

Summerschool Utrecht/The Dutch University Institute for Art History in Florence
The Art of Renaissance Florence and Rome
Florence: 8-19 July 2019

SYLLABUS

Course description

Florence, originally founded by the Romans, was governed by the Medici family for centuries. Most of them had a passionate interest in painting, sculpture, architecture and literature. Still Florence keeps an exceptional artistic heritage, which is a marvelous evidence of its aged culture. Florence is the most marked example of Renaissance cities in Italy. Nowhere else in Italy does one find this multitude of buildings and works of art from this period. Among the cultural highlights is the magnificent cathedral (Santa Maria del Fiore), churches that contain breathtaking frescocyli, renowned museums (e.g. Uffizi, Bargello, Accademia), and impressive city-palaces (e.g. Palazzo Strozzi; Palazzo Rucellai; Palazzo Pitti, Palazzo Medici-Riccardi) and Palazzo Vecchio, the famous city hall. Apart from stimulating lectures the Summer School program also includes a day trip to Rome.

Course director: Prof. Michael W. Kwakkelstein, Ph.D.

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Aim of the course

The fundamental goals are to introduce students to the art and architecture of Florence and Rome in its historical context, and in doing so, to make them familiar with the origins, nature and development of the Renaissance in the visual arts. Mastery of basic concepts and terminology of art historical studies is another essential aspect of this course.

Class Format

Class meetings will be divided between illustrated lectures and discussions at the Institute, and guided visits on site in museums, churches and palaces of Florence.

Form of Assessment

Reading, class participation, and written work are all required of students. Grades will be composed of evaluations based on an assignment and a presentation.

Site visit attire

Appropriate attire must be observed when visiting churches: no bare shoulders or midriffs; no shorts, no minis.

Required Reading

Text for classroom meetings and lectures:

- Loren Partridge, *Art of Renaissance Florence 1400-1600*, Los Angeles & London 2009
 - *History of Italian Renaissance Art*, 5th ed., by Frederick Hartt and David G. Wilkins, Abrams, 2003
- Reading assignments will be specified in class.

Suggestions for extra reading (on reserve in the library)

Ch. Avery, *Florentine Renaissance Sculpture*

E. Borsook, *Companion Guide to Florence*.

S. Campbell and M. Cole, *A New History of Renaissance Art*

B. Cole, *Masaccio and the art of the Early Renaissance*

B. Cole, *The Renaissance Artist at Work*.

D. Franklin, *Leonardo, Michelangelo and the Renaissance in Florence*.
 J.T. Paoletti and G.M. Radke, *Art in Renaissance Italy*.
 C.M. Richardson (ed.), *Locating Renaissance Art*.
 G. J. van der Sman, *Lorenzo and Giovanna. Timeless Art and Fleeting Lives in Renaissance Florence*
 A.R. Turner, *The Renaissance in Florence. The Invention of a New Art*
 Giorgio Vasari, *The Lives of the Artists*. Ed. Peter Bondanella (Oxford World's Classics), 1998.
 K. Woods (ed.), *Making Renaissance Art*.

Note: For images you may wish to consult the material at the Web Gallery of Art (www.wga.hu)

COURSE TIMETABLE*

WEEK 1

Monday, July 8

10:00 - Aula **Michael Kwakkelstein - Klaas Tonckens - Esther Millenaar**
 Introduction to the course and lecture on the function and use of art in the Renaissance.

12:30 - *lunchbreak*

14:00 - Site visit **Klaas Tonckens**
 Introductory city walk and visit to the Church of San Miniato al Monte.

Readings: Partridge, pp. 1-9; 57-59.

Tuesday, July 9

9:00 - Aula **Michael Kwakkelstein**
 Defining the Renaissance and the artistic revolution of the 15th century: the sculptures of Donatello, Lorenzo Ghiberti, Nanno di Banco, Antonio del Pollaiuolo, Andrea del Verrocchio and Michelangelo.

11:30 - Site visit **Klaas Tonckens**
 Church of Or San Michele (exterior) and visit to Museo Nazionale del Bargello.

13:00 - *lunchbreak*

14:15 - Site visit Visit to the Basilica di Santa Croce.

Readings: Partridge, pp. 1-9; 22-27; 37-42; 87-89; 116-117

Wednesday, July 10

9:00 - Aula **Michael Kwakkelstein**
 The artistic revolution of the 15th century: Painting Giotto, Gentile da Fabriano, Masaccio, Fra Angelico, Filippo Lippi, Andrea del Castagno, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael.

11:45 - Site visit **Klaas Tonckens**
 Visit to the Cappella Brancacci at the church of Santa Maria del Carmine

Readings: Partridge, pp. 43-50; 53-57; 70-71; 94-97; 108-109; 121-125; 139-141, 170-172

Thursday, July 11

8:15 - Site visit

Gert Jan van der Sman

Lecture on site and visits to the Church of Santa Trinita and the Church of Santa Maria Novella. *

11:00 - Site visit

Stefano Corrazzini

The monumental halls and frescoed rooms of Palazzo Vecchio.

Readings:

Partridge: pp. 65-69; pp. 80-82; 149-152; 170-179.

Friday, July 12

9:00 - Aula

Michael Kwakkelstein - Klaas Tonckens

Revolution in architecture: Brunelleschi and Alberti.

11:30 - Site visit

Klaas Tonckens

Palazzo Rucellai and visit the Basilica di San Lorenzo

*13:30 - lunchbreak***Klaas Tonckens**

14:30 - Site visit

Piazza Santissima Annunziata and l'Ospedale degli Innocenti
Museo dell'Opera del Duomo.

17:00 - Site visit

Brunelleschi's Dome (optional).

Readings:

Partridge, pp. 19-21; 28, 29-36, 75

Saturday, July 13

9:00 - Aula

Klaas Tonckens - Esther Millenaar

Renaissance Rome: Michelangelo and Raphael

Readings:

Hartt, pp. 502-529.

WEEK 2**Monday, July 15**

7:00 - 21:30

Klaas Tonckens - Esther Millenaar

Day trip Rome

Visits to the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, St Peter's basilica, * faculty visit to Pantheon, Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, St Pietro in Vincoli (Michelangelo's Mozes)

Tuesday, July 16

9:00 - Aula

Gert Jan van der Sman

The early Medici as patrons of the arts

11:30 - Site visit

Klaas Tonckens

Visit to Museo di San Marco.

13:00 - lunchbreak

14:30 - Site visit

Gert Jan van der Sman - Klaas Tonckens

Visit to the Cappella dei Magi in Palazzo Medici-Riccardi

16:15 - Site visit

Klaas Tonckens - Esther Millenaar

Visit to the Galleria degli Uffizi

Readings: Partridge, pp. 53-56; 83-86; 119-120.

Wednesday, July 17 Michelangelo

15:00 - Site visit **Klaas Tonckens - Esther Millenaar**

Lecture and visit to the New Sacristy at the Church of San Lorenzo.

16:45 Visit to the Galleria dell'Accademia

Readings: Partridge, pp. 29, 30-31, 132-138.

Thursday, July 18 Gert Jan van der Sman

9:15 - Site visit High Renaissance and Mannerism in Florence.

Visit to the Galleria Palatina in Palazzo Pitti (optional)

Readings: Partridge, pp. 126; 140-141;153-154.

14:00 - Aula **Gert Jan van der Sman**
Student presentations

Friday, July 19 Gert Jan van der Sman

9:15 - Aula Student presentations

** Times and sites subject to minor changes*

Assignment

Chapel Report

6 pages of text (not including images)

Please follow the formatting outlines given for the research paper

1: Read Turner's "A Family Chapel", pp. 36-40

2: Choose a chapel in any church in Florence as the subject of this 6 pages report.

"How do I choose my chapel?" Let your choice be guided by your curiosity and your interest – those who choose to treat a particular chapel simply because it is covered well in a book rarely get a good grade. This project is very much about developing a critical, enquiring eye by carefully looking at and analysing space, and doing some basic research combined with some educated guesswork. Spend time at your chapel, not just in the books, and visit your chapel on more than one occasion in order to study it well and to see it under varying conditions.

3: Research in a basic way the name, history and function of the chapel, and the identity of as many of its components as you can manage. The objective is to write a 6 page report giving a descriptive account not just of the chapel's decoration (including any painting, sculpture, stained glass, furnishings, tomb slabs, etc) but more importantly to give a sense of how all of those components fit together in a single context.

What kinds of spatial and visual relationships exist between the various components of the chapel, and how do these relate to the requirements of the church and the patrons?

4: Illustrate your report with:

- photos of or copied images of the chapel
- a hand-drawn diagram of the chapel
- a hand-drawn plan/map of the chapel

Annotate these where appropriate.

Here's a checklist of just some of the things to look out for, and remember that your chapel has probably been altered a great deal since the Renaissance, and so some detective work and a keen eye will serve you well:

- Steps, arches, doors, doorways, gates, grills...
- Frescoes (walls and ceilings), panel paintings, stained glass windows and statues...
- Funerary items like tomb slabs, commemorative plaques...
- Tabernacles, recesses, niches, shelves...
- Coats of arms, shields, portraits, text...
- Benches, tables, chairs, kneelers...
- Banners, drapes, flags, lamps, candle holders...
- Signs of restoration and/or renovation...

Look out too for leaflets and brochures in the church where you found your chapel.