



# ARTH\*2550 The Italian Renaissance

Winter 2023

Section(s): C01

School of Fine Art and Music

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 2.00 - January 03, 2023

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## 1 Course Details

### 1.1 Calendar Description

This course will investigate the art, architecture, and visual and material culture of Renaissance Italy in its political, social, religious, intellectual and theoretical contexts. Topics can include artistic training and practice; methods, materials and techniques of art-making; science and perspective; patronage; collectors and collecting; public monuments and domestic art; Renaissance theory; humanism; artistic biography; and other thematic contexts.

**Pre-Requisites:** 2.00 credits or (ARTH\*1510 or ARTH\*1520)

### 1.2 Course Description

This course looks at the Renaissance in Italy as a period of intense artistic innovation fueled by discoveries (and rediscoveries) about the science of representation and the intellectual current of humanism. Rather than presenting a traditional chronology, the course is centered on themes in Italian Renaissance art; from cathedrals to courts, from birth to death, from weddings to funerals, from gods to monsters; the range of human experience expressed in art against a backdrop of intense intellectual and humanist revolution fueled by the printing press. We'll look at painting, sculpture, architecture, prints and printing, textiles, ceramics, jewelry-making and other forms of cultural production that help us to think about the past in new ways.

### 1.3 Timetable

Timetable is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information. This course is taught in person.

Mon and Wed 11.30 - 12.50 pm

## 1.4 Final Exam

This course has a final, written exam that will be scheduled during the Final Exam Period.

Exam time and location is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

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## 2 Instructional Support - Sally Hickson - shickson@uoguelph.ca

### 2.1 Teaching Assistant Support - Sarah Mousseau - mousseau@uoguelph.ca

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## 3 Learning Resources

### 3.1 Required Resources

**Weekly readings are available via CourseLink (Readings)**

The readings supplement the lecture content and are required.

**Italian Renaissance Learning Resources (Website)**

<http://www.italianrenaissanceresources.com/>

Website created by National Gallery of Art, Washington, available through CourseLink

### 3.2 Additional Resources

**Any available textbook on the history of Italian Renaissance Art (Readings)**

You can find a variety of illustrated texts at the university library that you might find helpful to supplement your studies in this course. While these are useful for the images, keep in mind that the older the book, the more out-of-date the information will be in terms of reflecting current interpretive, contextual and theoretical discourses in art history.

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## 4 Learning Outcomes

### 4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Evaluate the aesthetic, historical, social, and ethical significance of the visual realm that underlies our understanding of the Italian Renaissance.

2. Construct plausible methods of analysis in the field of art history and visual culture.
  3. Develop a broader and deeper understanding of how visual images inflect and change our understanding of historical events.
  4. Identify the major debates that have shaped the discipline of art history and visual culture and situate methodologies and approaches within or without these historiographical contexts.
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## 5 Teaching and Learning Activities

### 5.1 Lecture

**Topics:**

The professor is an expert on the material, and the lectures are organized by theme to highlight key concepts. Attending class (for W21, Lectures are online) and taking good notes can help you to put the ideas together and focus on what's important. Nothing can explain ideas better than another person can. The lectures convey content, shape your understanding of art history as a discipline with its own distinct structures of cognition, and provide you with methods and means to assimilate information and model your own evolving expertise on the subject.

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## 6 Assessments

### 6.1 Assessment Details

**Mid-term Exam (20%)**

**Date:** Mon, Feb 13, In-class

The format of the test will be explained in class

**The Palazzo Project (35%)**

**Due:** Wed, Mar 22

In this project, students will design and furnish a room in a Renaissance palazzo, with objects chosen from museum collections that would be typical of the period, and that speak to a specific Renaissance family in terms of their iconography. In other words, students will contextualize art, artifacts, architecture and other objects to demonstrate their understanding of Renaissance visual culture. Details will be given out in class.

**Final Exam (30%)**

**Date:** Date TBA

The format of the exam will be discussed in class.

**The Impresa Project (15%)****Date:** Mon, Mar 6

An impresa is the combination of a "device" (a symbolic image) with a "motto" (a short sentence or phrase chosen as encapsulating the beliefs or ideals guiding an individual, family, or institution). The impresa became an important marker of identity in the Renaissance, and they were found chiefly on medals circulated to enhance reputation and fame. In this assignment, students will be asked to research and identify an actual Renaissance 'impresa' and then to create their own impresa, based on their own name or on an imaginary Renaissance figure. Details will be given in class.

## 7 University Statements

### 7.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

### 7.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

### 7.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

## 7.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

## 7.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 14 days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website  
<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

## 7.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community—faculty, staff, and students—to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse

students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

## 7.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

## 7.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

## 7.9 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email.

This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

## 7.10 Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g.. final exam or major assignment).

## 7.11 Covid-19 Safety Protocols

For information on current safety protocols, follow these links:

- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campus/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your-safe-return/>
- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campus/spaces/#ClassroomSpaces>

Please note, these guidelines may be updated as required in response to evolving University, Public Health or government directives.

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