

AHA Macerata

SYLLABUS

ART HISTORY: BETWEEN ROMANESQUE AND RENAISSANCE, THE CENTERS OF RENAISSANCE

Instructor: Dott. Arch. Filiberto Bracalente

Contact Hrs: 45

Language of Instruction: English

MACERATA, ITALY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The main purpose of the course is to give to the student a close approach to two distinctive and interacting periods of the history of art and architecture which develops in the Marche, Umbria and Tuscany areas. The main focus will be on the production of works of art in the regions of central Italy between the Romanesque-Byzantine, Gothic and Renaissance periods. Particular attention will be devoted to the Renaissance and humanist movements that originated in this area and would first influence the arts of all the Italian peninsula and later all of Europe.

Between Romanesque and Renaissance

This first part of the program will offer an outline of the Italian art from the 11th - 15th century Romanesque-Gothic period through early Renaissance.

The development and interaction of the art in central Italy will focus our attention on the largely diffused Romanesque and Gothic architecture in the surroundings of Macerata. The schools of Duccio di Buoninsegna, Simone Martini and the Lorenzetti in Siena as on Giotto and his School in Assisi, Padua and Florence until the International Gothic with its highest expression in Gentile da Fabriano; the rebirth of Italian sculpture will also be investigated.

The major "centers" of Medieval towns, the Palazzo Pubblico (Town Hall) and the Duomo (the Cathedral) with its Piazza (Square) will give us a chance to deepen the knowledge of the "Comuni" or free cities until the birth of the "Signorie" or Lordships.

Field trips to Urbs Salvia, Abbazia di Chiaravalle di Fiastra, Chiesa di San Claudio al Chienti, Chiesa di Santa Maria a Pié di Chient, Fermo, Ascoli Piceno, Sarnano, San Ginesio, Tolentino and Assisi will usually integrate this section of the program.

The Centers of Italian Renaissance

The second part of the program will focus on an ideal spiral line departing from Florence (northwest of Macerata) to Urbino (one hour north) and finally down to Rome.

The architectonic interventions of Brunelleschi and Alberti inspired by Cosimo de' Medici in Florence; the Ducal Palace by Francesco Laurana and Francesco di Giorgio Martini in Urbino inspired by Federico di Montefeltro; the role of the Papacy as patrons of the arts in Rome, along with the masterpieces of Ghiberti, Donatello, Masaccio, Piero della Francesca, Fra' Angelico, Perugino, Ghirlandaio, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raffaello, spread in Urbino, Florence and Roma, will conclude our survey.

A field trip to Florence and another one to Rome, along with a day trip to Loreto and Urbino will usually integrate this section of the program.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of the course is to analyze the Italian history of art and architecture between the 11th and the 16th century. By the end of the course, students will gain knowledge of Medieval and Renaissance painting, sculpture and architecture in Central Italy, and its historical and cultural background. Students will acquire critical tools that will enable them to recognize the most important styles and artworks produced during Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance periods.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY

Class lectures and discussions will help to stimulate student's awareness and sharpen their critical abilities in summarizing and analyzing their experiences. Walking tour, day trips and two three day trips to Florence and Rome will be essential part of this course.

METHOD OF EVALUATION (GRADING)

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Each absence will result in a dock of one increment from your final grade. If your final grade is a B, for example, and you were absent once, you will receive a B- for the course; if you were absent twice, you will receive a C+ and so on.

Examinations: Course requirements will include two short mid-term tests, a final exam and a journal of excursion. The first paper will involve the study of a work of art to develop the student vocabulary and analytical skills. The second will explore a given problem in relation to one major work of art. The final exam will provide an opportunity for the student to review the overall development of the renaissance period. All exams will be closed-book essay style, the first and the second will be of about 3-4 pages, the final of about 4-6 pages. The journal of excursions must reflect the ability to apply the knowledge acquired in class to the unique experience of having seen first-hand the various works of art; it will be of a minimum of 10-12 pages.

Grades: The final course grade will be composed of the following parts:

First mid-term test	15%
Second mid-term test	15%
Journal/sketchbook	25%
Final exam	35%
Professorial Evaluation	10%
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	100%

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1	Introduction, historical background, Roman and Medieval Town
Week 2	The <i>Benedictines</i> , Romanesque architecture and sculpture. <u>Excursion</u>
Week 3	Romanesque painting & painting forms/techniques, Gothic; <u>Journal due</u> ; <u>Excursion</u>

Week 4	Italian Gothic architecture; the <i>Religious Orders: Franciscans and Dominicans</i> . Sculpture: N. & G. Pisano; Painting: Cimabue; <u>Journal due</u>
Week 5	1st Mid term test. Gothic Painting: Giotto, Duccio di Buoninsegna. <u>Excursion</u>
Week 6	Gothic painting: Simone Martini, Pietro and Ambrogio Lorenzetti. <u>Excursion</u>
Week 7	The "idea" of Renaissance: Ghiberti and Brunelleschi.
Week 8	Brunelleschi and the rebirth of “one point perspective”; the Centers of Renaissance: architecture and urban planning: Leon Battista Alberti and <i>Urbino</i> ; <u>Journal due</u>
Week 9	2nd Mid term test. Renaissance painting and sculpture: Masaccio, Frà Angelico , Piero della Francesca and Donatello. <u>Three day Excursion</u>
Week 10	Renaissance painting: Botticelli; the Masters of Renaissance: the genius of Leonardo da Vinci; <u>Journal due</u>
Week 11	The Masters of Renaissance: sculpture, painting & architecture of Michelangelo Buonarroti . <u>Three day Excursion</u>
Week 12	The Masters of Renaissance: the aesthetic synthesis in Raffaello Sanzio; <u>Journal due</u> .
Week 13	Final exam

COURSE TEXTS

Required text:

- Hartt, F. (1997). *History of Italian Renaissance Art*, Prentice-Hall Inc.

Reference texts:

- Ferguson, G. (1996). *Signs and Symbols in Christian Art*, Oxford University Press
- Hall, J. (1995). *A History of Ideas and Images in Italian Art*, John Murray.
- Mumford, L. (1968). *The City in History*, Penguin Books.
- Murray, P. (1995). *The Architecture of Italian Renaissance*, Schooken Books
- Plumb, J.H. (2001). *The Italian Renaissance*, Houghton Mifflin
- Company. Vasari, G. (1988). *Lives of the Artists*, Penguin Books.