ART 401: Art of the Italian Renaissance (33831)
Spring 2009 Syllabus

Professor: Dr. Ingrid Cartwright
Office: FAC Room 410
Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 3-4pm; Friday 3-5pm, or by appointment
Phone extension: 5-6101
Email: ingrid.cartwright@wku.edu

Class Meets: Monday & Wednesday, 4-5:15pm in FAC Room 156

Textbook and Reading Materials: Italian Renaissance Art by Laurie Schneider Adams (2001). You will also be required to read articles posted to Blackboard.

Course Overview & Objectives: In this course, we will study the painting, sculpture, and architecture of the Italian Renaissance from its trecento (1300s) precursors through sixteenth-century Mannerism. Upon completion, you should be able to identify major works of art from this era, describe the stylistic characteristics of different artistic centers, and explain key theoretical concepts surrounding the creation of art and architecture during the Italian Renaissance.

Course Requirements: You will take three exams, complete one paper, and help lead one class discussion on a primary source or scholarly article.

Grading: Your final grade will factored be out of a possible 500 points. For extra credit options, see page 2. The grading distribution is as follows:

- Three exams: 100 points each
- One paper: 150 points
- Leading discussion day: 50 points

A: 450-500 points
B: 400-449 points
C: 350-399 points
D: 300-349 points
F: below 300 points

Student Disability Statement: Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, Student Success Center, DUC A200. The OFSDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004; TTY is 745-3030. Per university policy, please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.
Class Policies

1. Academic Honesty
   a. Students are expected to be familiar with and abide by appropriate classroom behavior and student conduct as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct in the WKU handbook: http://www.wku.edu/handbook/current/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14&Itemid=26
   b. Any instances of cheating and/or plagiarism will be reported immediately to academic authorities and the student will either receive a grade of zero for the assignment or be dismissed from the course.

2. Class Behavior & Attendance
   a. Attendance is a class requirement; I take attendance daily.
   b. You may miss three classes without penalty.
   c. After three missed classes, every subsequent absence will result in a penalty of 25 points off your final grade.
   d. There is no distinction between an excused and unexcused absence in this course. If you are not here, you will be counted as absent.
   e. Please do your best to participate actively in class discussions.
   f. Please be on time for class.
   g. Please turn off your cell phones at the beginning of class.
   h. Laptop computers will be allowed in class as long as they are used to take notes, follow along with classroom demonstrations, or other course-related purposes. Students who use the laptop for any other purpose will have this privilege withdrawn.

3. Assignments and Exams
   a. Reading Assignments
      i. You should come to class prepared to discuss the reading assigned for that day.
   b. Papers
      i. Written assignments are expected to be typed (double-spaced), proofread and on time.
      ii. I do not accept papers by email.
      iii. Late papers are subject to (10 point) whole grade penalty (A to B, B to C, etc.) for each day they are late.
   c. Exams
      i. Make-up exams can be scheduled only in truly extenuating circumstances with a legitimate note from a third party.
      ii. If you are granted permission to retake an exam, you must retake the exam within one week; after that you will receive a zero.
4. Grades
   a. Grades are out of 500 points
   b. You will lose points for excessive absences (more than 3).
   c. Please keep track of papers and assignments.

5. Extra Credit
   a. The only way to earn extra credit is to see Renaissance art in person or
      attend lectures or films directly related to this period.
   b. If you travel to a museum to see Renaissance works or go to Italy (do it!),
      please bring me a dated and signed (by third party) museum brochure or
      plane ticket (!) as proof.
   c. If you attend a Renaissance-related lecture or similar event, please bring
      me something tangible (signed note, ticket stub).
   d. I will give you 3 points for every valid Italian Renaissance-related arts
      activity you attend.
   e. Otherwise: no extra credit is possible in this course.

6. Contacting me
   a. I encourage you to contact me with any questions regarding the material
      we cover in class. I am eager to help!
   b. If you have a question about class business, PLEASE check the syllabus
      or Blackboard to see if your question can be answered there before you
      email me.
   c. Please type “ART 401” or “Renaissance Art” in the subject line.
   d. Please use proper grammar (including salutations and complete
      sentences), spelling, and manners in your emails.
   e. I will not respond to rude, disrespectful, or incoherent emails.
Art 401 Grading Scale
A Guideline for Test, Essay, and Paper Scoring

A (90-100): Makes an eloquent point. Critically analyzes factual information to make a thoughtful statement about meaning. Presents a cohesive argument by conveying all pertinent supporting information without including superfluous material. Well written.

B (80-89): Shows a competent grasp of material and concepts. Clearly understands and accurately conveys an awareness of the main issues. Does not always fully critically assess what is relevant to support an argument, but confidently expresses knowledge of the material.

C (70-79): Has a fair understanding of material, yet does not consistently back up statements with appropriate evidence. Often uses examples or facts to answer questions without critically assessing their meaning. Sometimes cannot express key concepts.

D (60-69): Poor understanding of material. Makes many incorrect statements or uses vague, overly general responses as a way to avoid expressing concepts. Shows poor comprehension of both concepts and facts.

F (below 60): Teacher not happy. Presents incorrect information and little or no evidence of effort. Shows no understanding of concepts covered in class or evidence of preparation.
Leading Class Discussion

Discussion dates: Feb. 11, Feb. 25, March 18, March 30, April 13, & April 27

For this assignment, you will work in groups of (+/-) four. You will be assigned a reading, either primary sources or scholarly articles, which you must read, analyze, and use as the basis for carrying on a thoughtful class discussion.

You (and your group) should be prepared to spend most of the class talking about your article and posing questions to the class that encourage thoughtful discourse. You are welcome to bring in or request from your professor specific images to be shown in class.

You will be graded on how prepared you are, the level of analysis you present, and your ability to contribute to and promote class discussion.

While there is no written component to turn in, you may want to (individually or as a group) create a list of thought-provoking questions to lead the class on your given topic.

Here are some things to consider when analyzing your texts and formulating questions:

Primary Source:

- What do we know about the author of this text? Biography?
- What point of view is presented here? What is the author proposing?
- How is his/her perspective alike or dislike prevailing trends in Renaissance thought or art?
- How was this text received and interpreted by contemporary readers?
- Does this text relate to specific works of art or artists?
- Was this text influential? How and why?

Scholarly Article:

- What is the author’s argument or thesis?
- What supporting evidence is used to back up this thesis?
- Is this a valid argument? Why or why not?
- Can you find anything problematic in the author’s approach?
- What does this article contribute to our understanding of Renaissance art or culture?
- Do you agree/disagree with the author’s point of view? Why?
This schedule of assignments is subject to change.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS TOPIC</th>
<th>READING ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>DUE DATES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/26 (m)</td>
<td>Welcome!</td>
<td>Ch. 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>1/28: Sign up on Blackboard to lead one class discussion</td>
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<td>1/28 (w)</td>
<td>Giotto &amp; Duccio</td>
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<td>2/2 (m)</td>
<td>Brunelleschi &amp; Early Sculpture</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
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<td>2/4 (w)</td>
<td>Gentile da Fabriano &amp; Masaccio</td>
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<td>2/9 (m)</td>
<td>Fra Angelico, Filippo Lippi &amp; Uccello</td>
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<td>2/11: Discussion 1</td>
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<td>2/11 (w)</td>
<td>Giorgio Vasari and the Status &amp; Conduct of Artists</td>
<td>Read the biography of Michelangelo and at least 2 other artists in Giorgio Vasari, Lives of the Artists <a href="http://www.efn.org/~acd/vite/VasariLives.html">http://www.efn.org/~acd/vite/VasariLives.html</a></td>
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<td>2/16 (m)</td>
<td>Ghiberti &amp; Alberti’s Architecture</td>
<td>Ch. 7</td>
<td>2/23: Exam 1</td>
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<td>2/18 (w)</td>
<td>Piero della Francesca</td>
<td>Ch. 9</td>
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<td>2/25 (w)</td>
<td>Profile Portraiture &amp; the Politics of the Gaze</td>
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<td>3/2 (m)</td>
<td>Ch. 10: Donatello, Verrochio &amp; Pollaiuolo</td>
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<td>3/4 (w)</td>
<td>Ch. 11: Botticelli &amp; Ghirlandaio</td>
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<td>3/9 (m)</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td>3/18 (w)</td>
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<td>3/18: Discussion 3</td>
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<td>3/23 (m)</td>
<td>Ch. 14: Leonardo &amp; Bramante</td>
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<td>3/25 (w)</td>
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<td>4/1 (w)</td>
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<td>4/1: Exam 2</td>
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<td>4/6 (m)</td>
<td>Ch. 15 (pp. 312-320) &amp; Ch. 16. (pp. 330-343)</td>
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<td>4/8 (w)</td>
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<td>Date (Day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/15 (w)</td>
<td>Raphael</td>
<td>Ch. 15 (pp. 321-329) &amp; Ch. 16 (pp. 344-352)</td>
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<td>4/20 (m)</td>
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<td>4/22 (w)</td>
<td>Titian, Giorgione &amp; Palladio</td>
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<td>4/29 (w)</td>
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<td>5/4 (m)</td>
<td>Later Michelangelo, Correggio &amp; Parmigianino</td>
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<td>5/6 (w)</td>
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<td>5/11 (m)</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Monday, May 11 Final Exam 3:45pm</td>
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