

ARH 6394

Renaissance Art Seminar: Art and Nature at Court

Dr. Elizabeth Ross

Fall 2018

University of Florida, College of Fine Arts
School of Art and Art History

Course Meeting Time: Tuesday 3-6pm

Classroom: FAC 116

Credit Hours: 3

Course fees: \$10

Email: elizross@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Thursday, 2–4pm 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.

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

What is the relationship between ‘nature’ and ‘artifice’ in the Renaissance? The course will explore that question at the intersection of art, architecture, literature, and court culture. The Latin word *artificium* (artifice) from the roots *ars* (skill) and *facere* (to make) was used to describe the product of skilled human craftsmanship. An artist used his artifice, his mental and manual skill at making, in partnership and/or rivalry with nature. Gardens and cultivated land share this merging of art and nature, as botanical elements are disciplined and arranged by artificial means according to an artificial design. The artifice of fashion, manners, and education distinguished courtiers from the raw nature of people who worked the land. Courtly love poetry and the visual arts that take up courtly love themes imagined the garden as an ideal space for elite identity. In pastoral poetry and painting, the natural simplicity of rustics in the countryside served as a foil for the artificial accomplishments of urban elites. The villa served as a retreat where urbanites could experience nature enhanced by artifice. We will investigate these phenomena in order to understand how late medieval and Renaissance culture, especially courtly culture, understood both art and nature.

Course Objectives

Consider how European culture circa 1350–1700 understood art and nature by examining significant artists, works of art and architecture, genres, and concepts.

Explore important literature on late medieval and Renaissance art so that students understand the state of the field, its historiography, interesting themes and issues, and the qualities that distinguish the best scholarship.

Introduce students to the methodological approaches current in the scholarship.

Increase fluency with reading the scholarly literature of art history and familiarize students with different genres of academic writing.

Heighten visual acuity and increase facility with discussing visual images.

Strengthen students’ research skills and their ability to write about art clearly and creatively with historical rigor, methodological savvy, and proper academic form.

Course Policies:

Attendance and due dates. Please look at your calendar at the beginning of the semester to see if you have any commitments (for example, religious holidays) that conflict with classes, due dates, or exams. If you do have a conflict, contact Dr. Ross in advance. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policy that can be found at:

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

Classroom demeanor. No talking on cell phones, ringing or beeping, texting, Facebooking, tweeting, emailing, noisy or smelly eating, etc., during class. Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Inappropriate behavior shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class.

Email. Please check your UF email account regularly for course announcements or replies to any emails you send. The instructors will email you through your UF email account. If your email box is full, her emails will be bounced back, and she will have no way to contact you. Please make sure to clean out your box to prevent this.

Accommodation. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to Dr. Ross 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 (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-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, and phones must be turned off. For a discussion of how to avoid plagiarism, consult *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	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
% Equivalent	93+	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	59-

See the following web page for UF policies for assigning grade points:

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

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

Course Requirements:

Response Papers— 2% each for a total of 12%
Presentation on weeks 6, 12, and 13—6% each for a total of 18%
Final Presentation—8%
Final Paper—27%
Class Participation 35%

You are expected to complete the **assigned readings** and come to class ready to discuss them. For weeks without a response paper, I may give you a “study question” or other “assignment” to focus your reading and direct class discussion.

You will write six one-page papers responding to the readings for **Weeks 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11**. (That is seven weeks; you may skip one week of your choice for a total of six papers). For some weeks, you will be given a question to guide your response. In the absence of a special prompt, for each reading you should summarize the major thesis in 1-2 sentences, summarize the minor theses (if any) in 2-4 sentences, and give a brief synopsis of the argument with your own critical comments. These papers are intended to (1) prompt more intensive and critical engagement with the scholarly literature; (2) provoke analysis of the structure and methods of the author’s argument; (3) encourage clear and concise writing; (4) make clear what you do and do not understand; (5) motivate preparation for class discussion. The weeks without response papers focus on close-looking at works of art.

For **Week 4**, you should find and bring to class a pastoral poem (that you like).

For **Weeks 6 (Villa), 12 (Rudolf II), and 13 (Grottoes)**, each student will select a work (villa, object owned by Rudolf II, or grotto) and present it to the class. For the villa and grotto, you may choose an object from your own field of interest; it does not have to be a Renaissance or European work. Give us an overview of the main elements of the work, how it fits its genre (villa/grotto) or with Rudolf II’s patronage, and how it differs from others of its kind. Your presentation should take about 10 minutes.

For your **final paper**, about 15 pages in length, due **Wednesday, December 12** you may write on any topic relevant to the course, chosen in consultation with Dr. Ross.

Readings:

Most of the readings for the course will be books on reserve at the Architecture and Fine Arts Library or articles linked on the course web site in eLearning.

****These topics are subject to change on the first day of class, after consulting students about their particular research interests. Topics may be adapted to better match their interests. As the topics are adjusted, the response paper schedule may also be adjusted. ****

Week 1

August 28—Introduction

Week 2

September 4—Courtliness and Calendars

Week 3

September 11—Courtly Love and the Roman de la Rose

Week 4

September 18—The Pastoral

September 21— HESCAH talk (required), 6pm, Harn Museum of Art

A Paradoxical Queen: Royal Spaces for Marie de’Medici in Baroque France

**Dr. Nicola Courtright, William McCall Vickery 1957 Professor of the History of Art,
Amherst College**

September 21—TBA, Seminar with Dr. Nicola Courtright
The Articulation of Queenly Authority in French Royal Spaces

Week 5

September 25—No class (rescheduled for Sep. 21 with Dr. Courtright)

Week 6

October 2— The Villa and the Country Estate

Week 7

October 9—The Burgundian Court and the Garden at Hesdin

Week 8

October 16—Bosch's Garden of Earthly Delights

Week 9

October 23—Nature and Gender in Italy

Week 10

October 30—Botticelli's Primavera

Week 11

November 6—*Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*

Week 12

November 13—Wenzel Jamnitzer and Rudolf II

Week 13

November 20— Grottoes and Bernard Palissy

Week 14

November 27—French Dairy Queens

Week 15

December 4—Student Presentations of Final Papers

****Final Paper due Wednesday, December 12****

Academic Resources:

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu.

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>