

Introduction to the History of Art: Renaissance to Modern  
Matthew Abrams, Ph.D.  
(based on original syllabus by Jakub Koguciuk)  
HSAR S115 Summer Session 2017  
M, W, F, 9.00-11.15



This course provides an overview of the major developments in the History of Art from the early Renaissance to the twentieth century. Major themes include the succession of styles, the changing role of the artist, and the work of art in its social context. Lectures will be supplemented with class discussion and frequent visits to the collections at Yale, and a day trip to New York City. Readings will focus on primary sources, with selected examples from recent scholarship. Although the course is primarily focused on European art, our class will challenge the traditional canon by discussing dialogue with other traditions and contributions of women. If class size permits, we will make regular visits to the Yale University Art Gallery.

**Paper:**

The assignment is to write a paper engaging the themes discussed in class. I will provide a list of possible topics and more details about the assignment early in the semester. The paper should be at least 1000 words in length.

## **Presentation**

Each of you will prepare a short presentation, in front of a work of art in a collection at Yale or in New York, or based on a primary source. Your goal is to summarize the known facts on your subject so that we can discuss it in class. I will prepare a list of topics to choose from early in the semester.

## **Exam**

The exam will consist of slide identifications and comparisons. It will cover works of art discussed in class. I will organize a revision session to help you prepare.

## **Grade structure**

30%: Paper

20%: 10-minute presentation

30%: Exam

20%: attendance and participation

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. You are expected to think critically and independently when you write your final papers, and to cite responsibly. For information on what constitutes plagiarism and general citation guidelines, please consult the following site. When in doubt feel free to get in touch.

<http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/cheating-plagiarism-and-documentation>

<http://www.yale.edu/writing/writing/sources/>

## **Textbook:**

Gardner's Art Through the Ages, Volume II, Fourteenth Edition.

ISBN-13: 978-1-133-95480-4

ISBN-10: 1-133-95480-4

## **Readings:**

**\*\*Note\*\* Reading schedule and class design/function will be contingent on size of class**

July 3

Introduction, Late Medieval Italy

Readings: Chapter 14

July 5

Late Medieval and Early Renaissance Northern Europe

Readings: Chapter 15

July 7  
Quattrocento Italy  
Readings: Chapter 16

July 10  
Cinquecento Italy  
Reading: Chapter 17

July 12  
High Renaissance and Mannerism in Northern Europe and Spain  
Readings: Chapter 18

July 14  
The Baroque in Italy and Spain  
Readings: Chapter 19

July 17  
Trip to the Metropolitan Museum, New York  
Readings: Chapter 20

July 19  
Rococco to Neoclassicism  
Readings: Chapter 21

July 21  
Romanticism, Realism, Photography  
Readings: Chapter 22

July 24  
Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Symbolism  
Readings: Chapter 23

July 26  
Modernism: Picasso and Matisse  
Readings: Chapter 24

July 28  
Modernism: Historical Avant-garde

July 31  
Modernism: Interwar period to Ab-Ex

Aug 2  
Contemporary Art  
Readings: Chapter 26

Aug 4  
Final Exam