ART 3742 - Topics in Renaissance Art

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 43199,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Stephanie Smith

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Professor of Art History

Instructor Professional Qualifications:
Ph.D., Art History, Rutgers University
M.A., Art History, Rutgers University
B.A., Art History, Washington & Lee University

Instructor Office Location: Bliss Hall 4083

Instructor Office Phone: 330-941-3627 (main office)

Course Description

3742. Topics in Renaissance Art. The art and architecture of Europe during the 15th and 16th centuries. Examines the work of Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Durer, and others. Topics vary by semester and include the Renaissance in Italy and the Renaissance in Northern Europe. May be repeated if the content is different. Prereq.: ART 1542 or consent of instructor. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Italian Renaissance Art (2nd edition)	Laurie Schneider Adams	

Additional required course readings:

Vasari, Giorgio. *Lives of the Most Eminent Painters, Sculptors and Architects*. Translated by Gaston du C. de Vere. 10 vols. London: Macmillan and Co. and The Medici Society, 1912–1914. Project Gutenberg.

Dr. Nancy Ross and Dr. Evan Freeman, "The life of Christ in medieval and Renaissance art," in *Smarthistory*, August 8, 2015

Dr. Ariel Fein, "The visual culture of Norman Sicily," in *Smarthistory*, May 21, 2021

Dr. Holly Flora, "Cimabue, *Virgin and Child Enthroned, and Prophets (Santa Trinita Maestà)*," in *Smarthistory*, November 4, 2020

Dr. Steven Zucker and Dr. Beth Harris, "Florence in the Early Renaissance," in *Smarthistory*, August 9, 2015

Dr. Lauren Kilroy-Ewbank and Dr. Heather Graham, "Alberti's revolution in painting," in *Smarthistory*, May 13, 2020

Dr. Lorenza Smith, "Devotional confraternities (scuole) in Renaissance Venice," in *Smarthistory*, March 23, 2018

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Adams, chapter 1 Dr. Nancy Ross and Dr. Evan Freeman, "The life of Christ in medieval and Renaissance art," in Smarthistory, August 8, 2015 Dr. Ariel Fein, "The visual culture of Norman Sicily," in Smarthistory, May 21, 2021 Dr. Holly Flora, "Cimabue, Virgin and Child Enthroned, and Prophets (Santa Trinita Maestà)," in Smarthistory, November 4, 2020 Selected biographies from Giorgio Vasari's Lives of the Most Eminent Painters, Sculptors and Architects (trans. Gaston du C. de Vere), available through Project Gutenberg.	Module 1: Introduction & Dugento	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
8/31	continuation of week 8/24	continuation of Module 1	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
9/7	continuation of week 8/24 and 8/31 Adams, chapters 3-4	continuation of Module 1 Module 2: Trecento	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
9/14	continuation of week 9/7	continuation of Module 2	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom) Altarpiece Comparison Assignment
9/21	Adams, chapters 5-7 Dr. Steven Zucker and Dr. Beth Harris, "Florence in the Early Renaissance," in Smarthistory, August 9, 2015 Dr. Lauren Kilroy-Ewbank and Dr. Heather Graham, "Alberti's revolution in painting," in Smarthistory, May 13, 2020	Module 3: Quattrocento I	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
9/28	continuation of week 9/21	continuation of Module 3	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom) Reading the Renaissance Through Vasari (Part 1)
10/5	continuation of week 9/21 and 9/28	continuation of Module 3	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
10/12	Module 4: Quattrocento II	Adams, chapters 8, 10-11	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
10/19	continuation of week 10/12	continuation of Module 4	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
10/26	continuation of week 10/12 and 10/26	continuation of Module 4	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
11/2	Adams, chapter 9 & 12 Dr. Lorenza Smith, "Devotional confraternities (scuole) in Renaissance Venice," in Smarthistory, March 23, 2018	Module 5: Quattrocento III	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
11/9	continuation of week 11/2	continuation of Module 5	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom) Comparing Perspectives in the Quattrocento
11/16	Module 6: Cinquecento	Adams, chapters 14-15	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
11/23	Module 7: Cinquecento II	Adams, chapters 16-17	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)

11/30	continuation of week 11/23	continuation of Module 7	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom) Reading the Renaissance Through Vasari (Part 2)
12/7	There is no final exam for this course.		

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.