

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	CASS
Programme:	MA AVC
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Questioning Renaissance Art
Course Code:	AVC 7125
Course Leader:	Dr. Robert J. Wallis
Student Engagement Hours:	200 (standard 4 credit MA course)
Lectures:	39
Seminar / Tutorials:	6
Independent / Guided Learning:	155
Semester:	Fall, Spring
Credits:	20 UK CATS credits 10 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

This course aims to assess the main features of Renaissance art, and chart its popularity across the centuries. The steady progression of the Renaissance aesthetic ideal towards a widely accepted canon will be discussed, referring to texts such as Vasari's *Lives Of The Artists* and Burkhardt's *The Civilisation Of The Renaissance In Italy*. Through a number of case studies (Richard Hamilton, Candida Höfer, Michael Landy, Ai Wei Wei, and others) and recorded interviews, the course will then proceed to assess the survival of this canon in today's artistic practice. More specifically, does the distant existence of a Western Renaissance still matter to contemporary artists? And what is their relation, if any, to the art of the 15th- and 16th-centuries, in a globalised world where alternative non-Western aesthetic ideals have become a steady feature of the artistic discourse? Students will be encouraged to actively and critically engage with these questions both during in-class discussions and visits to London's rich offering of museums and gallery collections. This course may be co-taught with AVC 6415 Questioning Renaissance Art.

Prerequisites:

MA AVC student only

Aims and Objectives:

- To acquire a methodology to study the Renaissance within its historical, social, political, and theoretical framework;
- To charter the survival of Renaissance aesthetic ideals beyond their time period into the present day;
- To question the established Renaissance artistic canon, and assess its legacy in today's artistic practice;
- To analyse contemporary attitudes towards Renaissance art through a range of case studies.

Programme Outcomes:

A1, A3, A5, B1, B4, C1, D1, D7

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Show a sophisticated understanding of the main political, social and economic factors that contributed to the major Renaissance artistic phenomena in Europe;
- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge of the history of thinking on Renaissance art;
- Show a sophisticated ability to critically and analytically engage with the debate over the relevance of Renaissance art in today's art world;
- Deploy sophisticated visual literacy including formal analysis
- Show systematic, critical engagement with texts and objects
- Show excellent writing skills including logical and structured narratives and arguments supported by relevant primary and secondary evidence

Indicative Content:

- Renaissance art as a social, political and economic phenomenon;
- Renaissance art as an established canon;
- The historiography of Renaissance art;

- The echo of Renaissance aesthetics through time;
- A range of case studies to assess its relevance in contemporary art practice.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

Teaching Methodology:

The course will consist of lectures and discussion led seminars, which will be based on assigned readings. Audio-visual aids and study materials will be used as appropriate. Students will be expected to participate regularly in discussions, as the formulation of their own thoughts and clarification of their assumptions, often in contradiction to other students' thoughts and assumptions, form a crucial part of the learning process. The course establishes a framework for intellectual engagement and as a forum in which students can hone their analytical skills in the context of discussion and debate. Although an emphasis will be placed on autonomous learning and study, tutorial opportunities will also be provided for more refined forms of academic support.

Indicative Text(s):

Burkhardt, J. *The Civilisation Of The Renaissance In Italy* (1st ed. 1860; London, 1878, 2 vols).

Belozerskay, M. *Rethinking the Renaissance: Burgundian Art Across Europe* (CUP, Cambridge, 2002).

Jardine, L. *Worldly Goods. A New History of The Renaissance* (London, 1996).

Obrist, H. U. *Ai Wei Wei Speaks* (London, 2011).

Vasari, G. *The Lives of the Artists*, (1st. eds. 1550 and 1568), Oxford, 1991.

Wiggins, C. *Michael Landy: Saints Alive* (exhibition catalogue, National Gallery, London, 2013).

Journals

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Web Sites

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See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services