

ARTH 313

TOPICS IN RENAISSANCE ART



Gentile Bellini, *Preaching of St Mark in Alexandria*, 1504 contract, (commissioned for the Albergo of the Scuola Grande di San Marco), 3470 x 7700 mm, Milan: Brera

ART HISTORY
SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Victoria University of Wellington

Trimester 2
2008

ARTH 313

Topics in Renaissance Art

Course co-ordinator	Phyllis Mossman, Old Kirk 317 Tel. 463 5808, E-mail phyllis.mossman@vuw.ac.nz
Where	Lectures are held in Murphy LT 101 Weekly tutorials are in Old Kirk, Room 319
When	Lectures: Wednesdays 3.10-5 pm Weekly tutorials: (start in the second week) Thursdays 12-12.50 pm; 2.10-3 pm; and 5.10-6 pm
Administrator	Pippa Wisheart is the Art History administrator. Her office is in Old Kirk Grd floor, OK 306 (Tel. 463 5800)
Noticeboard	For additional information, see the Art History noticeboard adjacent to Pippa Wisheart's office
Examinations	The examination period runs from 17 October – 8 November 2008 . The examination timetable will be posted on the Art History noticeboard.
Office hours	Phyllis will be available to see students on: Wednesdays after (but not before) the lecture; and on Thursdays 1-2 pm and 3-5 pm. Please just call in at her office (OK 317) at these times, or arrange an appointment by e-mail for an alternative time.

The course

ARTH 313 investigates five key aspects of Renaissance art: **the producers** (artists and workshops); **the consumers** (patrons and collectors); **the writers; voyages and journeys;** and significant **themes**.

The course is a selective investigation, not a general or chronological survey. It aims to provide you with a critical perspective on a significant period in the history of western European art. You will be actively engaged in researching and presenting material on some aspects of these key issues. You will become familiar with some of the major debates currently engaging historians of Renaissance art.

The lecture programme does not cover the entire course content. Lectures are important, since they will guide you through the course and provide insight into current opinion about the topics covered. However, they must be viewed as complementary to your own reading in the field, viewing of images and the tutorial and seminar discussions.

Course Objectives

Students passing the course should:

- be familiar with a specialised study of art and a specific area of theory and debate within art history
- have refined your skills of analysis and interpretation within the specific context of the course
- have developed your ability to recognise a range of different approaches to art historical material and the use of both primary and secondary sources
- have produced a substantial piece of written work which demonstrates your ability to think and write critically
- have developed your skills in the presentation, analysis and discussion of visual material in tutorials

ARTH 313 lecture programme

Topic 1: The producers: artists and workshops

July 09	1	Introduction and workshop practice
	2	The workshop of Andrea del Verrocchio
July 16	3	Techniques: drawing
	4	Collaboration: shared commissions and project management

Topic 2: The consumers: patrons and collectors

July 23	5	Republican Florence: Cosimo 'il Vecchio' de' Medici
	6	Republican Florence: Lorenzo 'il Magnifico' de' Medici
July 30	7	Republican Venice: the <i>scuole</i>
	8	The court (1): Ferrara
Aug 06	9	The court (2): Fontainebleau
	10	Female patrons and collectors

Topic 3: The writers

Aug 13	11	The treatise
	12	The biography (1) Vasari's <i>Vite</i>

Mid-trimester break 16 August to 31 August 2008

Sept 03	13	The biography (2)
	14	Autobiographies and heroes: Benvenuto Cellini
Sept 10	15	The literary image: poetry and <i>ekphrasis</i>

Topic 4: Voyages and journeys

	16	From Flanders to Florence
Sept 17	17	Venice looks East
	18	Dürer's <i>Wanderjahre</i>
Sept 24	19	Conquest and the age of exploration: Spain

Topic 5: The Themes

	20	Art and the Church
Oct 01	21	Art and science
	22	Art and representing nature
Oct 08	23	Art and beauty
	24	Art and antiquity

Tutorial programme

Tutorials are an essential supplement to lectures. They will take the form of a discussion of particular case studies that illustrate issues raised in lectures. You will also have the opportunity to lead one of these discussions in a formal seminar presentation. Also, you will be expected to have made some notes and answered the questions below for the tutorial readings so that you can contribute to the discussion.

Tutorials are compulsory and you must attend a minimum of 8 out of 11.

Date:

- | | | |
|---------|-----|--|
| July 17 | (1) | Introduction: allocation of seminar topics (seminars start in 2 wks)
Tutorial discussion - <i>Topic 1 The Producers: artists and workshops</i> |
| July 24 | (2) | Tutorial discussion - <i>Topic 2 The consumers: patrons and collectors</i> |
| July 31 | (3) | Seminar presentations (x 2) <i>Topic 1 The producers</i> |
| Aug 07 | (4) | Seminar presentations (x 2) <i>Topic 2 The consumers</i> |
| Aug 14 | (5) | Tutorial discussion - <i>Topic 3 The writers</i> |

Mid-trimester break 16 August to 31 August

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|---------|------|---|
| Sept 04 | (6) | Seminar presentations (x 2) <i>Topic 3 The writers</i> |
| Sept 11 | (7) | Seminar presentations (x 2) <i>Topic 4 Voyages and journeys</i> |
| Sept 18 | (8) | Tutorial discussion - <i>Topic 4 Voyages and journeys</i> |
| Sept 25 | (9) | Seminar presentations (x 2) <i>Topic 5 The themes</i> |
| Oct 02 | (10) | Tutorial discussion - <i>Topic 5 The themes</i> |
| Oct 09 | (11) | Tutorial - Exam preparation – workshop |

Assessment

ARTH 313 is assessed by means of:

1. one essay (40%)
2. one seminar presentation plus write-up (30%)
3. a two-hour examination (30%) in which you must answer TWO questions on TWO SEPARATE TOPICS covered in the course. The examination meets the first four objectives stated on page 2 of the course outline. The examination period runs from **17 October – 8 November 2008.**

Note: during the course you will be tested on **four** of the **five topics** of the course. You may **not** write an essay, give a seminar presentation, or answer an exam question, on the same topic.

Attendance at lectures and tutorials

Lectures cover the basic course content and include material not covered elsewhere. While attendance at lectures is not compulsory, it is strongly recommended. **Tutorial attendance:** you must attend a minimum of 8 out of 11 tutorials and a good contribution to these can make a difference to your grade if you are borderline.

Mandatory course requirements

Mandatory course requirements are defined in the University Calendar. **You must submit one essay, give one seminar presentation (plus write-up), sit one examination and attend at least eight tutorials to fulfil the mandatory course requirements.**

Aegrotat provisions are set out in the Assessment Statute of the *2008 Calendar*. You can refer to the University website for further information:
<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/timetables/aegrotat.aspx>

No assignments will be accepted after 10 October 2008. No extensions, for any reason, can be granted beyond this date. If you are in any doubt about your ability to meet this deadline you must see the course co-ordinator immediately.

Workload

The university recommends that **18 hours** per week, inclusive of lectures and tutorials, be given to a 300-level course in order to maintain satisfactory progress.

Extensions, late penalties and second opinions

The Department has a policy that **extensions will not be granted**. If you have medical or other problems preventing you from meeting a deadline you must contact your course co-ordinator at the earliest opportunity. Without prior

arrangements having been agreed to with the course co-ordinator, late essays will be penalised by the deduction of two percentage points for each day beyond the due date. Essays should be placed in the art history assignment box in the ground floor foyer of Old Kirk by 5pm on the due date. The reasons **exceptions will not be made** are that we cannot privilege some students over others; we must adhere to a defined programme of marking; and the results must be furnished to the central Registry on time. It is also important that we ensure students keep up with the course. Essays, seminar presentations plus write-ups and the examination will be marked by the course co-ordinator. A **second opinion** may be requested in the final assessment of any piece of written work.

Presentation of written assignments

You must pay attention to **setting out, correct spelling and grammar**. Double-spaced typed copy is definitely preferred. Type or write on **one** side of the page only, leaving a **generous margin** on the left-hand side. If writing is not your forte, ask someone to check your work. You are advised to read *Researching and Writing Art History Essays*, the department's handbook, which sets out standard practice (available on Blackboard under 'Assignments').

Resources

Blackboard: images from each lecture, together with a brief overview, will be posted on Blackboard (usually within two days of the lecture). You are encouraged to set aside a regular time for viewing them. *Unless you have high speed internet access at home, we recommend you use Blackboard in the student computing suites on campus, this will mean files can be downloaded with the minimum of delay.*

Reading: the reading list indicates books placed on Closed Reserve and 3-day loan in Study Hall, in the main sequence of the library or in the Architecture Library in Vivian Street. A folder of articles set aside by Phyllis for use in seminars and essay writing will also be available in Art History. Slides selected as suggestions for seminar presentations will also be available in Art History.

Essays

Due date: Wednesday 20 August or Friday 26 September (5pm)

For those with seminar presentations before the mid-trimester break, your essay is due on **26 September**. For those with seminar presentations after the mid-trimester break, your essay is due on **20 August**.

(**Note:** if you have a **seminar presentation in the week straight after the mid-trimester break**, you would be wise to hand your essay in earlier so as to concentrate on your seminar over the break).

Length: 2500-3000 (maximum) words, typed and double-spaced with wide margin on left-hand side of the page for comments.

Criteria for assessment:

Assessment will be based on the following criteria:

- understanding and definition of topic
- formulation and development of argument
- use of visual and written resources (including primary sources)
- originality and independence of thought
- referencing (of ideas, facts, paraphrases and quotations; and documentation of works of art)
- style and mechanics (clear communication of ideas; legibility, presentation, grammar, punctuation and spelling)

The essay is designed to meet the **course objectives** of: refining your skills of analysis and interpretation; developing your ability to recognise a range of different approaches to art historical material and the use of both primary and secondary sources; and producing a substantial piece of written work which demonstrates your ability to think and write critically.

Seminar presentations

Seminar presentations are an integral part of ARTH 313. They provide you with an opportunity for focused research on a particular topic. These presentations ensure your active involvement in the course and offer material which supplements lectures.

In most cases, there will be two presentations per tutorial. Your presentation should be about 15-20 minutes (maximum). This will allow about 5 minutes for questions and for changeover of slides for the next presenter.

You must prepare a 1-2 page handout, with enough copies for everyone, to be tabled at the time of your presentation. This will contain a **summary of the main points** you have made, a **list of slides**, and a **select bibliography**.

You are also required to write up your presentation in a paper of approximately 1000 words. You may wish to hand this in at the time of your presentation. However, it is probably better to take account of class comments and feedback and to incorporate this into your write-up, which **must be submitted within a week** of your presentation (at the following week's tutorial).

You will be assessed on the basis of your presentation, handout and write-up. You will not be penalised for nervousness or lack of confidence, but an interesting approach may earn you credit. The better prepared you are the more likely you will be to overcome any stage fright.

You should discuss your topic and appropriate readings with Phyllis as far in advance as possible. **A basic selection of relevant images will be available on Blackboard**, and further images can be made from good-quality colour images or slides from the collection (but you will need to give at least a week's notice). If you need help with your Powerpoint, please inform Phyllis or Pippa.

Seminar presentations, like your exam, are worth 30% of the final grade. They are designed to develop your ability to think and write critically; to familiarise you with a specialised study of art and a specific area of theory and debate within art history; to refine your skills of analysis and interpretation; to develop your ability to recognise a range of different approaches to art historical material, and the use of primary and secondary sources; and to develop your skills in the presentation, analysis and discussion of visual material in tutorials.

General Information

General University Statutes and Policies

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

Taping of Lectures

All students in the School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies are welcome to use their own audio-tapes to record lectures. If you want to do this, please see your lecturer, tutor or the relevant programme administrator and complete a disclaimer form, which advises of copyright and other relevant issues.

THE CHARTWELL TRUST STUDENT ART WRITING PRIZE 2008

The Adam Art Gallery, in association with the School of Art History, Classics, Religious Studies and Museum and Heritage Studies and the School of English, Film, Theatre, and Media Studies, invites students to participate in the Chartwell Trust Student Art Writing Prize, an annual writing initiative focusing on visual art and culture.

The winning entry will receive a cash prize of \$500.

The prize is open to all VUW students studying Art History, Classics, Religious Studies, Museum and Heritage Studies, English, Film, Theatre, and Media Studies. Entries should be in the form of a review or essay addressing an exhibition at the Adam Art Gallery or a work from the Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection. The submissions should be no more than 1,500 words.

Entries close on
3 October 2008.

The winner will be announced at the opening of the exhibition *I, Here, Now: Vivian Lynn* at the Adam Art Gallery on **24 October 2008**

Entries should be sent with a registration form to:

The Chartwell Trust Student Art Writing Prize,
c/- Adam Art Gallery
Victoria University of Wellington
PO Box 600, Wellington

CRITICAL WRITING WORKSHOP

Adam Art Gallery
Friday 5 September
3-5pm

In the lead up to the Chartwell Trust Student Art Writing Prize, the Adam Art Gallery presents a workshop in which established art writers, reviewers and critics will discuss their approach to art criticism and critical writing in the context of the current Adam Art Gallery exhibitions. This discussion will offer invaluable insights into the methods and techniques of critical writing and provide transferable skills and practical advice to aid your submission to the Chartwell Trust Student Art Writing Prize.

For more information please contact Laura Preston or pick up a registration form from your Programme Administrator or the Adam Art Gallery office or download it from Blackboard. ph: 463 5229 or laura.preston@vuw.ac.nz

Good luck and enjoy the course