

ACCF AHMI 310S Life and Works of Michelangelo - Summer

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| Department: | Liberal Arts |
| Instructor: | Simonetta Duretto |
| Prerequisites: | None |
| Credits: | 3 |
| Course Objectives: | This course aims to provide students with an overview of Michelangelo Buonarroti's life and works. |
| Course Description: | This course examines the life and work in painting, sculpture and architecture of Michelangelo Buonarroti. Michelangelo's virtuosity dominated his era and his legacy looms large, not only for his artistic contribution and innovation, but also for the changing role of the artist. In the course of examining his individual works, we will consider how the political and cultural context influenced his artistic production and his response to these factors as well as the particularities of each commission. We will discuss the relationship of his work to that of his contemporaries and successors, both in terms of style and the myth of the artist. |
| Student Assessment: | <p><i>Attendance and Participation (15%)</i></p> <p>Attendance is required as well as active participation. We will meet once a week for three hours, sometimes in the classroom and sometimes on a site visit. Whether in the classroom or on site, please bring writing instruments and paper/notebooks to take notes. The use of computers or telephones is not permitted during class time. More than two unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your final grade. Our meeting place for each week is listed on the course schedule. Please note these locations. Since we will often be moving immediately from our meeting place or will be entering museums for which entrance tickets will be purchased, your punctuality is crucial. If you arrive late, or miss class, you are responsible for getting any handouts, notes, tickets, etc. on your own for the missed class.</p> <p>You will be provided with a museum pass that allows you free, unlimited admission to many of the state museums in Florence. For every site visit with the class, you must bring the museum pass along with a photo identification. Failure to do so will</p> |

result in your paying for admission where needed. Take advantage of the museum pass to visit sites on your own.

Reading

Before coming to class, read the assigned sections from Howard Hibbard, *Michelangelo*.

Assignments (15%)

Throughout the semester, students will be assigned visual and written exercises to be completed either during class time or on one's own. The purpose of these assignments is to train one's observational and writing skills in preparation for the weightier examinations and research paper.

Examinations (45%)

There will be two examinations to test your knowledge of the course material: a *mid-term(15%)* and a *final (30%)*. The format of the tests will include slide identifications and short and long essays.

Research Paper and Presentation (25%)

For the final paper and presentation, each student will choose an object, building, site or theme to develop a particular interest into a well-considered reflection and synthesis of ideas discussed in the course. Each student will make an in-class presentation of his or her work before turning in the final paper.

Students are invited to discuss the paper topics with me for guidance. The paper should be 5-7 typewritten pages and include visual analysis and research using multiple primary and secondary sources. More information on possible topics and research strategies will be given during the course of the semester. The course schedule notes the minor deadlines for this project, due at the beginning of the relevant class period.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course the student will be able to:

- Recognize and analyze Michelangelo's masterpieces in painting, sculpture and architecture.
- Accurately analyze and discuss the changing role of the artist in the Renaissance period.
- Identify and comment on Michelangelo's poems and writings and demonstrate a solid knowledge of the political, historical and artistic context of the period in Florence and Rome.

Course Outline:

| <i>Week</i> | <i>Topic</i> |
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| | Lesson 1 | Introduction and walk through City Center. Michelangelo's Florence – the Quattrocento and Lorenzo the Magnificent. Michelangelo's predecessors – Nicola Pisano, Jacopo della Quercia and Donatello. |
| | Lesson 2 | The Life of Michelangelo and his Early Florentine Works. Meet in front of the church of Santa Croce. We will walk to Casa Buonarroti. The David image in Florence and the First Roman Soujourn. Bargello Museum, Accademia di Belle Arti. |
| | Lesson 3 | Mid-Term Examination. Paper outline due. |
| | Lesson 4 | Rome under Pope Julius II and the Sistine Chapel Ceiling. Michelangelo and the Medici Popes. Meet in front of San Lorenzo to visit the Medici chapels and the Laurentian Library |
| | Lesson 5 | Rome after the Reformation – “The Last Judgment.” The Roman architecture of Michelangelo. The Late Years and review. |
| | Lesson 6 | Paper due. Final examination. |
| Bibliography: | Hibbard, Howard. <i>Michelangelo</i> . | |