



## **THE ART OF THE RENAISSANCE, 1300-1600**

**PROF. MARK ROSEN**

### **Course Information**

AHST 3315 Section: 501

Fall 2008

Thursday evenings, 7:00-9:45 pm, plus one required museum visit on your own time

### **Professor Contact Information**

Office: JO 5.704

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Office phone: 972-883-2367

Office hours: Monday, 2–3:30 or by appointment

### **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

Prerequisites: The introductory Art History Survey (AHST 1303 and 1304) or AP Art History in High School; AHST 2331 or ARTS 1301 are also acceptable prereqs.

### **Course Description**

This course covers the development of Italian art from the late Gothic period through the Counter Reformation, or (in other words) from Giotto to Tintoretto. Designed for students with no background in the art of the period, the lectures will serve as both an introduction to the major artists of the period as well as to the functions, themes, and patronage behind their most significant works. We will focus on the major urban centers (Florence, Venice, Rome, Siena, Milan) as well as some of the smaller Italian courts (Mantua, Ferrara), each of which has its own distinctive artistic tradition and system of patronage. Among the artists and architects discussed will be: Giotto, Masaccio, Ghiberti, Brunelleschi, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Giovanni Bellini, and Titian. We will also discuss the relevant ancient and medieval background that Renaissance art and architecture grew from.

Unlike the central textbook (Hart/Wilkins), the lectures will not move through the material exclusively chronologically but rather follow more thematic subjects. The course will not be just a survey of major works of art, but the culture that created them and the reasons that Italian art and architecture took the forms that it did.

Students in this course are not expected to have a background in any of this material but are expected to bring fresh perspectives to the course. Although it is a lecture class, we will often have discussion as a group based not only on the images we're looking at but also on the reading, so it's important to keep up. After each week, I will post the images from the lectures on WebCT, as well as a list of terms or captions that relate to the images. Many of these images are also in the textbook, although not everything we see in class will also be in the book.

### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

- Students will analyze and evaluate Italian Renaissance artworks beyond considerations of style and authorship, understanding their creation in the context of the religious, political, and social concerns of the period
- Students will develop their skills of visual analysis by writing a short paper about a Renaissance artwork in a local museum. They will also write a second paper that synthesizes what they have learned in the lectures and reading while addressing a previously unknown work of art.
- Students will gain an understanding of historical works of art that they can carry with them beyond this class to studying or evaluating artworks from other periods and cultures.

### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

Note: all three of the required textbooks have been published in multiple editions in the past. It isn't essential that you buy the current one (especially if you can save a lot of money buying an earlier edition), but the page numbers listed in the syllabus are for the most recent edition. All three books are also on two-hour course reserve at McDermott Library.

**Frederick Hartt and David G. Wilkins, *History of Italian Renaissance Art*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition (NY: Prentice Hall, 2006).**

**Giorgio Vasari, *The Lives of the Artists*, trans. Julia Conway Bondanella and Peter Bondanella (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998).** There are other acceptable editions that you can use (most notably the Penguin edition translated by George Bull).

**Michael Baxandall, *Painting and Experience in Fifteenth-Century Italy*, 2d edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988).** You can also use the first edition, which is hardly different.

Other required readings will be available online through electronic course reserves (<http://utdallas.docutek.com/eres/coursepage.aspx?cid=486>). **The password is “renaissance”.**

Readings should be done **before** each class meeting. Some readings will be discussed during the lecture and it is expected that students will be prepared to participate in the discussion and be familiar with the works.

## Papers and Assignments

You will have three writing assignments for the class. The first, worth 10% of your grade, is a short visual analysis of a work in the Kimbell Museum in Fort Worth. The second will be a response to and evaluation of a book for this course: you will discuss either Baxandall's *Painting and Experience* or one of Vasari's biographies. You will post this second assignment on the WebCT site for the course, and will read and comment upon another student's response. This assignment will be factored into the Attendance and Participation grade for the semester. The final, and most important, paper will be a 6–7 page comparison of several works of art from different time periods. You'll have a choice of three topics. The images for these will be posted on WebCT three weeks prior to the paper's due date. You will turn in this final paper as a hard copy in class on 4 December.

Please note that none of these papers are meant as research papers. The most significant skills they demand are close looking, attentive reading, and insightful expository writing. All the background information you need to write the paper will be provided to you as part of the assignment, so it will not be necessary to search the library or web for additional information.

<b>Assignments &amp; Academic Calendar</b>		
<b>Class</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
21 Aug.	<b>Introduction: Angles of Approach in Renaissance Art Overview of Italian Politics and Culture</b>	
28 Aug.	<b>Life in the City: The Piazza, the Palace, and the Cathedral</b>	Hartt/Wilkins, Ch. 1–2 (pp. 17–71).  “A Contract to Paint a Ceiling and a Wall,” from <i>Italian Art, 1400–1500</i> , ed. Creighton E. Gilbert (Evanston, 1980), pp. 21–22 (electronic reserve)
4 Sept.	<b>Devotional Practices, Ritual Art: The Church and the Chapel</b>	Hartt/Wilkins, Ch. 3–5 (pp. 73–156).  Vasari, Lives of Giotto, Simone Martini, Duccio  Diana Norman, “Making Renaissance Altarpieces,” in <i>Making Renaissance Art</i> , ed. Kim Woods (New Haven, 2007), pp. 175–208 (electronic reserve).

11 Sept.	<b>Art as a Window: Humanism and Developments in Quattrocento Art</b>	Hart/Wilkins, Ch. 6–8 (pp. 159–219).  Vasari, Lives of Masaccio, Fra Angelico, Alberti  Leon Battista Alberti, section from “On Painting,” from <i>Italian Art, 1400–1500</i> , ed. Creighton E. Gilbert (Evanston, 1980), pp. 51–75 (electronic reserve)  <b>Short Museum Assignment Due—3 pages on work in Kimbell Museum</b>
18 Sep.	<b>Public Art, Public Rivalries: Monumental Sculpture, Civic Palaces, and the Nature of Artistic Competition</b>  <b>Discussion section</b>	Hart/Wilkins, Ch. 9–11 (pp. 221–297).  Vasari, Lives of Uccello, Masaccio, Brunelleschi, Donatello, and Castagno/Veneziano  Baxandall, 1–27
25 Sep.	<b>Man, Woman, and the Quattrocento Home</b>	Hart/Wilkins, Ch. 12–14 (pp. 299–389).  Vasari, Life of Botticelli  Baxandall, 29–70
2 Oct.	First half of class: <b>A Culture of Experiment: Leonardo da Vinci</b>  Second half of class: <b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	Vasari, Life of Leonardo  Baxandall, 70–108
9 Oct.	Yom Kippur Holiday— <b>NO CLASS</b>	Baxandall, 109–153  <b>Web CT project based on Baxandall due online this week on Tuesday, 7 Oct.; critique of peer’s paper due online 14 Oct.</b>
16 Oct.	<b>The Call of the Ancient World</b>	Hart/Wilkins, Ch. 16 (pp. 445–491).
23 Oct.	<b>From Genesis to Revelation: The Sistine Chapel</b>	Hart/Wilkins, Ch. 17 (pp. 493–547)  Vasari, Life of Michelangelo (read first half—it’s long)
30 Oct.	<b>Pictorial Legitimacy: Halls of State</b>	Vasari, Lives of Mantegna and Raphael
6 Nov.	<b>Sophisticated Rites: Venetian Confraternities and Religious Painting</b>	Hart/Wilkins, Ch. 15 (pp. 391–442) Vasari, Lives of Giorgione and Titian

13 Nov.	<b>Garden of Earthly Delights: The Renaissance Villa</b>  <b>Discussion section</b>	Hart/Wilkins, Ch. 18 (pp. 549–597)
20 Nov.	<b>Mannerism and the “Problem” of Late–Sixteenth Century Art</b>	Hart/Wilkins, Ch. 19 (pp. 599–691).  Vasari, Preface to the Lives, Preface to Part 2, Preface to Part 3; Life of Michelangelo (second half)
27 Nov.	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday—NO CLASS</b>	
4 Dec.	<b>The Sitter Unmasked: Renaissance Portraiture and Self-Portraiture</b>	<b>Paper 2 due—no reading</b>
11 Dec.	<b>Final Exam</b>	

### Grading Policy

Paper 1 (Museum Assignment): 10%

Midterm: 20%

Paper 2: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

Attendance, Participation, and WebCT Assignment on Baxandall: 20%

### Course & Instructor Policies

- Office hours are meant for the benefit of you students, so use them! They can be used to discuss class materials, assignments, and questions arising from the readings, or other issues you’d like to discuss. If you can’t make it to the scheduled hours, you can make an appointment with me at some other time.
- I can be reached by email and will make efforts to respond in a timely manner, but I’m not on call at all hours; use email sparingly, please.
- All major assignments must be completed to successfully pass the class (you can’t skip the first paper and still expect to get a B+).
- **No written assignments will be accepted via email**—I am firm on this.
- Late assignments will be marked down substantially.
- Please turn off your phone and refrain from texting in class. It’s a drag for everyone.
- Class begins at 7 pm each week. If you must come in late, try to be as quiet as possible.
- Since we only meet once a week and we will be covering so much material each class, you may have no more than two unexcused absences—if you have more than that, you will get a zero for your participation grade.

### THE FINE PRINT

#### Technical Support

If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: [assist@utdallas.edu](mailto:assist@utdallas.edu) or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

## **Field Trip Policies Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities**

*Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address [http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel\\_Risk\\_Activities.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm). Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.*

## **Student Conduct & Discipline**

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

## **Academic Integrity**

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

## **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software.

Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow the institution's copyright policy (Policy Memorandum 84-I.3-46). For more information about the fair use exemption, see <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm>

### **Email Use**

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

### **Withdrawal from Class**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

### **Student Grievance Procedures**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

### **Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade

must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

### **Disability Services**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22

PO Box 830688

Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

[disabilityservice@utdallas.edu](mailto:disabilityservice@utdallas.edu)

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with the Coordinator of Disability Services. The Coordinator is available to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Services to notify them of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. Disability Services can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

### **Religious Holy Days**

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***