



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM - FIRENZE

ART 404 ITALIAN HIGH RENAISSANCE ART
THE MYTH OF THE GREAT MASTERS

Spring Semester 2020

Course taught in English

Thursday: 10:45 – 13:30

Location: California State University, Florence~Via G. Leopardi, 12~50121 Florence, Italy

Instructor:: Prof. Giovanna Giusti
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Office hours: Thursday: 9:45-10:45 or by appointment

Credits – 3 CSU semester units.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE:

Why is the myth of great artists such as **Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo Buonarroti and Raffaello Sanzio**, protagonists of Italian art between the end of 1400 and the first decades of 1500, still alive today? Why do Californian students and millions of tourists from all over the world want to discover and study their works in person? Why is Raffaello celebrated in 2020 - on the 5th anniversary of his death - with such great exhibitions?

The course, illustrating the personal new expressions of the artist genius, no longer craftsman, but intellectual himself, who expresses himself with a new way of 'making art', sensitive to the scientific inquiry of nature or to the representation of the human soul, intends to broaden:

the character of absolute originality that distinguishes each of these three great artists; why their brilliance has been and is still recognized by many contemporary artists; why their myth foods today, with the most diverse means, different cultural experiences.

The purpose of the course is to make students participate in the art of the past, to which one looks to project it into the future.

The course includes lessons in the classroom with slides, visits to monuments and museums of the city, a **visit of the great exhibition in Rome dedicated to Raffaello** and an active participation of the students with individual and group research, preliminary to the Mid term and Final Exam.

Independent visits to museums and monuments are also requested in order to complement information discussed in class.

CSU GE category: C3, C4 of C elective

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Frederick Hartt *History of Italian Renaissance Art: Painting, Sculpture, Architecture*, 7th ed. (David Wilkins, 2009)

Giorgo Vasari, *Lives of the Most Eminent Painters, Sculptors and Architects*, 1568, George Bull trans., Penguin, 1965 (in particular the lives of Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raffaello).

Several of these books are on reserve in the library.

Additional readings and web resources may be given during the semester.

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You are responsible for the weekly readings, the information given to you in class, on handouts **and via email**. Part of your grade will be determined by regular attendance, participation in class discussions and active engagement in all activities of this course.

Make sure to check your email on a regular basis for updates and additional information.

CLASS SITE VISITS

Visits to museums and other institutions and sites are included in this course and you are required to attend all of them.

The site visits are considered a very important part of this course, also for the particular privilege of being able to examine in person works in Florence from the most important of the artists discussed.

There are planned visits to the Uffizi Gallery to Casa Buonarroti, to the Galleria Palatina IN Pitti Palace and to the temporary exhibition dedicated to Raffaello in Rome (Scuderie del Quirinale).

Visits to the Galleria dell'Accademia (David, Prisons and one of Michelangelo's Pietà), to the Bargello Museum (Bacco, David/Apollo, Bruto, Pitti Tondo), to the Museum of the Cathedral (Pietà), to the Medici Chapels **are recommended** in order to effectively fuse all the information together.

APPROXIMATE COST OF THE MANDATORY SITE VISITS AND THE UFFIZI CARD IS TO BE PAID FOR BY THE STUDENTS. The Uffizi card (40 euro) must be paid in cash to Jane or Refugio, as soon as classes begin. This card will be utilized in other classes, in particular art history classes, during the spring semester. If you buy it for one class, you can use it for another class. Unlimited entries to each museum included are permitted.

40 euros - Card Associazione Amici degli Uffizi, for admission to the Galleria Uffizi and all museums of Palazzo Pitti, valid one year; + 4,50 euros for Casa Buonarroti = 44,50 total class costs.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will learn to look 'with a personal gaze' not only the artistic production of the three great artists of the second Renaissance but also to know the reasons why their greatness has produced a reputation so alive even today, in a world of great transformations and contradictions.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the semester, through personal experience in Florence and the course, students will be able to:

understand and appreciate the importance of the three great Italian artists of the second Renaissance but also recognize how their art can stimulate international creativity in today's world.

EXAMS (given in English)

Mid term: it will be a written exam. Students will be requested to identify and discuss **five** images of works from those presented in class and illustrated in Hartt, or similar. In **an hour** students will have to be able to indicate: **name of the artist, title of the work, date of the work, technique and summarize in minimum 3 paragraph discussion** the principle characteristics of both the work and artist.

Final Exam: again it will be a written exam and comprehensive of the entire course. There will be **five** other works to identify and comment on with the same system of the midterm, students have to hand in **the same day as the final exam.**

TERM PAPER:

5 pages double-spaced, with the addition of notes, illustrations and bibliography, in English, choosing from one of the following topics:

1. **The same subject** (i.e. Madonna with Child, Adoration of the Magi, Allegory, Annunciation or another) compared with works of some artists discussed during the course, **(including contemporary art).**
2. **The portrait. The evolution of image and technique** compared with works of some artists discussed during the course, , **(including contemporary art).**
3. **The project of a personal itinerary about the works. preserved in Florence (inside Museums, Churches or in open spaces etc.) of one of the artists discussed during the course, proposing a confrontation between the selected artist and a contemporary artist.**

Grades and Exams

Your grade will be determined by the following assignments:
(select and list the ones applicable to your course)

- **Midterm** 20 %
- **Paper** 20%
- **Final** 20 %

- **Reports** **10 %**
- **Class participation** **15 %**
- **Class presentation** **15 %**

Important: EXAMS

You must attend all exams and quizzes as scheduled. Make-up exams are given only for valid reasons. Please check your academic calendar **BEFORE** you book trips, flights and hotels.

Grades

100-94	A
93-90	A-
89-88	B+
87-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-73	C
72-69	C-
68-67	D+
66-63	D
62-60	D-
59 and below	F

The + and - symbols will be used for grading (except for A+). Specific information about the paper, exams and other projects will be given to you during the semester.

You must complete all work assigned in the course to pass the class.

***A** Student performance has been outstanding and indicates an exceptional degree of academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements*

***B** Student performance has been at a high level and indicates solid academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements*

***C** Student performance has been adequate and indicates satisfactory academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements*

***D** Student performance has been less than adequate and indicates deficiencies in meeting the learning outcomes and/or course requirements*

***F** Student performance has been unacceptable and indicates a failure to meet the learning outcomes and/or course requirements*

VERY IMPORTANT: Failure to complete all work and exams assigned in the course could result in failure of the class.

Class Code of Conduct

Activities unrelated to the course (including private conversations, emailing, text messaging, reading, web surfing, etc.) are not permitted during class time. Please turn off or put all electronic devices on silent mode prior to the beginning of the class.

Safety

All students are expected to respect the safety and security policies in place at CSU Firenze. Students will be expected to follow the procedures outlined by CSU Firenze for the safe use of all spaces, including the upstairs. Refusal to respect these policies and procedures could lead to access restrictions or disciplinary actions.

Academic Dishonesty Will Not Be Tolerated.

Any form of plagiarism or cheating may result in a failing final grade in the course and might be reported to IP and your campus. You are better off spending your time studying for the class. If you have questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please refer to the student handbook and catalog of your campus and also ask me and/ or the Resident Director for more information.

Students with Disabilities

Upon identifying yourself to the instructor and the university, students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluations. For more information, contact the Resident Director.

Attendance policy

A) 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 grade (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.

B) 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.

C) **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 their 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 mean failure of the course.

D) If during the academic year photocopies and other material may be distributed in class by the instructor, students who were not in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies.

E) **Mobile Phones need to be turned off in Class.** Use of the computer is restricted to oral presentations, unless previously approved by the professor.

F) Eating is not allowed in class

Copyright and Privacy Laws

No portion of the texts, films, videos, and other material used in this course can be reproduced in any format including scanning, electronic downloading or sharing of files.

In addition, no portion of class lectures, discussions, and activities can be reproduced and used in any format, including electronic, without the written consent of the instructor and/or guest speakers.

Changes- Important

Information contained in this syllabus, including the class calendar, other than that mandated by the University, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

ART 404 CLASS CALENDAR 2020

Week 1

Thursday, February 27, IN CLASS, 10,45 – 13,30

Presentation of the Course. The passage from the first to the second Renaissance. Verrocchio and the young Leonardo

Week 2

On-site - Thursday March 5 : 10:45 – 13:30 VISIT THE UFFIZI GALLERY - Meeting: Via della Ninna n. 5.

The genius Leonardo. **Bring your Friends of The Uffizi Card and your Passport to this visit.**

Week 3

Thursday, March 12 - NO CLASS TODAY, DUE TO THE CSU SOUTHTERN ITALY FIELD TRIP. Assignments for Field Trip will be announced in class prior to the trip.

Week 4

Thursday, March 19 : IN CLASS ore 10,45 – 13,30: Contemporary artists who were inspired by Leonardo. Michelangelo in Florence

Week 5

Thursday March 26: , IN CLASS, ore 10,45 – 13,30: - Michelangelo sculptor. Contemporary artists who were inspired by Michelangelo.

Week 6

On-site : Thursday, April 2, ore 10,45 – 13,30: Michelangelo painter and **Visit Casa Buonarroti (Via Ghibellina, n. 57) TICKET 4,50 EUROS**

Week 7

Thursday April 9: ore 10,45 – 13,30, IN CLASS, MID TERM EXAMINATION

Week 8

SPRING BREAK: April 10 (Fri) – April 19 (Sun)

Week 9

Thursday, April 23: IN CLASS, ore 10,45 – 13,30: Raffaello in Florence

Week 10

Thursday April 30: NO CLASS TODAY. Make-up class on Friday, May 15. Details to be announced.

Week 11

On-site, Thursday May 7: ore 10,45 – 13,30: Visit the Uffizi and the Galleria Palatina to see the Raffaello portraits, Meeting: Via della Ninna n. 5. Bring your Friends of The Uffizi Card and your Passport to this visit.

Week 12

Thursday, May 14: IN CLASS, ore 10,45 – 13,30 Raffaello in Rome/ Contemporary artists who were inspired by Raphael.

Friday, May 15: Make-up class (for class cancelled on April 30). Details to be announced.

Week 13

Thursday, May 21: IN CLASS, ore 10,45 – 13,30- REVIEW.

Week 14

Thursday, May 25 - 28: FINAL EXAM (day and time to be confirmed)

PLEASE NOTE:

Be sure to take note of each class meeting (day and time) BEFORE the date of that class. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask your professor for more information.

ON SITE: no bags and no big umbrellas are allowed.