

**COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
<b>Programme:</b>	Art History and Visual Culture
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	5
<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Florentine Art in Context</b>
<b>Course Code:</b>	AVC 5860
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Monica Giovannini (Florence)
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	120
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
<b>Semester:</b>	<i>Fall/Spring</i>
<b>Credits:</b>	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

**Course Description:**

ITALIAN STUDY CENTRES ONLY. This course examines the concepts underlying Italy's Renaissance art and architecture in their art historical context, including the visual representation of space in painting, sculpture and portraiture, harmony and space in architecture, disguised symbolism in Christian art and the language of allegories. The course normally includes weekly visits to museums, galleries, and exhibitions, with their rich intercultural collections, enabling students to engage directly with the original art works and consider their display.

**Prerequisites:** HST 3200 World Cultural History or GEP 4180 Research and Writing II.

**Aims and Objectives:**

- To consider the concepts underlying Italy's Renaissance art in art historical context
- To examine the visual representation of space in painting, sculpture and portraiture, harmony and space in architecture, disguised symbolism in Christian art and the language of allegories.
- To engage critically with the study of Italy's Renaissance art
- To engage critically with the display of Italian Renaissance art objects in museums and galleries

**Programme Outcomes:**

\*\* stand alone

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- demonstrate a detailed understanding of key concepts in Italian Renaissance art history
- show a detailed knowledge of the visual arts and architecture of the Renaissance
- demonstrate a detailed understanding of visual representation of space in painting, sculpture and portraiture, harmony and space in architecture, disguised symbolism in Christian art and the language of allegories
- complete assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical thinking, and a degree of independence and capacity for self- evaluation, appropriate for a 5000-level course

**Indicative Content:**

- Renaissance art, focussed on Florence and Venice
- Giotto and the pictorial representation of 'objective' reality
- Progressive and regressive trends in Italian painting and sculpture of the first half of the 15th century: Donatello, Ghiberti, Masaccio and Masolino
- Optics and aerial perspective, da Fabriano, Uccello, della Francesca
- Renaissance architecture: Brunelleschi's concept of 'universal harmony'
- Mysticism and the visual arts, Fra Angelico's frescos.
- 'Genius': Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board (formerly Learning and Teaching Committee) and located at: (<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/>)

**Teaching Methodology:**

Classes will take the form of presentations by the lecturer with appropriate audio-visual support and in-class focused group discussion and exercises. In the museum

and gallery situation, students will be divided into small groups and directed in close visual analysis and discussion. On occasion, they will be asked to self-conduct their museum visit with the help of an ad hoc worksheet. It should be noted that discussion will comprise a major element of this course and all students are expected to verbalize their thoughts and perceptions and to develop a critical response to the material under consideration. They must keep up with assignments, be prepared to ask questions, and discuss their readings. Students whose participation is minimal are unlikely to do well in this class.

**Bibliography:**

See syllabus for complete reading list

**IndicativeText(s):**

Hale, J. 1995. *The Civilization of Europe in the Renaissance*, Harper Perennial.

Hartt, F. and Wilkins, D., 2010. *History of Italian Renaissance Art*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Pearson.

Vasari, G., 1511-1574. *Lives of the Artists*. Translated by J.C. and P. Bondanella, 1991. Reissue 2008. OUP: Oxford World's Classics.

**Journals**

**Web Sites**

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

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Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry