectures will be held in the classroom and on site in the city as designated on the schedule. The meeting place is underlined on your syllabus and will always be confirmed at the preceding lecture. Entrance fees for the semester will be approximately 50€.

GRADING/CLASS REQUIREMENTS: Grades will be based on a written mid-term and a written final, as well as a Looking Assignment (see below).

Mid term exam: 35%; a Looking Assignment: 20%; Final Exam: 35%; Participation: 10%

N.B. Attendance is important as you will be expected to remember works of art we will be seeing together during class time. The established CSU attendance policy will be applied.

REQUIRED READINGS: John T. Paoletti & Gary M. Radke, *Art in Renaissance Italy*, 3rd edition (4th available), Laurence King Publisher. To be studied: Introduction, Chapters 1, 3, 4, 10, 11 (a selection of the pages will be given in the classroom).

Recommended: James Hall, *Dictionary of Subjects and Symbols in Art*, 1974, use any of the several reprints. Further reading will be made available or recommended during class time.

CLASS CALENDAR

Nov. 9, CLASSROOM Introduction; Giorgio Vasari's Second Style; Giotto as the father of Renaissance painting.

Nov. 16, CLASSROOM Lecture on Perspective, from Brunelleschi's invention to its use in painting by Masaccio, Paolo Uccello, Piero della Francesca.

Nov. 23, NO CLASS- THANKSGIVING BREAK

Nov. 30, ON SITE Cappella Brancacci (6 €) and Basilica di Santo Spirito

Dec 7, ON SITE Florentine Sculpture: Museum of the Cathedral (15€) and Orsanmichele

Dec. 14, ON SITE Medici Patronage: Palazzo Medici (7€) and Basilica di San Lorenzo (5€)

Dec. 21, MID-TERM EXAM

Jan. 11, ON SITE Religious painting: Museo di San Marco (4€) and Cenacolo di Sant'Apollonia

Jan. 18, ON SITE Donatello and XV c. sculpture: Museo del Bargello (8€) and Palazzo della Signoria to see Donatello's *Judith*

Jan. 25, CLASSROOM: Lecture on The Age of Lorenzo Medici and mythological tales

Feb 1, ON SITE The Burial chapels of the wealthy Florentine families: Churches of Santa Trinita and Santa Maria Novella (5€)

Feb. 8, ON SITE Early Renaissance Painting at the Uffizi Gallery (12,50€)

Feb. 12 – 15 - FINAL EXAM – Exact day and time to be announced

THREE HOUR ATTENDANCE POLICY 2017-18 (for classes that meet once a week for 3 hours)

Attendance to all CSU courses is mandatory. One unexcused absence is allowed during the semester but more than one unexcused absence will lower your grade as follows (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or emergencies): **TWO** unexcused absences, lowers by 1.5 letter grades (i.e., B to C-); **THREE** unexcused absences, lowers by 3 letter grades (i.e., A to D). More than **THREE unexcused absences could result in failure of the course.**

In order not to disrupt the class, punctuality is required. Students are expected to be in class at the beginning of the class hour; any delay exceeding **five** minutes will be considered an absence.

Dates of mid-term and final exams **can not** be changed for individual travel plans or personal needs. Students should take note of the dates and hours of the midterm and final exams and plan their trips after the last exam. It is important to inform friends and relatives about these exam dates so that no tickets are purchased for you that will interfere with these exam dates. **Missing the midterm or the final exam could result in failure of the course.**

During the academic year photocopies and other material may be distributed in class by the instructors. Students who were not in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies.

Optional class policies:

Use of computer in class is restricted to oral presentations, unless previously approved by the professor.

Eating is **NOT** allowed in class.

Cellular phones must be **turned off** or placed on **silent mode** during class.

LOOKING ASSIGNMENT-GROUP WORK

Students (groups of max 3) are required to write a text of max 3 pages on a work of art of the Early Renaissance that we haven't seen together (see list below). Groups and art works will be decided together with the instructor.

Using art books the text will discuss history, subject, style of the chosen work; it will also include personal comments, impressions, comparisons, report of the group debate. Sketches are welcome when necessary or preferred.

Due February 1-15.

List of sites and works:

- **Basilica di Santa Croce (fee):** Giotto's Cappelle Bardi e Peruzzi; Cimabue's Crucifix; Donatello's Annunciation; Rossellino's Tomb of Leonardo Bruni & Desiderio da Settignano's Tomb of Carlo Marsuppini, a comparison.
- **Duomo- Santa Maria del Fiore (no fees):** Uccello's Monument of Giovanni Acuto & Castagno's Monument of Niccolo da Tolentino, a comparison.
- **Basilica di San Miniato (no fees) :** Tomb of Cardinal of Portugal.
- **Museum of Orsanmichele** (open Monday morning only, **no fees**) Choose two statues to be described and compared.
- **Basilica di San Francesco- AREZZO (about one hour train and church fees):** Piero della Francesca's cycle of frescoes with the Story of the True Cross.