

ARH 4310

Early Renaissance Art in Italy

Dr. Elizabeth Ross

University of Florida, College of the Arts, School of Art + Art History

Tuesday, 12:50-1:40pm and Thursday, 12:50-2:45pm, FAC 201

Credit Hours: 3

Course fees: \$10

Course Web Site: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

Dr. Elizabeth Ross

Email: eross@arts.ufl.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:55-3:50pm or by appointment

Office Location: Fine Arts C (FAC) 119a

Office Phone: (352) 273-3067

Outside class and office hours, the fastest way to reach me is through email, including messages sent through the course web site (which sends the message to my regular email). I am very often away from my office phone and voicemail. Please try email instead.

U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or (352) 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu> or (352) 392-157

University Police Department: (352) 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, (352) 392-1161.

Course Description:

This course offers an introduction to the art of Italy from the death of Saint Francis in 1226 to the years after the death of Cosimo de' Medici in 1469. We will focus on the painting, sculpture, and civic architecture of the republican communes of Florence, Siena, and Venice, in addition to Papal patronage in Rome and Assisi, with particular attention to the work of Duccio, Giotto, Simone Martini, Donatello, Brunelleschi, Ghiberti, Piero della Francesca, and Mantegna

The Italian commune served as an arena for political and social competition, where an urban mercantile class showcased their rising wealth and cultural ambitions through the patronage of art and architecture. Experiments with pictorial space lead from the expressive tension between naturalism and abstraction in the Duecento and Trecento to the development of linear perspective in the Quattrocento. Artists negotiated the influence of Christian Byzantium, the Gothic North, and Italy's own Classical heritage, until the fifteenth century chose the language and visual forms of Antiquity as the predominant model and marker of elite culture. The rise of art theory and a humanist discourse about art changed the conception of the role of art and artists in society. Together, this extraordinary patronage, new pictorial space, and intensive interpretation of Classical Antiquity began to establish the paradigms that continue to shape the Western tradition.

Course Objectives:

Provide a comprehensive overview of the works, personalities, and themes central to the history of the art of Italy between 1226 and circa 1480.

Inform students about the variety of social and cultural contexts in which Italian art of that period was produced and about the ways in which these contexts affected the form and function of art objects.

Increase students' fluency with reading primary sources and the scholarly literature of the Renaissance art.

Engage students with Renaissance art and culture through active learning that exercises their skills of oral and written communication, independently and as a member of a team.

Heighten visual acuity and increase facility with discussing visual images, architecture, and objects.

Course Policies:

Attendance and due dates. Prompt attendance is required at all lectures. Repeated unexcused absences or habitual tardiness will result in a lowering of your attendance and class participation grade. Please take a look at your calendar at the beginning of the semester to see if you have any commitments (for example, religious holidays, family obligations, or extracurricular activities) that conflict with lectures and due dates. If you do have a conflict, please see me well in advance to clear your absence, schedule an extension, or discuss the possibility of a make-up exam. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> .

Email. Please check your UF email account regularly for course announcements or replies to any emails you send me. I will email you through your UF email account. If your email box is full, my emails will bounce back to me, and I will have no way to contact you. Please make sure to clean out your box to prevent this.

Classroom demeanor. No talking on cell phones, ringing or beeping, text messaging, Facebooking, tweeting, emailing, IMing, noisy or smelly eating, etc. during class. Class sessions may not be recorded

Accommodation. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to me when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester

Course evaluations. Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on ten criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Academic Honesty:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. *If you have any questions or concerns, please ask me.*

UF’s policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conduct related to the honor code will be strictly enforced. This means that cheating and plagiarism will be penalized, and a report will be filed with the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution office. During exams, personal items must be cleared from desks and chairs and placed in a bag on the floor. For information on what constitutes plagiarism, consult the UF Plagiarism Guide at <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/07b/studentplagiarism.html> and “Misuse of Sources” on the course web site. *If you have any questions, please ask me.* An online plagiarism checker service may be used to screen papers.

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	% Equivalency	GPA Equivalency
A	93 and above	4.00
A-	90 to 92	3.67
B+	87 to 89	3.33
B	83 to 86	3.00
B-	80 to 82	2.67
C+	77 to 79	2.33
C	73 to 76	2.00
C-	70 to 72	1.67
D+	67 to 69	1.33
D	63 to 66	1.00
D-	60 to 62	.67
E, I, NG, WF	59 and below	0.00

Please note: A grade of C- (or below) will not count toward major requirements.

See the following web page for information on UF policies for assigning grade points:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Course Requirements:

Short Oral Outline—5% [of final grade]
Midterm Exam—24%
Reacting to the Past Quiz—3%
Reacting to the Past Essay—15%
Reacting to the Past In-class Participation—24%
Final Exam—24%
Attendance and Participation—5%

In preparation for the written assignments, you will read a brief text on the “Misuse of Sources” in academic writing and take an online quiz.¹ You can find the link to the text on the desktop of the course web site, and you can access the quiz via the <Quizzes> link to the left. You should **complete the quiz before class on Tuesday, August 29**. You may take the quiz as many times as you need until you get all the questions right, but you must get all the questions right to pass the quiz. You must pass the quiz to pass the course.

There will be a **Midterm Exam** on **Thursday, October 5** in class and a **Take-Home Final Exam** due at **2:30pm** on **Monday, December 11**. The exams will require (1) identification and discussion of images shown in lecture and (2) essay responses to questions about themes developed in lecture and in the readings. You can find sample exam Midterm Exam instructions through the <Exam Study Materials> link on the course web site. The images you need to know for exams will be available on the course web site.

In this course, we will be looking at many works of art comprised of multiple coordinated elements, for example, Giotto’s frescoes at the Arena Chapel in Padua or Nicola Pisano’s pulpit in Pisa. Ten of these are listed in green under the day we will discuss them. You will work with a group to introduce one or two of them, outlining the major elements of the program and their message, in a **brief oral presentation** of about 10 minutes. Consult the web site to sign up for group. You will use the assigned readings and suggested supplemental material to compose your overview.

The most intense period of written and oral work for the class will take place from **October 17 to November 7**, when you will ‘play’ a game based on a teaching concept called [Reacting to the Past](#). Each of you will be assigned a historically based role in a recreation of the competition for the commission to build the dome of the Cathedral of Florence in 1418. You will read a Gamebook that outlines the historical situation, issues, and rules of the game. There will be a **quiz** on the Gamebook in class on **Thursday, October 19**. You will also read primary sources, supplemented by research from a bibliography of suggested secondary sources. Based on those, you will write a **4-to 5-page position paper** from your character’s point of view due about how the dome building should proceed. The position paper is due **Thursday, October 27**. On **October 31**, there will be a **procession** in emulation of Florence’s Feast of Saint John the Baptist (Happy Halloween!), and you will help create a **palio** (banner) for your group. On **October 31** and **November 2** you will represent your character’s goals through **oral presentations, teamwork, and strategic action**. Everyone will be required to espouse their character’s views orally in class without reading a prepared speech. More detailed instructions will be distributed in October.

¹ Gordon Harvey, “Misuse of Sources,” Chapter 3 of *Writing with Sources*, 2nd ed. (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2008), 29-31.

Readings:

Readings are available on the course web site.

For a textbook that provides a chronological overview of the entire period, students may wish to consult the following volumes on reserve at the Architecture and Fine Arts Library. The pages that correspond, approximately, to the material in each week's lectures are indicated as "optional" reading below.

Paoletti, John T. and Gary M. Radke. *Art Power and Patronage in Renaissance Italy*. 3rd Ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2005. There is a 4th edition of this book, but it is not in the library.

Campbell, Stephen and Michael Cole. *Italian Renaissance Art*. Farnborough: Thames & Hudson Ltd, 2011. This book begins at the year 1300.

Week 1

August 22—Introduction

August 24—What is the Renaissance, why did it happen, and when exactly?

Week 2

August 29— Communes and their Culture: Florence, Siena, Padua, and Venice

August 29—**Misuse of Sources Quiz** due online

August 31— Shaping the Image of Saint Francis

Week 3

September 5— Rome and the Franciscan Mother Church in Assisi

Upper Church of San Francesco, Assisi

September 7— Nicola and Giovanni Pisano in Pisa and Siena

Nicola Pisano, Pisa Pulpit and Giovanni Pisano, Siena Pulpit

Week 4

September 12 and 14— Duccio and the Virgins of Siena

Duccio's *Maestà*, Siena (September 12)

Week 5

September 19 and 21— Giotto at the Arena Chapel

Giotto's Arena Chapel, Padua (September 19)

Week 6

September 26— Giotto in Florence

Giotto's Bardi and Peruzzi Chapels in Santa Croce, Florence

September 28— Simone Martini and the Lorenzetti in Siena

Ambrogio Lorenzetti's Sala dei Nove, Palazzo Pubblico, Siena

Week 7

October 3— Midterm Exam Review

October 5—**MIDTERM EXAM**

Week 8

October 10— In the Shadow of the Black Death: The late Trecento

October 12— The Trecento in the Quattrocento

Week 9

October 17—**Reacting to the Past: Florence 1418**

October 17—Essay instructions and Game roles distributed

October 19— **Reacting to the Past: Florence 1418**

October 19—**Quiz on Gamebook**

Week 10

October 24 and 26— Orsanmichele, the Baptistery Doors, and Civic Patronage in early Quattrocento Florence

Week 11

October 31— **Reacting to the Past: Florence 1418**

October 31—Essay due****

October 31—Procession with Palios** (Happy Halloween!)**

October 31—Indeterminate characters address city of Florence****

November 2— **Reacting to the Past: Florence 1418**

November 2—Competition groups present proposals****

November 2—Opera members address city of Florence****

Week 12

November 7— **Reacting to the Past: Florence 1418**

November 9— The Early History of Linear Perspective and Its Implications, cont.

Week 13

November 14—The Early History of Linear Perspective and Its Implications

November 16— Perspective and its Implications II: Piero della Francesca and Mantegna

Week 14

**November 21— Perspective and Its Implications II: Piero della Francesca and Mantegna
Mantegna, Camera degli Sposi, Mantua**

November 23—No Class (Thanksgiving)

Week 15

**November 28 and 30— The Rise of the Medici and San Marco
Fra Angelico, San Marco, Florence**

Week 16

December 5— No Class (Dr. Ross will be attending an international conference)

December 5—Take-Home Final Exam made available online

****TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM due****

Monday, December 11

2:30pm

The Take-Home Final Exam is due at the time the Final Exam for this class should end, according to the Registrar's schedule.

Academic Resources:

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu.
<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.
<http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu>

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
<http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Student Complaints Campus: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaintprocess>