

*Associated Colleges of the Midwest
Program in Florence
Fall Semester 2011*

*Art and Culture in Florence: from the age of Lorenzo il Magnifico to Cosimo I.
c. 1469 - c. 1539*

The course proposes to survey the development of the arts in Florence from the time of Lorenzo di Piero de' Medici (the Magnificent) to the early reign of Cosimo I de' Medici, the second Duke of Tuscany. Using the figure of Leon Battista Alberti and his treatise on painting as a bridge between the early and later renaissance, the course will begin with a brief survey of the artistic culture and major workshops of late 15th century Florence (Pollaiuolo, Verrocchio, Botticelli, Perugino, Ghirlandaio), the training ground of the masters of the High Renaissance whose lives and works will be our next focus. These include, among others, Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael, Filippino Lippi, Fra Bartolomeo and Andrea del Sarto. More than a monographic study of each, we will attempt to reconstruct their stylistic and cultural interactions and environment. Our trip to Rome will allow us to witness the decorative cycles of Michelangelo and Raphael in the Vatican - paragons of a "golden age" dramatically interrupted by the "Sack of Rome" of 1527. With the spread of influence of their "grand manners", our focus will shift to the next phase of development termed as 'Mannerism' or "Maniera", a phase of Renaissance art that we will endeavor to define and explore. Our investigation of this "post-classical" or "post-peak" era begins with the early experimental and expressively charged art of Pontormo, Rosso Fiorentino and other Tuscan masters who coincide chronologically and for only certain stylistic tendencies with the followers of Raphael and Michelangelo in Rome and beyond. The challenge here is to detect and analyze the transformations in style and content that lead to the early stages of the artistic activity in Florence at the time of Duke Cosimo I de' Medici. The courtly production of one of the epoch's greatest protagonists, Agnolo Bronzino and that of other personalities will conclude our studies. In-class sessions will alternate with visits to monuments and museums in and around Florence allowing students to integrate their academic studies with direct experience of the works and artists under study.

All sessions will be held on-site according to the schedule that follows with the exception of one in-class session every other week intended to help consolidate knowledge acquired on the field.

Course Requirements:

- Attendance and full participation. Because of the experiential nature of our studies, 2 absences (all should be notified to the instructor) will result in lowering your overall grade); more than 2 absences may seriously compromise the possibility of passing the course.
- Mid-term and final = identifications, commentary, attributions.
- Two response papers. 600 word essays.
- Oral presentation: group projects regarding the various artists and/or specific episodes of art production.
- One written presentation (c. 6-8 pages (font 12, spaced 1 ½)).

Grades will be based on class participation: (10%); response papers (5% each); written presentations (25%); oral presentation: (15%), mid-term quiz (20%) and final exam (20%).

Readings will be indicated upon your arrival in Florence.

Tentative Weekly Schedule

This is a tentative schedule that will undoubtedly undergo changes. Dates of class sessions may also be varied according to schedule needs. The in-class sessions t.b.a.

- Week I (5): Introduction: Florentine art in the mid to late Quattrocento
Sept. 27 am P.zza e Op. Duomo (9:30 aula 10 Op.)
Sept. 29 am Santa Trinita/Tempietto (9:30 on site)
- Week II (6): Florentine workshops in the Age of Lorenzo
Oct. 4 am S. Maria Novella/Foligno (9:30)
Oct. 6 am Bertoldo (4 seasons)/ SMMPazzi ?
- Week III (7): Workshops of the 1490s; the time of Savonarola
Oct. 11 pm Palazzo Strozzi
Oct. 13 am S. Marco
- Week IV (8) Break: Oct. 15-24
- Week V (9): Michelangelo before the Sistine Chapel
Oct. 25 pm Uffizi
Oct. 27 am Bargello/Casa Buonarroti
- Week VI (10): Florence 1500-1510
Nov. 1 am National Holiday
Nov. 3 pm Galleria dell'Accademia
Nov. 4 am Mid-term exam
- Week VII (11): Florence vs. Rome
Nov. 8 pm Chiostro Voti / S.M. Visdomini
Nov. 10 pm Gall. Palatina / S. Felicità
- Week VIII (12): Florence vs. Rome
Nov. 15 am Uffizi
Nov. 17-20 Rome (mandatory visits t.b.a.)
- Week IX (13): *L'officina della maniera*
Nov. 22 am San Salvi/Scalzo
Nov. 24 am Certosa (da vedere – Thanksgiving)
- Week X (14): Maniera as an Aesthetic Ideal
Nov. 29 am Medici Chapels/Laurentian Lib.
Dec. 1 pm Pal. Vecchio / Boboli
- Week XI (15):
Dec. 6 am Group presentations
Dec. 8 am Final exam (da vedere final's schedule)