High Renaissance and Mannerist Art

ARTHS 3392N, MLART 5392-N
Department of Fine Arts and Drama,
University of St. Thomas
Spring 2018, Monday, 5:30-8:15 pm,
Cullen 204

Professor: Melisa Palermo
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00-2:00, and
by appointment Office: Art History Building,
1204 Colquitt Street, Room 203
Phone: 713-525-3854
E-mail: ramosmj@stthom.edu

Course Description

The course will focus on the art and texts produced by leading painters, sculptors, and architects in Italy during the High Renaissance and Mannerist periods. Works studied will range in date from 1470 to the 1590s. You will learn how to visually analyze art from this period, and will be asked to describe the essential characteristics of the style, social context, and iconography. Some early, period texts as well as modern writings will be assigned, and you will have to know what those texts say, and how they relate to art of the period in question. You will do the following in this class: develop specialized vocabulary to describe, analyze, and communicate function, composition, and meaning in Renaissance art; understand the art of the within its historical, social, political contexts; evaluate and use primary and secondary source materials; and develop methodological, theoretical and critical strategies in the interpretation of High Renaissance and Mannerist art and architecture.

Organized more or less chronologically but also regionally, the course will explore questions surrounding: ideas of the function and appropriate subject matter of art; the effect on art of new technologies; patronage, exhibition, and the emergence of a free market for art; women artists and the representation of gender roles; and European artists’ representation of non-European people and cultures, as well as their appropriation of global art forms.

Class meetings will consist of lectures illustrated by PowerPoint presentations, and discussions.
**Student Learning Outcomes**

Students in the course will:

1) gain knowledge of works of art considered to be representative of the High Renaissance and Mannerist periods, and their historical contexts;
2) learn to recognize and identify well-known works of art produced during the High Renaissance and Mannerist periods in Italy, N. Europe, and Spain;
3) learn to describe and analyze the formal characteristics of works of art using specialized vocabulary;
4) and develop skills of interpretation, reading, communication, and research, including the ability to write a research essay that advances an original argument.

**Online Resources**

The Blackboard website is an essential component of the course: [https://blackboard.stthom.edu/](https://blackboard.stthom.edu/)

I will use Blackboard to make accessible readings, PowerPoints, and other course documents. If you have any difficulty finding these resources on the site, please let me know right away. In addition, I will use your UST e-mail address to contact you outside of class time. Therefore, I ask that you check it regularly.

**Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Required</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (2)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>May 10 (6-8:30pm)</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation (including online discussion)</td>
<td>throughout the term</td>
<td>100</td>
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**Course Requirements**

The **textbook** for the course is:

**Murray, Linda. The High Renaissance and Mannerism: Italy, the North and Spain, 1500-1600. New York: Thames & Hudson, 2011.**

It should be available for purchase at the campus bookstore or on Amazon. The textbook provides a chronological narrative and illustrates many of the works we will study. Further **required readings**, chosen to stimulate class discussion, will be posted on Blackboard or placed on reserve at Doherty Library. Almost all are primary sources that offer direct insight into the production and reception of works of art; two are secondary sources that complement the textbook. In addition, **suggested readings** provide broader historical context.

**Quizzes** There will be two quizzes, one before the midterm and one after. These may cover topics/images that we have discussed and they may draw heavily from the readings and class discussions.
The research proposal (1 ½-2 pages) will present your preliminary research on your essay topic. It will consist of a statement in paragraph form defining your topic and outlining your argument, your methodological approach, the problems inherent to the topic, and the direction of your research, complemented by a bibliography of at least eight scholarly sources, at least four of which must be printed only—not on the web. Online sources must be scholarly too, such as e-books or articles in academic journals. Graduate students must provide an annotated bibliography.

You are free to choose your own topic, but it must concern High Renaissance or Mannerist Art from Italy, N. Europe, or Spain from 1500 to 1600. See the ideas for formulating your topic below. We will discuss topic ideas and the research and writing of essays in class. A good starting point is the Art History Resources at Doherty Library webpage: http://campusguides.stthom.edu/arthistory.

The final research essay (6-8 pages for undergraduates, 12-15 pages for graduates, not including bibliography and illustrations) will develop the ideas explored in your proposal. The essay must be complete with footnotes, a bibliography, and illustrations, and must conform to MLA or Chicago style. Scans of images must be included as illustrations at the end of the text, with figure references in the text. All illustrations must be numbered and identified with captions.

The midterm exam will consist of slide identifications with short-answer questions, a vocabulary section, and comparative essays.

The final exam will be composed of slide identifications with short-answer questions, comparative essays, and a comprehensive essay. Questions for the comprehensive essay will be distributed beforehand.

Research Essay Ideas

1. A case study of an artwork or building that has attracted considerable attention in art history. Compare and contrast several interpretations. Which is the most convincing? Why?

2. A case study of a single artist. Compare and contrast several works. What are their similarities and differences, and how can they be assessed in relation to the artist’s biography, as well as cultural, social, political, and other factors?

3. An examination of an art movement in various regions, for example, the High Renaissance in Italy vs. Spain, or Italy vs. N. Europe (similarly with Mannerism). Compare and contrast several works by artists in the group. What are their similarities and differences, and how can they be assessed in relation to the artists’ stated aims and the writings of critics of the time?

4. A comparison of two artworks dealing with similar themes, which were made in different places or times. What are the similarities and differences between the works, and what is the significance of these similarities and differences? Why do the works differ?

5. A comparison of two buildings with similar functions that were made in different places or times. What are the similarities and differences between the buildings, and what is the significance of these similarities and differences? Why do the buildings differ?

Note: Students are encouraged to choose artworks that they can examine in person, at the MFAH or Menil Collection, for example.

Course Policies
**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend every class meeting. The only acceptable reasons for missing class are: religious observance, illness, family emergency, and co-curricular activities such as intercollegiate athletics. In the case of absence for religious reasons, please let me know in advance. In the case of a medical or family emergency, provide a note from a doctor or counselor. In the case of co-curricular activities, a coach or other leader must submit an excused absence form. Students who miss more than one class without permission will have their participation grade lowered by one point (out of ten) for each absence. Students who arrive late or leave early will likewise have their participation grade lowered.

**Participation:** The success of the course depends on the active participation of all class members. Therefore, it is essential that students keep up with the readings and writing assignments and contribute to discussions.

**Food:** Please do not eat in class.

**Laptops and Cellphones:** Please turn off and put away your laptops and phones.

**Late Work:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the specified date. Responses will not be accepted late. If you fail to submit a response on time, your grade for the work will be zero. Essays submitted later on the day they are due will be considered one day late. A student will lose a grade step for each day an essay is late. (An example of a grade step is the difference between a B and a B-.) No work will be accepted after the last day of class.

**Class Cancellations:** If class has to be cancelled for any reason, weather, sickness, etc. there will be every effort made to make this up in an online format where I will post resources and discussion topics over the topic of the lecture. Participation in this format is expected.

**Academic Integrity:** The UST Student Handbook states that “every offense against academic honesty seriously undermines the teaching-learning process for which the University exists”. In keeping with this view, students are expected to be honest when taking their exams, to cite sources in their essays, and to submit their own work. Students may not submit work for one course that has already been used for another course. Cheating, plagiarizing, or any other form of academic dishonesty will lead either to a mark of zero for the work in question or to the grade of ‘F’ for the course, and to a formal University procedure.

You must cite all sources used, whether printed or online. If you are unsure about what to cite or how to cite it, please see me during my office hours. You can also find links to citation style guides on the Doherty Library Research Guide webpage: [http://campusguides.stthom.edu/cat.php?cid=866](http://campusguides.stthom.edu/cat.php?cid=866).

**Disability Services:** Students with a suspected or documented disability may be eligible to receive academic accommodations. Faculty must be notified that exam accommodations have been approved well before the exam. For more information, see the Disability Services FAQ on the UST website or contact the Coordinator, Tiffany Devereux. She may be reached by e-mail at deveret@stthom.edu or by phone at 713-525-2169 or 6953.
Schedule of Classes and Assignments (Subject to Revision)

1. **January 25.** Intro to Course, class expectations. **The New Century**  
   Required Reading  
   Murray, Ch. 1

2. **February 1.** The High Renaissance in Rome  
   Required Reading  
   Murray, Ch. 2 (skip over Michelangelo)

3. **February 8.** The High Renaissance in Venice  
   Required Reading  
   Murray, Ch. 3

4. **February 15.** Michelangelo in Florence  
   Required Reading  
   Murray, Ch. 4

5. **February 22.** Michelangelo in Rome  
   Required Reading  
   Murray, Ch. 5, part of ch. 2 on Sistine Chapel

6. **March 1.** Mannerism, Midterm Exam Review  
   Required Reading  
   Murray, Ch. 6

7. **March 8.** Mannerism, MIDTERM EXAM.  
   Required Reading  
   TBD

*No class March 15. SPRING BREAK.*

8. **March 22.** Florence  
   Required Reading  
   Murray, Ch. 7

9. **March 29.** No Class, Holy Thursday

10. **April 3.** Parma  
    Required Reading  
    Murray, Ch. 8

11. **April 10.** Venice and the Veneto  
    Required Reading  
    Murray, Ch. 9

12. **April 17.** The Renaissance in the North  
    Required Reading  
    Murray, Ch. 10

13. **April 24.** Renaissance in Spain  
    *RESEARCH ESSAY DUE*
Required Reading
Murray, Ch. 11

14. May 1. Renaissance in Spain; Final Exam Review

*The final exam will be on Thursday, May 10, 6-8:30 pm.*