



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore



**Franklin University Switzerland
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
Forum-Nexus Program
Course Syllabus**

**Introduction to European Art and Architecture:
A Historical Approach**

Course Description

This course provides an overview of ancient sites and the pictorial traditions that developed in different countries of Europe. Paintings, sculptures, buildings, and urban planning will be analyzed from a historic and social point of view. Students will consider the circumstances that helped develop different styles in art and architecture in Europe in general, and in Spain, Italy, France, and the Netherlands in particular. A broad range of subjects will be covered, including the study of Roman antiquity and Gothic cathedrals, the ideas that propelled the creative period in Florence and Rome during the Renaissance, the analysis of important artistic movements such as Romanticism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, and Art Déco, and the importance of artists such as Da Vinci, Vermeer, Monet, and Gaudi. Students will also interrogate thematic and foundational discussions, such as the importance and influence of patronage on art, the construction of museum exhibits and the meaning behind them, and the influence of digital technologies on art.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of the course, students should understand the major movements in art and architectural history in Europe and be able to identify works of art in these movements. They should understand the circumstances that helped to develop these styles, and become familiar with the names and places related to art history and architecture. More generally, students should understand and be able to describe how art and architecture reflect the societies that created them.

1. Understand and reflect upon the construction of museum exhibits
2. Identify characteristics of Greco-Roman art and architecture, and how it influenced art moving forward
3. Classify differences between the Medieval styles and others in art and architecture
4. Develop an understanding of the importance of the Renaissance in Europe
5. Understand the course of events in the long nineteenth century (1789-1914) and how these impacted artistic expression
6. Recognize the profound changes that technology has had on contemporary art, and articulate informed opinions on these changes
7. Learn to examine artworks not just for their beauty, but as windows to the past

Course Requirements

The course requires active student participation in class discussions. Students are expected to read the required articles and material before every class. Punctual attendance is required. There will be a midterm exam, a final exam, and a PowerPoint presentation. Each student is required to participate in all professional visits and eight independent cultural visits (ICVs).

Teaching methods used in this course include lectures, discussions, field activities, and professional visits. Learning in this course requires the student's constructive participation and active involvement in both class discussions and small group discussions. Small group discussions in particular are a key mechanism for facilitating learning from other team members. Thus, it is essential to attend all group activities inside and outside classes. The professional visits will expose the participants to different aspects of the class and will highlight the practical relevance of the concepts learned. The visits will be accompanied by individual or group assignments. Cultural visits enhance the students' understanding of the history and culture of each country.

Participation in "Europe Today: An International IQ Seminar"

All students also attend **Europe Today: An International IQ Seminar**, a daily session with occasional distinguished guest lectures. In this seminar, students learn about the culture of each country, gain an understanding of essential European geography and current events, discuss their experiences and cross-cultural interactions, get language tips, and identify ways to have an even more immersive study abroad experience. The material covered in the seminar complements the syllabus for this course, and there will be some exam questions based on the seminar. Knowledge from and participation in the International IQ Seminar is factored into the grade for this course.

Assignments & Grading

Students will be evaluated with a midterm and a final exam that will be based on a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The basis for these exams will be

material covered in class, as well as the readings. Relevant material from the International IQ seminar may be included.

Active and engaged participation in class is necessary to succeed in this course. This requires solid attendance as well as active participation in class discussions. Students are expected to come to class prepared, having read the assigned readings, and ready to discuss in a respectful, collegial manner with their peers.

Students will be responsible to visit at least two art museums during the trip. A group PowerPoint presentation will be given at the end of the course based on those visits. An extra credit assignment is also possible based on an analysis of a museum exhibit. Please note that entrance fees to museums and other sites are not included in the price of the program.

Project & Presentation

Based on your visits to at least two art museums, create a presentation based on one masterpiece of your choice from each one of them (choose an artwork not studied in class).

- Analyze, compare and contrast the masterpieces.
- Include a quick summary of your personal experience at the sites.

Presentations must be between 5-10 minutes. After their presentations, students will handwrite, in class, a report summarizing their presentation and its findings.

Components of Final Grade

Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%
Group Project	20%
Class Participation	10%

Grading Scale

93-100 %	A
90-92.9 %	A-
87-89.9 %	B+
83-86.9 %	B
80-82.9 %	B-
77-79.9 %	C+
73-76.9 %	C
70-72.9%	C-
67-69.9 %	D+
63-66.9 %	D
60-62.9 %	D-
Below 60 %	F

Required Readings

Dana Arnold, *Art History: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020) ([kindle amazon US](#))

Timothy Brook, *Vermeer's Hat: The seventeenth century and the dawn of the global world* (New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2008) ([kindle amazon us](#))

The professor will also assign and provide access to relevant articles, as indicated in the syllabus.

Course Outline

Class	TOPIC
Module 1	What is Art History ? <i>Reading Assignment: VSI, Ch 1, 3</i>
Module 2	Museology: Why do Museums exist, what story do they have to tell, and who decides what goes inside them? <i>Reading Assignment: VSI, Ch 4</i>
Module 3	Greek and Roman Art and Architecture <i>Reading Assignment: VSI, Ch 2</i>
Module 4	Medieval Art & Architecture <i>Reading Assignment: VSI, Ch 6, 7</i>
Module 5	The Italian Renaissance
Module 6	Northern Renaissance & the influence of the Religious Reformations on Art <i>Reading Assignment: Vermeer's Hat must be read for next class</i>
Module 7	Globalization and Art in the Dutch Golden Age & Discussion on Vermeer's Hat <i>Reading Assignment: Teju Cole, Seeing Beyond the Beauty of a Vermeer (link)</i>
Module 8	Patronage in Renaissance and Absolutist Europe <i>Reading Assignment: Wilkinson, Louis XIV, 98-108 (link)</i>
Module 9	19th Century Art: Nationalism and Romantic Art Movement
Module 10	19th Century Art: Industrial Revolution and Impressionism
Module 11	The Influence of the First World War on Art
Module 12	Art and Architecture in Interwar Europe <i>Reading Assignment: Fascist Architecture in Rome (link)</i>

Module 13	Contemporary and Digital Art <i>Reading Assignment: David G. Stork, How AI is Expanding Art History (link) & Nageen Shaikh, Can AI Be Better at Art History Than Us? (link)</i>
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Course Bibliography

Michael Baxandall, *Painting and Experience in Fifteenth-Century Italy*

Peter Burke, *Fabrication of Louis XIV*

Mary Beard and John Henderson, *Classical Art: From Greece to Rome*

Whitney Chadwick, *Women, Art, and Society*

Penelope J. E. Davies, et al., *Janson's History of Art*

Charles Naurert, *Humanism and the Culture of Renaissance Europe*

Michel Pastoureau, *Blue: History of a Color*

Guido Ruggiero, *Renaissance in Italy: Social and Cultural History of the Rinascimento*

Attendance Policy

Attendance is a critical component of this course. Students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions throughout the program. Excused absences are granted only under specific circumstances: documented illness, physical injury requiring medical attention, or other situations that Forum-Nexus staff determine to be valid and appropriate reasons for missing class. Any unexcused absence will lead to a reduction to the overall grade.

Academic Integrity

Franklin University Switzerland, and Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore place a high value on the integrity, good conduct, and academic honesty of all students. Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity at all times. Any instance of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will result in a grade of F for the course.

AI Policy

The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Dall-e, Grammarly, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your creative ideas for specific writing assignments;
- Finding information on relevant topics related to the course;
- Checking spelling on your writing assignments and presentations.

The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Generating a draft of your writing assignments and final presentation.
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or responses to complete class assignments.

In sum, any content that you hand in must not be generated by AI software, but it has to represent your intellectual contribution. Unauthorized use of artificial intelligence tools to write

your paper or disguise plagiarized work is considered unauthorized assistance in this course and will result in a failing grade on the assignment.