

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CSU Virtual International Program

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

Spring Semester VIP 2020

Course taught in English

**Thursday: 4:45 – 5:45 pm through March 27, Wed. 5:45 – 6:45 pm as of March 30, 2020
(Italian time)**

**Instructor:: Prof. Giovanna Giusti
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Office Hours: to be announced

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 presentations with slides, virtual visits to monuments and museums of the city, a virtual **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 virtual visits to museums and monuments and videos are also requested in order to complement information.

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) . There are several ones to download online (<https://www.8freebooks.net/download-history-of-italian-renaissance-art-painting-sculpture-architecture-by-frederick-hartt-david-g-wilkins-pdf/>;

<https://archive.org/details/HistoryOfItalianRenaissanceArtPaintingSculptureArchitectureHarttFrederick7thEd2011/mode/2up> ;

https://archive.org/stream/HistoryOfItalianRenaissanceArtPaintingSculptureArchitectureHarttFrederick7thEd2011/History+of+Italian+Renaissance+Art+Painting%2C+Sculpture%2C+Architecture+Hartt%2C+Frederick+7th+ed+2011_djvu.txt ;

<https://sites.google.com/a/orphil.host/parrisguy/by-frederick-hartt-history-of-italian-renaissance-art-painting-sculpture-architecture-6th-edition-B00NBZ2XW> ;

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).

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

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

*You are responsible for the readings and all the information given to you. Part of your grade will be determined by regular attendance, participation and active engagement in all activities of this course. **Make sure to check also your email on a regular basis for updates and additional information.***

CLASS SITE VISITS

Visits to museums and other institutions are replaced with virtual visits and videos, when it will be possible.

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 :

Mid term: it will be a written exam. Each student will be requested to get **a Paper of 3 pages, double-spaced**, on the following topic:

What do you think of the international interest in works of art, such as Michelangelo's David or for the great exhibitions dedicated to artists who entered the myth, such as Leonardo and Raphael, on the occasion of their important anniversaries? What is the power of art today?

Final Exam: it will be a written exam. Each student will be requested to get **a Paper of 5 pages, double-spaced, with the addition of notes, illustrations and bibliography**, choosing from one of the following topics:

1. **The same subject** (i.e. Madonna with Child, Adoration of the Magi, Allegories, Mythologic topics; 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 30 %
- Final Exam 50%
- Reports 10 %
- Class participation 10 %

Important: EXAMS

You must attend all exams as scheduled. Make-up exams are given only for valid reasons.

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.

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 your teacher if you need special accommodations.

Attendance policy

The teacher will track attendance through the Canvas portal.

Copyright and Privacy Laws

No portion of the texts and other readings 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 can be reproduced (for example recorded), without my consent.

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, 9,30 – 12,15

Presentation of the Course. The passage from the first to the second Renaissance.

THIS FIRST CLASS WAS HELD IN FLORENCE

From March 5 - 12 the classes were suspended

Thursday, March 5 – classes suspended. Make-up to be announced.

Week 2

Thursday March 19/2020: 4,45 p.m – 5,45 p.m (Italian time): Verrocchio and the young Leonardo;
links to virtual visits and video

Week 3

Thursday, March 26/2020: 4,45 p.m – 5,45 p.m (Italian time): Leonardo visible and invisible

Week 4

Thursday, April 2 /2020: 5,45 - 6,45 p.m (Italian time): Contemporary artists who were inspired by Leonardo.

Week 5

Thursday April 9 /2020: 5,45 - 6,45 p.m (Italian time): Michelangelo in Florence

Week 6

Thursday, April 16/2020: 5,45 - 6,45 p.m (Italian time): Michelangelo sculptor. Contemporary artists who were inspired by Michelangelo.

Week 7

Thursday April 23/2020: 5,45 - 6,45 p.m (Italian time): MID TERM EXAMINATION

Mid term: it will be a written exam. Each student will be requested to get **a Paper of 3 pages**, double-spaced, on the following topic:

What do you think of the international interest in works of art, such as Michelangelo's David or for the great exhibitions dedicated to artists who entered the myth, such as Leonardo and Raphael, on the occasion of their important anniversaries? What is the power of art today?

Week 8

Thursday, April 30/2020: 5,45 - 6,45 p.m (Italian time): Michelangelo painter

Week 9

Thursday, May 7/2020: 5,45 - 6,45 p.m (Italian time): *Raphael in Florence*

Week 10

Thursday, May 14/2020: 5,45 - 6,45 p.m (Italian time): *Raphael in Rome; links to virtual visits and video*

Week 11

Thursday May 21/2020: 5,45 - 6,45 p.m (Italian time): *Contemporary artists who were inspired by Raphael.*

Week 12

FINAL EXAM PAPER due Wed., May 27. Your papers are to be given to the teacher no later than this date.

Final Exam: it will be a written exam. Each student will be requested to get **a Paper of 5 pages, double-spaced, with the addition of notes, illustrations and bibliography**, choosing from one of the following topics:

1. **The same subject** (i.e. *Madonna with Child, Adoration of the Magi, Allegories, Mythologic topics; Annunciation* or another) compared with works of 2 or 3 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.**