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ARTH 450.01: Renaissance Theory and Criticism

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Syl-S14-A450L-01-HRC

ARTH 450.01 Renaissance Theory and Criticism

Pre-requisites: one semester (preferably the second) of the year-long introductory art history survey (ARTH 200 & 201; formerly Art 150 & 151) or consent of the instructor; this is a 3-credit upper-division writing course that satisfies the L and W General Education requirements.

Spring 2014

Professor Information: Professor H. Rafael Chacón, Ph.D., Office hours: M-TR 11-12, Fine Arts 305B, (ext. 2735, hrafael.chacon@umontana.edu). Messages can also be left in my mailbox in the School of Art office (FA305).

Class Meetings: Fine Arts 302, MWF, 2:10-3 PM.

COMPETENCIES OR STUDENT-LEARNING GOALS IN ART HISTORY AND CRITICISM:

The following represent the goals of the art history and criticism curriculum:

- Art History: to gain a comprehensive and global view of the development of history and culture; to understand that art is a manifestation of intellectual history; and to study the various methodologies used to gain that knowledge.
- Visual Literacy and Language: to develop knowledge of visual language and the terminology needed for the analysis and discussion of works of art.
- Technical Skills: to learn the range of materials and technical applications employed by artists over time.
- Critical Thinking: to gain knowledge of and competence in critically analyzing visual images, past and present, and to express their relevance to society through informed discourse, both verbal and written.

Course description: This course is an exploration of the writings of major European thinkers of the fourteenth through sixteenth centuries, the periods known as the late middle ages and the renaissance in western Europe. We shall discuss a broad range of texts such as theoretical treatises, literature, and diaries in order to gain a greater understanding of the intellectual life of the artist, philosopher, and theoretician and the development of critical writing about art and society in a period of great change for western civilization.

Course objectives and format:

Unlike an upper-level art history class based in slide lectures, this course is taught as a seminar. Success rests almost entirely on the quality of our discussions and your research. I shall lead discussions of the readings and ideas with occasional demonstrations and presentations. Good performance in this class rests on how well prepared you are in advance of the discussions. You will be expected to stay abreast of the readings and to share information, opinions, and insights with the class. When discussions develop lives of their own, unfinished work will spill over into the next session.

Course requirements and grading policies:

You are expected to attend all class sessions and participate in the discussions; attendance will be taken each time we meet. All assigned course work must be completed in order to earn credit for the class.

ABSOLUTELY NO LATE WORK OR ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT OF THE INSTRUCTOR. Please submit all written work in person and keep copies of all assigned work.

Text:

The text for this class is Anthony Blunt, *Artistic Theory in Italy, 1450-1600*, (Oxford University Press, 1940) Blunt Press, 2007 ISBN is 9781406752922. Additional readings, mostly articles and portions of books, will be posted on Moodle on a weekly basis. I shall always let you know where we are on the syllabus, but stay on top of the readings because you will be called upon in class.

Summary of grades:

Participation:	25 %	100 pts.
Mid-Term Examination:	25 %	100 pts.
Research Paper and Presentation:	50 %	200 pts.
Total	100 %	400 pts.

PARTICIPATION, ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE POLICY:

Your participation is crucial for success of this course. Attendance will always be taken at the start of class; if you are absent for the roll call, you will be counted as absent. 25% of your grade is determined by attendance and participation in class discussions. At least 85% attendance and occasional participation earns a "C" and 95-100% participation an "A". Participation counts for more of the final grade if it has been exceptionally good or less if exceedingly poor.

Excused Absences:

What warrants an excused absence? A death in the family, a court or legal issue that cannot be scheduled at any other time (for example: jury duty, parole meeting, court date, incarceration, etc.) or a severe health issue (for example: being contagious with flu or pink eye, an incident that requires a visit to the emergency room or hospitalization, or a medical condition requiring an immediate appointment that cannot be scheduled at any other day/time). Upon returning to class, please bring documentation regarding the exact date of the absence (except in the case of family death). Absences due to a severe health issue can be excused only if, upon returning, you bring a signed note from the attending health care provider (physician or RN, not a member of the secretarial staff) stating that you were ill the day of the absence and sought medical attention. The note must include: the exact date of class missed and the actual signature of the attending physician or RN and his/her contact information.

What is not excused: absences due to work or lack of childcare.

Credit/No Credit Option:

Matriculation in this class is a contract to do your best and accept the traditional grade assigned. I do not convert a traditional grade to credit/no credit and release you from your contract unless I have evidence of an emergency, health crisis, or extreme personal situation in which you cannot possibly finish the course assignments in the normal fashion. The possibility of failing the class or earning a low grade and lowering your overall GPA does not rise to that standard.

Drop/Add Forms:

As per the explanation in the previous paragraph, I do not sign drop/add forms after week 10 of the term.

MID-TERM EXAMINATION: There will be a take-home, written examination during mid-semester worth 25 % of your grade. It will entail a series of essay questions.

FINAL RESEARCH PAPER AND PRESENTATION: This project is worth 50 % of your grade. You will research a topic, write a research paper, and give a class presentation. You may also create a hands-on project to apply the idea or theories you explore. See attached handouts for my paper-grading criteria. The research paper will be assigned during the course with opportunities for revisions. **ABSOLUTELY NO LATE WORK OR ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL.**

ACCESS, SPECIAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES:

Students with access concerns, special needs, learning disabilities, medical conditions, and/or physical impairments that may impede the successful completion of this course, please contact the office of Disability Services for Students (DSS) at x. 2243 (Lommasson Center 154) and speak with me as soon as possible.

Accommodations:

Accommodations for disabilities can be made only after I have received a letter from DSS. Request for accommodations must be made to me in writing no later than 3 weeks before the due date of the

assignment.

Electronic Devices:

THE USE OF TAPE RECORDERS, CELLPHONES, CAMERAS, IPODS, LAPTOPS AND/OR RECORDING DEVICES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED IN THE CLASSROOM. ADDRESS ALL REQUESTS IN WRITING TO ME. Please turn off all cell phones, blackberries, ipads or tablets, and any other mobile device or set them on vibrate prior to the start of class. Students failing to do so will be asked to leave class and may not be allowed to return to class that day at the instructor's discretion. However, if you are in the midst of an emergency, please communicate with me about your situation immediately.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to a penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at: www.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321.

Syllabus

This syllabus is only available on Moodle. It is subject to change, so please check Moodle regularly for announcements and assignments.

Week 1

The Scholastic Tradition of the Late Middle Ages

Readings:

Theophilus, 1-8.

St. Francis of Assisi, 173-4.

Ceninno Cennini, 136-50.

Week 2

Antiquity: Rebirth or Reinvention?

Benedictus Canonicus, 62-73.

Baldesar Castiglione, "A Report to Pope Leo X..." 289-96.

Week 3

Man, the Measure of All Things

Gregorio Dati, 107-141

Leon Batista Alberti, "On the Family," 164-77 and 25-26.

Week 4

The Rise of Individualism

Leonardo Bruni, 1-4.

Giannozzo Manetti, 31-33.

Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, 178-84.

Vespasiano da Bisticci, 179-98.

Week 5

The Changing Status of the Artist

Antonio Manetti, 167-79.

Lorenzo Ghiberti, 151-66.

Anthony Blunt, Chapter 4, 48-57.

Week 6

The Artist as Thinker

Alberti, "On Painting," 43-98.

Blunt, Chapter 1, 1-22.

Week 7

The Renaissance Man: Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo da Vinci, 270-88.

Blunt, Chapter 2, 23-38.

Midsemester Examinations distributed on Wednesday, March 12, 2014.

Week 8

The Divine One: Michelangelo

Michelangelo Buonarroti, 5-24.

Blunt, Chapter 5, 58-81.

Midsemester Examinations due at the start of class on Wednesday, March 19, 2014. PLEASE NOTE THAT I ACCEPT NO LATE PAPERS OR ELETRONIC SUBMISSIONS.

Week 9

Vasari and the Mannerists

Giorgio Vasari, 24-31.

Blunt, Chapter 7, 86-102.

Week 10

Spring Break—NO CLASSES

Week 11

The Courtier in the Mannerist Court

Baldesar Castiglione, 197-257.

Niccolò Machiavelli, 258-97.

Week 12

The Artist, Nonconformity, Scandal, and Controversy

Benvenuto Cellini, 306-74.

Rudolf and Margot Wittkower, 150-80, 187-90.

Week 13

The Counter-Reformation and Church Censorship

The Council of Trent, 62-65.

Paolo Veronese, 65-70.

Blunt, Chapter 8, 103-36.

Research Papers due in class on Wednesday, April 23, 2014. PLEASE NOTE THAT I SHALL ACCEPT NO LATE PAPERS NOR ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS.

Week 14

Academism

Giovanni Paolo Lomazzo, 74-86.

Federigo Zuccaro, 87-92.

Blunt, Chapter 9, 137-59.

Week 15

Presentations.

Finals Week

Presentations continue.