



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

## **ART 184 The Renaissance in Art History and Visual Culture**

**Summer 2024**

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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This is an integrative course that delves into the art of the Italian Renaissance, key concepts in art history, and the principal methods and theories used in art research. The course underscores the distinctive importance of artworks within their cultural context during the Italian Renaissance, offering insights into the works of Michelangelo and other masters, as well as addressing the challenges of comprehending this pivotal period. It endeavors to employ artistic evidence to illuminate the broader cultural and historical contexts.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the foundational principles of art history and visual culture.
2. Analyze the role and significance of artworks within their cultural context during the Italian Renaissance.
3. Analyse and interpret Italian Renaissance and contemporary images and objects.
4. Interpret Michelangelo's contributions to the Renaissance period.
5. Critique the methodologies and theories applied in studying art history.
6. Explore the challenges faced in comprehending the Italian Renaissance through its artistic legacy.
7. Apply critical thinking skills to draw cultural and historical insights from artistic evidence.
8. Develop research skills in art history and visual studies.

### **PREREQUISITES**

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None.



## GRADING

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Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
2 Assignments	20 Points
2 Quizzes	20 Points
Midterm Exam	30 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F.$$

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

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### Required Texts:

Janson, H. W. (2016), *History of Art: The Western Tradition*, Pearson Education.

### Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

Hartt, F. (2018), *Art: A History of Painting, Sculpture, Architecture*, Harry N. Abrams.

## COURSE TOPICS

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MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 1: The Emergence of the Italian Renaissance Topic 2: Key Concepts in Art History Topic 3: Art and Culture in the Italian Renaissance Topic 4: Michelangelo's Life and Artistic Legacy <b>Assessments:</b> Assignment # 1
Module 2	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 5: Techniques and Styles of Renaissance Art Topic 6: Iconography and Symbolism in Renaissance Art



	Topic 7: The Role of Religion in Renaissance Art Topic 8: Art and Humanism in the Italian Renaissance <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz # 1
Module 3	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 9: Leonardo da Vinci and the Renaissance Ideal Topic 10: Donatello and the Sculptural Arts Topic 11: Fra Angelico and Renaissance Painting Topic 12: The High Renaissance and Its Masters <b>Assessments:</b> Midterm Exam
Module 4	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 13: Art Criticism and Methodologies in Art History Research Topic 14: Art Historiography: An Overview of Major Narratives Topic 15: Theories of Visual Culture and Their Implications Topic 16: Case Study: The Sistine Chapel and Its Complexities <b>Assessments:</b> Assignment # 2
Module 5	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 17: The Counter-Reformation's Impact on Art Topic 18: Baroque Art and Its Contrast with the Renaissance Topic 19: Art as Social Commentary: Renaissance to Modern Times Topic 20: Cross-Cultural Exchanges in Renaissance Art <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz # 2 Final Exam

## ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed



the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

## **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

## **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (e.g., note taking, reading course documents).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for



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access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.