

In situ: Italian Art On-Site Professor Eric Hupe Erh4vv@virginia.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Studying art history abroad offers students the extraordinary experience of viewing and studying art where it was meant to be seen: in its original place, or *in situ*. Whether examining the decoration of a church interior or the construction of a public piazza, students gain a deeper understanding of the art object when standing before it. This course uses the cities of Italy as our classroom as we travel throughout Lazio, Tuscany, and the Veneto and consider works of art and architecture that are best understood by their reference to place. This course offers an introduction to the art of Early Modern Italy with forays into Modern and Contemporary art to gain a solid background in the fundamental questions and methods of art history. We will consider topics such as: art as social critique, art as political propaganda, and the power of images, as well as the relationships between art and religion and art and science. Once we have addressed these larger themes, students will be able to better understand how art from disparate chronological periods and geographic locales converse with each other.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Articles will be provided in a course pack (both electronic and printed) that the students are required to read and bring with them to Italy.
- A selection of readings will be from the Metropolitan Museum of Art's
 <u>Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History</u>. The required essays are hyperlinked below.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

ATTENDANCE

Attendance to all on-site visits is mandatory and recorded. Students are expected to adhere closely to the schedule fixed in the syllabus. It is the students' responsibility to be punctual; delays are not acceptable. Failure

to attend even a single session will affect the grade for participation. In the event of illness, students should notify the professors before the

scheduled meeting time for the day.

JOURNALS Students are expected to take notes and keep a journal on topics that will

be assigned daily and in response to prompts provided by the professor. You will also record first-hand observations of selected works of art from site-visits and relate those observations to claims made in the readings.

Due June 18.

SITE VISITS We will be making trips to collections in the surrounding area. Students

will be given journal exercises relating to these visits.

PRESENTATIONS Working in groups, students will select an object or site from a

chosen list. They will then lead class discussion related to materials they circulated to the class in advance. Groups and artworks will be assigned prior to departure so research can be started before the

class begins.

BIBLIOGRAPHY Students are responsible for completing an annotated bibliography

of scholarly articles. Appropriate readings are marked (ab) on the

syllabus.

FINAL PAPER Students write a 5-6 page paper due no later than June 23rd, 8 pm EDT

(to be uploaded to Collab).

GRADING Participation in class discussions: 35% (participation is judged by

attendance, informed comments, and awareness of assigned readings); Venice presentation and class discussion: 20%; Journal keeping on assigned topics and individual visit: 15%; Final paper, inclusive of

bibliography and abstract: 30%.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (ROME)

MAY 27 STUDENTS ARRIVE

MAY 28 CLASSICAL REBIRTH

Sites: Pantheon, Tempietto

Reading: "The Rediscovery of Classical Antiquity" (Timeline of Art

History); "Baroque Rome" (ToAH)

MAY 29 CARAVAGGIO CHURCHES

Sites: San Luigi dei Franchesi, San Agostino, S.M. del Popolo *Reading*: Leo Steinberg, "Observations in the Cerasi Chapel," *The*

Art Bulletin 41, no. 2 (1959): 183-190. (Collab, ab)

MAY 30 GALLERIA BORGHESE

Reading: Joy Kenseth, "Bernini's Borghese Sculptures: Another

View," Art Bulletin 63, no. 2 (1981): 191-210. (Collab, ab)

MAY 31 EUR

Sites: Montemartini Centrale, EUR complex

Reading: Laurie Beth Kalb Cosmo, "Defining Self by Collecting the

Other Mussolini's Museums at the EUR World's Fair Site,"

Mitteilingen des Kunsthistorischen Institutes in Florenz 59, no. 1 (2017):

124-142. (Collab, ab)

JUNE 1 TRAVEL TO CASTIGLION FIORENTINO

WEEK 2 (TUSCANY)

JUNE 2 CASTIGLION FIORENTINO

Readings: Giorgio Vasari, Lives of the Artists, "Life of Cimabue &

Giotto" (Collab)

JUNE 3 SIENA

Sites: Sala della Pace, Museo Civico; Duomo

Reading: Jack Greenstein, "The Vision of Peace: Meaning and

Representation in Ambrogio Lorenzetti's Sala della Pace

Cityscapes," Art History 11, no. 44 (1988): 492-510 (Collab, ab);

"Sienese Painting" (ToAH)

JUNE 4 PHOTOGRAPHY DAY

JUNE 5 BORGO SANSEPOLCRO

Sites: Museo Civico, *Resurrection, Madonna del Parto Reading*: Aldus Huxley, "The Best Picture." (Collab)

JUNE 6 OFF DAY

JUNE 7 ASSISI

Sites: Convento di San Francesco,

Reading: Bonaventure, "Selections from the *Life of St. Francis*."

(Collab)

JUNE 8 FLORENCE

Sites: Uffizi Gallery, Santa Croce, Palazzo Strozzi

Readings: Paul Barolsky, "The Visionary Architecture of the Pazzi Chapel," *Arion: A Journal of Humanities and the Classics*, Vol. 25, No.

2 (2017): 1-10. (Collab, ab)

JUNE 9 FLORENCE

JUNE 10 OFF DAY

JUNE 11 PHOTO DAY

JUNE 12 CORTONA

Readings: Georges Didi-Hubberman, "Prophetic Places: The

Annunciation Beyond Its Story," in Fra Angelico: Dissemblance and

Figuration, pg. 103-124.

JUNE 13 CARRARA

Readings: Norman Land, "Michelangelo and the Stonecutters,"

Source: Notes in the History of Art 33, no. 1 (2013): 16-20.

JUNE 14 PHOTOGRAPHY DAY

JUNE 15 PHOTOGRAPHY DAY

JUNE 16 AREZZO

Sites: Chiesa di San Francesco

Readings: Rosalind Krauss, "The Grid, the True Cross, the Abstract Structure," *Source: Studies in the History of Art*, vol. 48 Symposium Papers XXVIII: Piero della Francesca and His Legacy

(1995): 302-312. (Collab, ab); Laurie Schneider, "Shadow

Metaphors and Piero della Francesca's Arezzo *Annunciation,*" *Source: Notes in the History of Art* 5, no. 1 (1985) (Collab, ab).

JUNE 17 LUCCA

Readings: TBD

JUNE 18 PHOTOGRAPHY DAY

June 19 Photography Day

JUNE 20 STUDENTS RETURN TO USA