

AHY-2302 – ITALIAN RENAISSANCE ART

Course description

The class gives a general introduction to the key periods, media and contexts of Renaissance Art. The aim of the course is to show how a combination of different factors (realistic space representation, invention of perspective, revival of antiquity, the humanist movement, representation of sexuality and the emancipation of the artist) founded the modern condition of art.

Required texts and materials

- Evelyn Welch, *Art in Renaissance Italy* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 1997).
- Ernst Gombrich, *The Story of Art* (London: Phaidon, 1952), chapters 11-13, and 15-16. (They will be available on the intranet.)
- John White, *The Birth and Rebirth of Pictorial Space* (London: Faber and Faber, 1967), chapters 1-3, 7-9, and 14. (They will be available on the intranet.)

Assignments & grading

Not having read the mandatory piece for the class counts as an unexcused absence. The grade has three components: the mid-term exam (33%), the final exam (33%) and an essay (33%). The subject of the essay is a piece of Italian Renaissance Art of your choice from the Museum of Fine Arts (the collection is temporarily on display at the Hungarian National Gallery). Besides discussing the historical context and the actual features of the work in writing, students are expected to have an oral presentation of the paper for the others in the museum around the end of the year.

Honor code

McDaniel College operates on a code of honor with respect to exams, papers, and any other materials submitted in fulfillment of course requirements. Any submission must adhere to both the spirit and the letter of the McDaniel College Honor System.

Course policies

Attendance will be taken for all classes. If you have more than three unexcused absences, your course grade will be lowered an entire letter grade. Excessive lateness is not tolerated.

SEMESTER SCHEDULE/TOPICS COVERED

1. September 7: **Introduction**

I. A SHORT STORY OF RENAISSANCE ART

2. September 8: **Renaissance Art and its place in History**
3. September 14: **The Story of Art: 1300-1450**
Mandatory reading: Ernst Gombrich, *The Story of Art*, chapters 11-13. See also: <http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/ht/?period=08&ion=eustshttp://www.metmuseum.org/toah/ht/?period=08&ion=eustchhttp://www.metmuseum.org/toah/ht/?period=08&ion=eustn>
4. September 15: **The Story of Art: 1450-1527**
Mandatory reading: Ernst Gombrich, *The Story of Art*, chapters 15-16.

II. THE REBIRTH OF PICTORIAL SPACE

5. September 21: **The realistic turn**
Mandatory reading: John White, *The Birth and Rebirth of Pictorial Space*, chapter 1.
6. September 22: **Empirical perspective**
Mandatory reading: John White, *The Birth and Rebirth of Pictorial Space*, chapter 2-3.
7. September 28: **Mathematical perspective**
Mandatory reading: John White, *The Birth and Rebirth of Pictorial Space*, chapter 7-9.
8. September 29: **Museum Visit: Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest**
See also: <http://www.szepmuveszeti.hu/web/guest/aktualitasok>
9. October 5: **Library Visit: Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest**
See also: <http://www.szepmuveszeti.hu/web/guest/konyvtar>

III. CONTEXTS OF RENAISSANCE ART

10. October 6: **Materials and Methods**
Mandatory reading: Evelyn Welch, *Art in Renaissance Italy*, chapter 2.

11. October 12: **Artists and Patrons**

Mandatory reading: Evelyn Welch, *Art in Renaissance Italy*, chapters 3-4.

12. October 13: **Art and Devotion**

Mandatory reading: Evelyn Welch, *Art in Renaissance Italy*, chapters 5-6.

13. October 19: **Art and Politics**

Mandatory reading: Evelyn Welch, *Art in Renaissance Italy*, chapters 7-8.

14. October 20: Mid-term Exam

15. October 26: **Preparing a Research Paper**

IV. ARTISTS AND THEIR ART

16. October 27: **Ghiberti and Donatello**

17. November 2: **Piero della Francesca and Fra Angelico**

18. November 3: **Mantegna**

19. November 9: **Botticelli**

20. November 10: **Jacopo, Gentile and Giovanni Bellini**

21. November 16: **Giorgione and Titian**

22. November 17: **Leonardo da Vinci**

November 23-24 Thursday-Friday: Thanksgiving Recess – No classes

23. November 30: **Michelangelo Buonarroti**

December 1: **Cancelled**

December 7: **Cancelled**

24. December 8: **Raphael**

25. December 9: **Trip to Vienna**

26. December 14: Final exam

27. December 15: Museum visit and paper presentation