

San José State University
College of H&A/Department of Art and Art History
ARTH 187A, Art of the Italian Renaissance, Fifteenth Century, Section 1, Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Carroll
Office Location: Online via Zoom (Art Building, Art 117)
Telephone: (408) 924-4334
Email: elizabeth.carroll@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: (Thursdays 3:45-5:45PM or by appointment via Zoom)
Class Days/Time: (Tuesday/Thursday 2:15-3:30PM synchronous via Zoom)
Classroom: Via Zoom online

Course Format

This course adopts an online synchronous (Mode 2) classroom delivery. Students are expected to attend class in synchronous mode on Tuesday/Thursdays 2:15-3:30PM. Class will be varied in structure and comprised of lecture, discussion, flipped-classroom presentations and group work. Students will need access to a computer to take this course and will complete assignments via Canvas submission.

Course Description

Between 1400 and 1500 Italy experienced an unprecedented level of artistic and architectural production becoming one of the most influential movements of early modern art history with artists like Masaccio, Botticelli, Brunelleschi and Donatello. Its impact was felt for centuries and continues to capture the public's imagination today. A great deal of the art we will consider is religious however we will also contemplate the burgeoning new secular art of this era. Artists of this era worked primarily under commissions therefore what we will consider are the particulars gained from the circumstances of these commissions such as function, original context, the sponsor and its viewership or intended audience. This course will focus on the major urban centers of the period: Florence, Rome and Venice yet move beyond to reimagine art produced as a result of "globalism" which will consider cross-cultural relations, portability and encounters.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging (Canvas)

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on our Canvas page at . You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through Canvas and MySJSU on [Spartan App Portal \(Links to an external site.\)](http://one.sjsu.edu) <http://one.sjsu.edu> (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates.

For help with using Canvas see [Canvas Student Resources page.](#)

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be better able to:

(CLO 1) Recognize major works of art from this foundational period in western art and demonstrate a strong knowledge base about the social context of Italian art and art patronage. (Identifications and Essays in Tests, includes midterm and final exam)

(CLO 2) Demonstrate an understanding of the intellectual implications of new techniques such as linear perspective and spatial projection. (Exam Essays)

(CLO 3) Apply primary sources to the understanding of Renaissance art theory and the interpretation of Renaissance art. (Paper 1 & 2, Presentation and Exam Essays)

(CLO 4) Use a more sophisticated vocabulary for writing and talking about art. (Exam Essays, Presentation and Papers)

(CLO 5) Produce a visual analysis of a work of Renaissance art and understand the process of visual thinking that it engages. (Neri di Bicci Essay)

(CLO 6) Write more clearly and effectively. (Papers 1 and 2)

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook: Laurie Schneider Adams, Italian Renaissance Art plus assigned and/or recommended readings as noted on Course Schedule.

Other Readings

Other source readings when assigned are available on Canvas Modules for selected weeks and is recommended.

Library Liaison

Gareth Scott

email: gareth.scott@sjsu.edu

phone: [\(408\) 808-2094](tel:(408)808-2094)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 4th Floor Administration Offices

Department Advising

For information about majors and minors in Art & Art History, for a change of major/minor forms and a list of advisors: <http://www.sjsu.edu/art/> ([Links to an external site.](#)) or the Art & Art History department office in ART 116, 408-924-4320, art@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

Assignment Breakdown

Article Review	10%
Reconstructing Neri di Bicci Essay, Paper 1	20%
MET/Accademia Object Presentation Paper 2	20%
Test 1	10%
Test 2 (Midterm Exam)	15%
Test 3	10%
Test 4 (Final Exam)	15%

187A is comprised of four scheduled exams, article review, Neri di Bicci essay (Paper 1) and the MET/Accademia Object presentation (Paper 2). The grades will be based upon a total score of 100% and will be determined as follows:

Article Review

Each student will write a 2-page critical review of an assigned article on 15th-Century Italian art. You will be responsible for leading discussion for your article in class in a small group 2-3 students. A listing of articles and their corresponding date for presentation can be found in our course schedule. Both your oral and written review of your article are due on the same day. Your written review will be submitted online via Canvas. Evaluation for this assignment will be based on both your written review and how effectively you led discussion in class.

Reconstructing Neri di Bicci Essay (Paper 1)

In this assignment, you will reconstruct, analyze, and interpret Neri's altarpiece produced for the Villani family chapel. Begin your analysis by forming a hypothesis regarding how the three panels (numbered on the slides 1, 2, and 3) were originally arranged. Which of the wings was on which side of the central panel? What specific formal elements of the works lead you to your conclusion? Consider in particular the arrangement of the figures and their gestures, postures, and gazes, and the construction of pictorial space. Does linear perspective come into play? Is the background naturalistic, and how does this impact your evaluation of the painting's style? Is the altarpiece spatially unified, or is it formed from multiple compartmentalized panels? What use, if any, is made of classicism here? The prompt is very detailed and posted on Canvas we will spend time debriefing on the specificity of this investigative project.

MET/Accademia Object Presentation (Paper 2)

Overview: We will devote two weeks to the delivery of oral presentations. The point of the presentation is to encourage you to organize and rehearse the evidence and arguments you plan to put forth in your final paper. In other words, the oral presentation is preliminary to the final draft of your paper. Plan for about 10-15 minutes (not long) plus time for questions which will average 30 minutes total for each student presenting. In class, you will walk your classmates through your argument and evidence, and the group will collectively discuss other possible lines of argument or evidence. Each classmate is required to ask one question and I will pose questions as time permits. 10% of the assignment grade is designated for the question you formulate for each presenter. You can use the feedback as you work on your paper.

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Final Examination or Evaluation

There will be a final exam taken online and it is a blend of image identifications, content-driven multiple choice questions and possible unknown identifications. The exam will be online possibly with the Lockdown Browser feature, more to be determined before the time of examination. There are no make-up exams without a previous agreement with the instructor, or a documented excuse such as a medical note. Otherwise missed exams and late assignments will be given a grade of "0", or downgraded according to the assignment description.

Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.

Grading Information

Your grade for assignments will be determined as follows according to this proficiency scale.

3 points are exemplary; 2 points are proficient; 1 point is developing; 0 points are unacceptable.

Statement of a problem, understanding of context, and/or research question	3 Points Thoughtful and complete response. Appropriate explanation of relevant information.	2 Points Some key points need further explanation and/or thought. Content was generally relevant to the prompt.	1 Point Lacking appropriate explanation and/or thought. Content irrelevant to the prompt.	0 Points This portion of the assignment was not addressed.
Clarity & Coherence	3 Points Clear, coherent, easy to read and understand.	2 Point A few points are unclear and/or disorganized.	1 Point Several points are unclear and/or disorganized.	0 Points Generally unclear and disorganized.
Grammar & Punctuation	2 Points Free of grammatical and punctuation errors.	1 Point A few grammar and/or punctuation errors.	½ Point Several grammar and/or punctuation errors.	0 Points Many grammar and/or punctuation

Determination of Grades

An automatic deduction of 10 points (if for example with a 100 point total) will be assessed for late work up until one week after the deadline. (Assignments received one day after the deadline are docked 10 points automatically through the one-week period. Please note this is discouraged and not the ideal scenario. Consult with instructor before you make this decision on your own.) Assignments not received after this one-week grace period for submission will receive a grade of “0”.

Exams must be rescheduled BEFORE the test date or the instructor be notified with documentation that supports medical, or justifiable “unforeseen” circumstances. No exceptions to this policy. If you miss an assignment, it might still be possible to pass the class, although it is your responsibility to calculate your grade based the information posted on Canvas relative to your performance. It will require you to estimate what you must earn in terms of assignments not yet completed. There is no Extra Credit opportunity in this course. A+ is not assigned as a grade in this course.

- A plus = 1000 to 970 points
- A = 969 to 940 points
- A minus = 939 to 900 points
- B plus = 899 to 870 points
- B = 869 to 840 points
- B minus = 839 to 800 points
- C plus = 799 to 770 points
- C = 769 to 740 points
- C minus = 739 to 700 points
- D plus = 699 to 670 points
- D = 669 to 512 points
- D minus = 639 to 600 points
- F = 599 points or lower

Grade	Points	Percentage
A plus	960 to 1000	96 to 100%
A	930 to 959	93 to 95%
A minus	900 to 929	90 to 92%

Grade	Points	Percentage
B plus	860 to 899	86 to 89 %
B	830 to 859	83 to 85%
B minus	800 to 829	80 to 82%
C plus	760 to 799	76 to 79%
C	730 to 759	73 to 75%
C minus	700 to 729	70 to 72%
D plus	660 to 699	66 to 69%
D	630 to 659	63 to 65%
D minus	600 to 629	60 to 62%

This course must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement.”

Classroom Protocol

You are expected to attend class regularly via synchronous delivery at the scheduled time. Students are strongly urged to turn on their cameras, as this is already professional practice in the workplace.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](#), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

Please note that class, “...recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

“Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her/their approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, capture video content, screenshot, post lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](#) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](#) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center

on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to



scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Additional Information

You must cite any research sources consulted using the Chicago Manual of Style format (CMOS). Submit by the assigned dates in the Course schedule, also found within Canvas Assignments online.

ARTH187A /Section 01 - Art of the Italian Renaissance, Fifteenth Century, Fall 2021, Course Schedule

*This schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Please stay updated on lecture topics and deadlines via Canvas as the posted syllabus and announcements will have the most updated information.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/19	LECTURE 1: Introduction to the Italian Renaissance and State of the Field; Reframing to a Globalized View ARTIST as CRAFTSMAN Trecento Precursors Reading: Bruce Cole, Renaissance Artist at Work, introduction + 1-34; Loren Partridge, Art of Renaissance Florence 1400-1600, introduction, 1-15
	8/24	LECTURE 2: Trecento Precursors -ST. FRANCIS and EARLY RENAISSANCE ART Reading: Italian Renaissance Art, chapter 1
2	8/26	LECTURE 3: Trecento Precursors GIOTTO and the ARENA CHAPEL Reading: Italian Renaissance Art, chapter 2
3	8/31	LECTURE 4: Trecento Precursors GIOTTO in FLORENCE Reading: Italian Renaissance Art, chapter 2 Paper 1 Presented: Reconstructing Neri di Bicci Essay
3	9/2	LECTURE 5: Trecento Precursors ART and the PLAGUE Readings: Italian Renaissance Art, chapter 2 and Article #1. Louise Marshall, “Source Manipulating the Sacred: Image and Plague in Renaissance Italy” (1994).
4	9/7	LECTURE 6: SIENA Reading: Italian Renaissance Art, chapter 2.
4	9/9	LECTURE 7: FLORENTINE SCULPTURE Reading: Italian Renaissance Art, chapter 3
5	9/14	TEST 1 Lectures 1-7
5	9/16	LECTURE 8: BRUNELLESCHI Readings : Italian Renaissance Art, chapter 3 and Article #2. Rowland Mainstone, “Brunelleschi's Dome Revisited” (2009).
6	9/21	LECTURE 9: FLORENTINE PAINTING: MASACCIO Reading: Italian Renaissance Art, chapter 4 and Hans Belting, “Brunelleschi Measures the Gaze: Mathematical Perspective and Theater,” in Florence and Baghdad, 164-210
6	9/23	LECTURE 10: Imagining a Reframed Renaissance: MEDICI and DOMESTIC ART Reading: Italian Renaissance Art, chapter 7; Susan Wegner, excerpt from “The Art and Business of Renaissance Marriage.”
7	9/28	LECTURE 11: FRA ANGELICO, SUOR PLAUTILLA NELLI & SAN MARCO Reading: Italian Renaissance Art, chapter 5
7	9/30	LECTURE 12: DONATELLO

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Readings: Italian Renaissance Art, chapters 7, 10 and Article #3 . Martha Levine Dunkelman, "Donatello's Mary Magdalen: A Model of Courage and Survival" (2005).
8	10/5	LECTURE 13: THE GATES OF PARADISE, PIERO DELLA FRANCESCA & GHIRLANDAIO Readings: Italian Renaissance Art, chapters 7, 9, 11
8	10/7	TEST 2 (Midterm): Lectures 8-12
9	10/12	LECTURE 13: THE GATES OF PARADISE, PIERO DELLA FRANCESCA & GHIRLANDAIO Readings: Italian Renaissance Art, chapters 7, 9, 11
9	10/14	LECTURE 15: LEONARDO and Intro to ROME Reading: Italian Renaissance Art, chapter 14 and Loren Partridge, The Art of Renaissance Rome: 1400-1600, "Patronage and Popes: Saints and Sinners." Article #5 . Lillian F. Schwartz, "The Staging of Leonardo's Last Supper: A Computer-Based Exploration of Its Perspective" (1988). DUE: Reconstructing Neri di Bicci
10	10/19	LECTURE 16: PERUGINO & RAPHAEL Readings: Italian Renaissance Art, chapter 15 and Article #6 . Sydney Freedberg, "Raphael's Frescoes in the Stanza della Signatura" (1961). Assignment Introduced: Object Presentation
10	10/21	Lecture 17: Early Michelangelo: Florence and Rome
11	10/26	Lecture 18: Bramante, Michelangelo and Raphael Reading: chapter 16
11	10/28	Lecture 17: Verona, Ferrara and Mantua: Pisanello and Mantegna Reading: Chapter 12
12	11/2	Lecture 18: Imagining a Global VENICE: "Not One but Many Separate Cities," Fifteenth-Century Painting, Sculpture and Architecture (first half) Reading: Chapter 13
12	11/4	Lecture 19 VENICE: "Not one but many separate cities," Fifteenth-Century Painting, Sculpture and Architecture (second half) Reading: Article #7 . Elizabeth Horodowich, "The World Seen from Venice: Representing the Americas in Grand-scale Wall Maps" (2017)
13	11/9	Test 3 Lectures 13-19 (Possibly "take home") Lecture 20 Introduction to Object Lessons: Gifts, Things, Agency, Experience and Leftovers Reading: TBD
13	11/11	Veteran's Day-Campus Closed
14	11/16	Class Meeting 22 Object Presentations #1, 2, 3
14	11/18	Class Meeting 22 Object Presentations #3, 4, 5
15	11/23	Class Meeting 22 Object Presentations #6, 7, 8
15	11/25	Thanksgiving Holiday
16	11/30	Class Meeting 22 Object Presentations #9,10, 11
16	12/2	Class Meeting 22 Object Presentations #12 and 13 Conclusion and Review Discussion
Final Exam	12/10	Via Zoom 12:15-3:30PM

