

M234 **Renaissance Florence** – Instructor Andrea Ciccarelli

T, W, Th 11:10-1:15PM

(Time of class may change according to museum/sites visit times. Time changes will be sent via email but also announced in class the day before).

This course is designed to explore the main aspects of Renaissance civilization, with a major emphasis on the artistic developments, in Florence (1300's – 1500's). We will focus on:

- The passage from Gothic Architecture to the new style that recovers ancient classical forms (*gives birth again* = renaissance) through Brunelleschi's and Alberti's ideas
- The development of mural and table painting from Giotto to Masaccio, and henceforth to Fra Angelico, Ghirlandaio, Botticelli and Raphael
- Sculpture, mostly on Ghiberti, Donatello and Michelangelo.

We will study and discuss, of course, other great Renaissance artists, in particular, for architecture: Michelozzo; for sculpture: Desiderio da Settignano, Cellini and Giambologna; for painting: Filippo Lippi, Andrea del Castagno, Filippino Lippi, Bronzino and Pontormo.

For pedagogical matters as well as for time constraints, during museum and church/sites visits we will focus solely or mostly on artists and works inserted in the syllabus. Students are encouraged to visit the entire museums or sites, naturally.

Some lessons will be part discussion of the reading/ visual assignments and part visits; others will be mostly visits (but there will be time for discussion and questions during and after visits). Because of their artistic variety and their chronological span, some of the sites require more than one visit.

Due to the nature of the course, mostly *taught in place*, the active and careful participation of the students is highly required. Attendance is therefore obligatory, as no reading/ visual image can replace the discussion in front of the actual works. Students have to read/ view all assigned material before each class/ visit, in order to be familiar with the intellectual and historical background of each artistic work that we will discuss.

Given the nature of the course, part of the class material is in the form of visual links. This is to offer learning material that reflects more closely the class setting (museum/ sites visits). One important note on the pronunciation of the last name of an important Florentine dynasty that you will read and hear many times, **Medici**: it is pronounced with the accent on the first syllable, Mèdici, NOT Medìci as you will (unfortunately) hear in some of the documentaries or videos.

Students will be provided with personal museum entry cards ("Amici degli Uffizi"), which allow multiple entrances in all National museums (Uffizi, Accademia, Bargello, Galleria Palatina, San Marco...). Please do not lose this card (it costs about

\$100) and remember to bring it with you along with a picture ID (IU ID would do) every time we have class, as you will need them for most of the visits.

Requisites: Two take-home exams: midterm and final; one group oral presentation of 20 minute on artists/ works not discussed directly in class (see Appendix at the end of syllabus for suggestions and explanations). Four –five students will compose each group presentations, and every student will have to demonstrate her/his role in the presentation.

Please remember to cite your sources in your exams, neglecting to do so is considered plagiarism and may result in a different number of penalties: from the decreasing of a final grade, to failing a class, etc. (please see <http://college.indiana.edu/plagiarism> for details).

Grade:

- midterm 40%
- final 40%
- class participation 20%.

NB: Each unjustified absence will result in a 10% deduction from the final grade. Students are responsible for keeping themselves informed about the assignments, for getting notes from a classmate in case they miss class, and for presenting the teacher with the official documentation to justify their absences.

READING KEYS for the syllabus (if you have doubts about any requirement/ assignment, please contact me before the class in question, so that all readings/ viewing can be completed on time):

- The arrow → means “click on link.”
- Names in **bold** when there is a multi-link option are obligatory links/ readings, the others are discretionary (when there is no multilink option, the bold typesetting may be used to identify the subject at a glance).
- Reading/ visual material is listed before the order of the specific classes.
- Material that is not explicitly assigned for individual classes is for optional extra consultation.
- All assignments are either marked with a key word (in parenthesis in caps, after the title of the section, i.e.: MICHE for Michelangelo) and by a number, or by the full name of the author/ site when appropriate.
- BB stands for the digitalized version of Bernard Berenson’s *The Florentine Painters of The Renaissance*, a classic art historical work, first published in 1932. Its critical approach and style is often outdated, however, it still offers many important general and specific insights, and it can still be useful to understand the artists and their innovations.
- (?) = Attributed to

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will be able to:

1. understand work of art by placing them in their specific historical, social and cultural context;
2. develop a critically informed appreciation of the formal and thematic features of works and texts read;
3. establish meaningful formal and thematic connections among periods and works;
4. interpret artistic works as sources of information on the culture in which the texts were produced;
5. understand the complex and multilayered nature of that culture and its relations to other cultures, past and present.

NB: All questions in each written exam will be directly devoted to the learning outcomes, especially 1 and 2; presentations will have to demonstrate knowledge of point 2 and 3 in particular.

GENERAL/ HISTORICAL ON RENAISSANCE ART AND CULTURE (**RAC**)

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/497788/Renaissance-art>
(Renaissance art, with various links to Florence and Florentine art, culture and history in the period. Useful for general quick consultation and for the review session).

1: <http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/glo/renaissance/>
(**Renaissance**, cultural/ historical explanation → **The Renaissance in Italy**. Other links for brief artists' biography are: Botticelli, Michelangelo, Leonardo, Raphael, and Titian –these links are useful mostly because they show pictures of major works)

2a: http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/itar/hd_itar.htm
Architecture in Renaissance Italy – from The Metropolitan Museum of Art web site (MET); → **Classical Roman Examples; Doric, Ionian and Corinthian; Brunelleschi, Alberti, Palladio.**

2b: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/32952/Western-architecture/47340/The-Renaissance?anchor=ref962651>
(Renaissance Architecture)

3a: http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/mgot/hd_mgot.htm
(This is useful to understand the transition between **Gothic** and Renaissance art)

3b: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/239678/Gothic-architecture>
(Gothic → **Western Architecture: Gothic**)

4a: <http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/iptg/hd iptg.htm>
(**Fresco** and **Table** painting techniques: explanation and vocabulary)

4 b: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cej4Ggq5nQI>
(**Fresco technique**, video – Michelangelo's style, 6 min)

5: http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/anat/hd_anat.htm
Anatomy in The Renaissance (MET)

6: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDn71XK3V3M>
Overview of the Renaissance art

7: http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/numr/hd_numr.htm
The nude in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance

8a: <http://grandearte.net/florentine-painters-renaissance/i>

8b: <http://grandearte.net/florentine-painters-renaissance/constant-aims-florentine-art> (BB, chapter I and last paragraph in chapter XIV)

9: <http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/renaissance-art.htm> (CORK)
This site has many different useful links that can be reached by clicking on the menu, e.g. → on **Renaissance artists** for biographies; → **Renaissance architecture**; → **Why did the Renaissance start in Italy?** → **Ren Florence**, and subsequent links.

BOCCACCIO

Decameron, Day I, story 1.

http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Italian_Studies/dweb/texts/DecShowText.php?myID=nov0101&lang=eng

This translation is taken from the Brown U Decameron Web project; it is an old translation (J.M. Rigg, London: 1903), so there is some archaic language, mostly when the friar speaks, to transmit the different speech of the characters in the original. However, it is still a good literary translation. The same text is also in the site here below, but accuracy is better in the Brown U site.

http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Decameron/Novel_1_1

FLORENTINE SITES (FS)

1: PALAZZO VECCHIO/ PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA

http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/Palazzo_vecchio.html

2: SAN MINIATO AL MONTE

http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/san_miniato.html

3: SANTA MARIA DEL FIORE (Duomo/ Cathedral)

http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/cathedral_of_florence.html

4: SANTA MARIA NOVELLA

A: <http://www.chiesasantamarianovella.it/en/works-art>

(→ Major work of arts → **Masaccio's** Trinity; **Brunelleschi's** Crucifix; **Giotto's** Crucifix; **Ghirlandaio's** Tornabuoni Chapel)

B: http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/santa_maria_novella-cloist.html
(Historical overview and pictures)

5: SANTA CROCE

a: <http://www.santacroceopera.it/en/Default.aspx>

(→ **Architecture and Art**→Architectural spaces (**Square, Church → Bardi, Peruzzi Chapels**, Sacristy, **Pazzi Chapel, Cloisters**); → Themes based tours → Renaissance Architecture and Works→ **Annunciation** and **Crucifix** by Donatello, Pulpit by Benedetto da Maiano).

b: http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/museum_of_opera_s_croce.html

(Overview with historical information, better pictures for Giotto's works, especially The Death of St. Francis)

6: SAN LORENZO/ MEDICI CHAPELS

http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/Medici_chapels.html

7: BARGELLO MUSEUM

a: http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/museum_of_bargello.html

(General information on the palace and pictures of works by Donatello –**St. George**, etc., and Michelangelo—**Tondo Doni, Bacchus**)

b: <http://smarthistory.khanacademy.org/brunelleschi-ghiberti-isaac.html>

(On the competition between Ghiberti and Brunelleschi for the bronze door of the Baptistery)

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-history/art-history-1400-1500-renaissance-in-italy-and-the-north/florence-1/v/brunelleschi---ghiberti--sacrifice-of-isaac--competition-panels--1401-2> (same as above, different site)

8: PALAZZO PITTI

http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/Pitti_palace.html

(Historical and architectural information; → **Palatina** Gallery)

9: VASARI CORRIDOR

http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/corridoio_vasariano.html

10: UFFIZI

Virtual tour of the Uffizi (useful to see paintings and for brief biographies)

<http://www.virtualuffizi.com/the-artists.html>

MEDICI FAMILY (**MEDICI**)

1a: <http://www.sparknotes.com/history/european/renaissance1/section2.rhtml>

(Outline of the Medici ascension to power and historical background)

1b: <http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?historyid=aa24>

(same as above, perhaps with more bio-historical details)

2: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBlGkTTol9E&list=PL4CB_aDwycGeBqsOXWVHsvSY3VsMZyB69 (55 min, sometimes it focuses on less important topics, but it offers enough precise information about **Lorenzo the Magnificent** and his cultural/historical context).

CIMABUE

- 1: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/117871/Cimabue>
- 2: <http://www.virtualuffizi.com/cimabue.html>

GIOTTO

- 1: http://www.artble.com/artists/giotto_di_bondone
(Biography, Style, etc; → **Paintings**: see Bardi Chapels, Ognissanti Madonna)
- 2: <http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/giotto/>
- 3: <http://grandearte.net/florentine-painters-renaissance/ii>
(BB: II chapter)

GHIBERTI

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/232690/Lorenzo-Ghiberti>

BRUNELLESCHI (**BRUNE**)

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/82167/Filippo-Brunelleschi>
(Biography and various links → **cathedral** → **reintroduction of dome construction**)

CORK: <http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/history-of-art/italian-renaissance.htm#architecture> (→ related links, especially on **Florence cathedral, Brunelleschi and the Renaissance**).

ALBERTI (**ALB**)

CORK: <http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/old-masters/alberti-leon-battista.htm>
(and related links)

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/12870/Leon-Battista-Alberti>
Bio → **On painting** → **Perspective** (art); → **S. Maria Novella, Palazzo Rucellai**.

DONATELLO (**DONA**):

- 1: http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/dona/hd_dona.htm
(MET - biography)
- 2: <http://www.artble.com/artists/donatello>
(artble **biography**; → **sculpture** for links to the individual works → **David, St. George, Mary Magdalene, Judith and Holofernes**)
- 3: http://www.wga.hu/bio_m/d/donatell/biograph.html
(Bio and works: → **Abraham and Isaacs; Old Sacristy**).
- 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UZuG3XpAd0>
Donatello's Mary Magdalene (5 min)
- 5: CORK: <http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/old-masters/donatello.htm>

MASACCIO

1: http://www.artble.com/artists/tommaso_cassai_masaccio#style_and_technique
(Bio and Paintings → **Tribute Money, Expulsion of Adam and Eve, Baptism of the Neophytes**).

2: http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/Brancacci_chapel.html (Brancacci Chapel)

3: <http://www.chiesasantamarianovella.it/en/artworks/masaccio%E2%80%99s-holy-trinity>

4: <http://grandearte.net/florentine-painters-renaissance/masaccio>
(BB)

FRA ANGELICO (ANGE)

1: http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/fang/hd_fang.htm

2: http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/museum_of_san_marco.html
(for general information about the Convent of San Marco; → **Library** by Michelozzo; **Crucifixion** and follow pictures focusing on **Noli me Tangere, Annalena** Altarpiece, **Annunciation, Transfiguration, Descent** from the Cross – **Triptych**).

3: <http://grandearte.net/florentine-painters-renaissance/fra-angelico>
(BB)

ANDREA DEL CASTAGNO (CASTAGNO)

1: http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/santa_apollonia.html

2: <http://grandearte.net/florentine-painters-renaissance/andrea-del-castagno>
(BB)

GHIRLANDAIO (GHIRLA)

1: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/232731/Domenico-Ghirlandaio>

2: <http://www.domenico-ghirlandaio.org/biography.html> (this site has pictures of most of the Florentine paintings by Gh.)

3: <http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/santa-trinita.html>
(Santa Trinita)

4: <http://www.chiesasantamarianovella.it/en/artworks/tornabuoni-chapel-maggiore-chapel> (Tornabuoni chapel)

BOTTICELLI (BOTTI)

1: http://www.artble.com/artists/sandro_botticelli

2: <http://www.uffizi.org/artworks/la-primavera-allegory-of-spring-by-sandro-botticelli/> (La Primavera)

3: <http://www.uffizi.org/artworks/the-birth-of-venus-by-sandro-botticelli/>
(Birth of Venus)

4: <http://grandearte.net/florentine-painters-renaissance/botticelli>
(BB)

MICHELANGELO (MICHE):

1: <http://www.museumsinflorence.com/foto/Accademia/Small/michelangelo.html>
(Biography)

2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9owl8k7x1E&list=PLCAE244DD240B0C63>
BBC *Michelangelo a Film* (docufilm in 3 parts, total 30 minutes: not specifically on the Florentine works, as it focuses mostly on Michelangelo's drawings as a preparatory tool for his works, but it is very instructive about his general way of conceiving art).

3a: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8ChAfzWaYg> (Part I, 1 hour)

3b: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6bpwqMoYbc> (Part II, 1 hour)

Michelangelo the Divine, a docu-film with useful artistic information and good reconstructions of M's technique. At times, as it was conceived as a mixed of documentary and TV film, it concedes to popularized or less important aspects of M's biography. 3a focuses on some of his early Florentine works (David, Bacchus); The first part of 3b focuses on Michelangelo's works in Rome (Sistine chapel), but then it deals with his later Florentine works as well. **NB:** Part 1-3 do not seem to be available, but from part 4 on videos are available).

4: <http://www.uffizi.org/artworks/doni-tondo-by-michelangelo/>
(Tondo Doni)

5: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oXAekrYytA>
(David, instructional video, 5min)

6: <http://www.accademia.org/explore-museum/artworks/michelangelos-david/>
(David, information and pictures)

7: <http://www.accademia.org/explore-museum/artworks/michelangelos-prisoners-slaves/> (M's Prisoners)

8: <http://grandearte.net/florentine-painters-renaissance/xiv>
(BB, XIV)

RAFFAELLO/ RAPHAEL (**RAF**)

1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOrG6jfBzEU> on Raffaello's "Scuola d'Atene" in the Vatican (by Columbia University, 18 minutes). Between minute 9:55-13:32 there is a technical explanation on how **frescos** were made.

2: <http://www.uffizi.org/artworks/madonna-of-the-goldfinch-by-raphael/>
(Madonna of the Goldfinch)

3: <http://grandearte.net/raphael/madonna-chair>

(Useful information about the painting, with some concession to popular beliefs about Raphael's inspiration for this painting)

4: <http://smarthistory.khanacademy.org/raphaels-portrait-of-pope-julius-ii.html>
(Portrait of Julius II, video, 4 min)

5: <http://smarthistory.khanacademy.org/raphaels-portrait-of-leo-x.html>
(Portrait of Leo X)

CELLINI

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-history/art-history-1500-1600-end-of-the-renaissance-and-the-reformation/mannerism/v/benvenuto-cellini--perseus-with-the-head-of-medusa--c--1554>

(video, 12 min)

NON-FLORENTINE REN ARTISTS OR MANNERISTS/ BAROQUE ARTISTS:

TITIAN

1: http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/tita/hd_tita.htm

(Biography)

2: <http://www.uffizi.org/artworks/venus-of-urbino-by-titian/>

(**Venus** of Urbino)

PONTORMO/ BRONZINO

1: http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/zino/hd_zino.htm

2: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/362538/Mannerism>

(Mannerism)

CARAVAGGIO (**CAR**)

1: http://www.artble.com/artists/caravaggio/more_information/biography

(Biography; → **Bacchus, Medusa, Judith, The Calling of St. Matthew, Crucifixion of St. Peter, Flagellation of Christ**)

2: <http://totallyhistory.com/sacrifice-of-isaac/>

(Sacrifice of Isaac)

3: CORK: <http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/old-masters/caravaggio.htm> (bio)

ARTEMISIA GENTILESCHI (**ARTEM**)

<http://www.uffizi.org/artworks/judith-and-holofernes-by-artemisia-gentileschi/>
(Judith and Holofernes)

WEEK 1:

Introduction to the Renaissance:

A) *The Human Being as Center of the Universe.*

B) *Architecture and sculpture as the Art of Human Space.*

Lesson1: Brunelleschi, Alberti and the re-discovery of Roman art. READINGS: RAC: 1,2,3a or 3b; FS: 1,3; BRUNE; ALB.

GROUP EXCURSION: **Santa Maria del Fiore** – Brunelleschi's dome. NB: to reach the top of the cupola (dome) of Santa Maria del Fiore one has to climb 485 steps; if you need to be exempted please let me know (this visit could be postponed for weather related reasons).

Lesson 2. Brunelleschi and Donatello: **S. Lorenzo**. READINGS: FS, 6 (part on **Old Sacristy** and on Church of San Lorenzo, only; the part on the Medici Chapels is for the lessons on Michelangelo); DONA: 2 (Bio); 3 (Old Sacristy); MEDICI: 1.

Lesson 3. **Bargello** Museum.

READINGS: FS: 7, 7b; DONA: 2 (David, St. George); MICHE: 1, 3a.

WEEK 2:

Color as perspective.

Lesson 1. S.Croce (Cimabue, Giotto, Donatello, Brunelleschi – Pazzi Chapel).

READINGS: FS: 5; CIMABUE 1a or 1b; GIOTTO: 3.

Lesson 2. Cappella Brancacci (Masolino, Masaccio, Filippino Lippi).

READINGS: MASACCIO: 1,2,4. MEDICI: 1a or 1b.

LESSON 3: **San Marco** (Fra Angelico).

READINGS: ANGE: 2,3.

WEEK 3:

The Blossoming of the New Style.

Lesson 1. Cenacolo di Sant'Apollonia (Andrea del Castagno's *Last Supper*).

Reading: CASTAGNO 1,2; RAC, 4b.

Lesson 2. Santa Trinita (Ghirlandaio's life of St. Francis); **Ognissanti** (comparison Ghirlandaio—Botticelli). GHIRLA: 3; BOTTI: 1.

Lesson 3: **S. Maria Novella** (Giotto, Brunelleschi, Masaccio, Ghirlandaio, Botticelli (?)); READINGS: FS: 4a,b; MASACCIO: 3.

- MIDTERM EXAM

WEEK 4:

Sculptures in movement: Michelangelo.

Lesson 1. Museo dell'Accademia: Michelangelo's *David* and the *Prisoners*.

READINGS: MICHE: 6, 7.

Lesson 2. Cappelle Medicee (Michelangelo) and **San Lorenzo** (II visit).

READINGS: FS: 6; MEDICI: 2.

Lesson 3. Museo dell'Opera del Duomo (Ghiberti, Donatello, Michelangelo).

READINGS: DONA: 2 → **Mary Magdalene**; 3 → **Abraham and Isaac**; MICHE: 3b.

WEEK 5:

The Maturity of Renaissance Painting.

Lesson 1 and 2. Visit to the Uffizi Gallery, in two groups (morning and afternoon), in two different days. Each visit will last about two hours, and will focus mostly on: 1300s: Cimabue, Giotto, Simone Martini, Duccio di Boninsegna; 1400s: Paolo Uccello, Piero della Francesca, Filippo Lippi, Perugino, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci; 1500s: Michelangelo, Raphael, Pontormo, Titian, Caravaggio.

READINGS: RAC: 8a, 8b; GIOTTO, 1 → Ognissanti Madonna; MICHE: 4; RAF: 2, 4, 5; Titian: 2; CAR: 1 → Bacchus, Medusa; 2. ARTEM.

Lesson 3: Palazzo Pitti (Palatine Gallery).

READINGS: RAF: 3; FS: 9.

WEEK 6:

Lesson 1. Cellini's **Perseus** and REVIEW. Review session in piazza della Signoria and Santa Croce.

Lesson 2. REVIEW lecture (1 hour) and visits (2 hour).

Lesson 3. REVIEW (visits and lecture).

APPENDIX (artists/ sites for presentations):

Please form the group by end of first week, and see me by end of second week to discuss your topic for the presentation. Different groups can utilize the same site or artist, as long as presentation is on diverse topics.

NB: students who are traveling to Rome, Venice, Paris or Naples on their own during the weekends, may choose to make their presentations on artists/ museums/ sites/ works which are located in those cities. Students will be refunded for all museum fees necessary for the presentations, in or outside Florence.

Ospedale degli innocenti (Ghirlandaio's frescos)

Fra Bartolomeo (San Marco)

Museo della Scienza (please select topic clearly)

Galilei's observatory

La Specola (anatomic museum)

Rosso Fiorentino, Pontormo, Bronzino in Santissima Annunziata

Pontormo in Santa Felicita or in San Michele

Perugino's Crucifixion in Santa Maria Maddalena de' pazzi

Andrea Del Sarto (Cenacolo in via dello Scalzo, Palatine Gallery, Uffizi)

Caravaggio (Uffizi, Palatine)

Ammanati (Bargello, Misericordia, Santa Croce)

Giambologna (Bargello, Piazza Signoria, Villa Demidoff)

Titian (Uffizi, Palatine)

Tintoretto (Uffizi, Palatine)

Rubens (Palatine)

Fortezza da basso

Forte Belvedere

Santi Apostoli

Palazzo Davanzati

San Domenico (Fiesole)

San Miniato

