

Art History of Venice and the Veneto

The purpose and intent of this course is to consider the art and architecture of Venice within a cultural context beginning with the fifth-century Byzantine foundations through the early eighteenth century.

A major focus of the course will be to examine Venetian art and the local aesthetic as compared to contemporary works from Central Italy, primarily Florence and Rome. On-site visits to churches, museums, special collections and day trips outside of Venice are an important component of the course that will augment lecture and class discussion. Understanding art in its original context will be a key feature of this course. While the classes will be taught chronologically, topical themes will be addressed throughout each unit of material. Students will be required to recognize the art and architecture of different periods, style and iconography.

Texts:

Patricia Fortini Brown, *The Renaissance in Venice*. 1997

John Steer, *Venetian Painting, A Concise History*. 1970.

Course Structure:

The course will be primarily based on lectures and discussion both in the classroom and on location in Venice and the Veneto. The course will progress roughly chronologically and the material will be studied according to the following units. There will be a midterm and final exam as well as additional assignments such as reports in class, additional readings and/or written response papers.

Unit 1

Introduction: Middle Ages into the Trecento: Mainland Barbarian Invasions to the seventh-century foundations of lagoon townships, Rialto, Torcello, etc. to the art of Paolo and Lorenzo Veneziano.

-This unit will include on-site visits to the Island of Torcello, the church of Santa Maria e Donato (in Murano) and San Marco.

Unit 2

Late Trecento through mid-Quattrocento: The International Gothic Style and Changing Relations with Terraferma Territory. Giovanni D'Allemagna, Antonio, Bartolomeo Vivarini and Jacopo Bellini (drawings).

-This unit will include visits to the Scrovegni Chapel and the Basilica of S. Antonio in Padua. We will also arrange a special visit to the manuscript collection and monastery on the Island of S. Lazzaro degli Armeni as well as a private viewing of manuscripts/works on paper at the Biblioteca della Fava.

Unit 3

1450-1515: The Evolution of Devotional and Narrative Painting by Gentile and Giovanni Bellini, Carpaccio, Cima da Conegliano, and Giorgione (Venice and terra ferma). Additionally, the sculpture and architecture of the Lombardi, Codussi and Sansovino will be considered.

-This unit will include visits to the churches of San Zaccaria, the church of S. Maria dei Miracoli, Frari, Santi Giovanni e Paolo, Piazza San Marco, the Arsenale and the Scuola Dalmata of San Giorgio.

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Unit 4

The Age of Titian, the Architecture of Palladio and the advent of Printmaking in Venice.

(The Reproductive print)

-This unit will include visits to the Accademia Gallery, the churches of San Giorgio Maggiore, Redentore and viewings by appointment of prints in private collections. Day trips will be arranged to Vicenza, a private viewing of prints at the Remondini Collection in Bassano del Grappa, and at the Gabinetto dei Disegni e Stampe, Castelvechio Museum in Verona.

Unit 5

The Late Renaissance (1550-1600): Tintoretto, Jacopo Bassano, Paolo Veronese.

-This unit will include visits to the Scuola and Church of San Rocco, Church of Madonna dell'Orto and the Palazzo Ducale/Correr Museum.

Unit 6

The Venetian Baroque: Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. (Longhena and Giambattista Tiepolo)

-This unit will include visits to the Church of Santa Maria della Salute, Santa Maria degli Scalzi, Sant'Alvise, Ca'Rezzonico, Querini Stampalia Gallery, and second trip to Correr Museum.

Grading policies

Attendance and promptness (3 tardies equal one absence) 10%

Midterm Exam 30%

Final Exam 35%

Homework and general assignments 25%