

**The University of Western Ontario
Department of Visual Arts**

VAH 2269G Art and Visual Culture of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries

(Prerequisite: 1.0 from VAH 1040 History of Art and Visual Culture, or two of VAH 1041A/B – VAH 1045A/B, or permission of the department¹)

Instructor: Andrés Villar

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Office hours: Thursday 11:30 am–12:30 pm
(or by appointment)

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Office hours: Hours

Course Description and Objectives

This course will examine art and visual culture produced during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The material we will encounter will cover much of what has come to be known as the Renaissance, but it will also explore a broader geography of art and visual culture produced during this early modern period. In the process, students will gain a greater appreciation of a dynamic historical period during which the world system began to be consolidated.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course students will have

- become acquainted with visual culture produced in different parts of the world during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries
- examined issues that have emerged in current and past scholarship of Renaissance arts and culture
- demonstrated their ability to analyze the art and visual culture produced in the period examined in this course

Texts

Mandatory:

- Jerry Brotton. *The Renaissance: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- All material posted on OWL.

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Unless you either have the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Grades

Attendance	15%
Short Essay (February 25)	15%
Quiz 1 (January 21)	10%
Quiz 2 (February 11)	10%
Quiz 3 (March 10)	10%
Quiz 4 (March 31)	10%
Final Exam (Date to be determined)	30%

All assignments **must** be written using the Chicago Manual of Style. You can find a PDF file with examples of Chicago-style citations on the OWL page for this course. OWL plays an important role in the dissemination of information for this course, so make sure you understand how it works.

<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/owldocs>

*Please be aware that extensions will **NOT** be granted unless students have a justified excuse for which they have received official accommodation. Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments – regardless of whether these are **worth 10% or more, or less than 10%** of their final grade– must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Download the official form **before** being assessed by a professional such as a doctor. Academic Counselling will only accept the information on this official form. You can download a copy of the form by following this link:*

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

You can also download a copy of this form on the OWL page for this course.

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Evaluation

Attendance **15% of grade**

Students are expected to attend all classes. Therefore, any missed classes will affect the **attendance** mark, which is calculated using the following formula:

$$A' = A - M$$

A' is the final attendance mark; **A** is the average of all assignments due in class; and **M** is an amount deducted for unjustified absences from class.

Please be aware that if you miss too many classes you can be debarred from taking the final exam. If you miss more than three (3) classes without a justified excuse, your name may be forwarded to the office of the Dean of Arts and Humanities, as required by university senate regulations. You can find the relevant information in the Academic Calendar by following this link:

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg130.html>

Short Essay **15% of grade**
(February 25)

A short essay on a topic to be determined. The text should be approximately 3 pages long (900 words) and must include a bibliography and citations.

Quiz 1 **10% of grade**
(January 21)

Quiz 2 **10% of grade**
(February 11)

Quiz 3 **10% of grade**
(March 10)

Quiz 4 **10% of grade**
(March 31)

Final Exam **30% of grade**
(_____)

The Final Exam will take place on a date assigned by the Registrar's Office

Plagiarism and Citation: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. The Department of Visual Arts uses the Chicago style (see attachment). Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Please note that the **syllabus can change. Any modifications will be announced in class and posted on OWL.*

VISUAL ARTS Undergraduate Grading Guidelines - Art History

90-100 (Outstanding, A+)

The **writing** shows significant originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Sophisticated synthesis and analysis of the theoretical and conceptual dimensions of the topic are demonstrated. Mastery of complex material and ideas is immediately evident. The topic is treated with sensitivity and subtlety of thought. The quality of the background research is exemplary. Regarding **research**, all major secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted and proper citation has been used.

80-89 (Excellent, A)

The **writing** shows originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Writing is probing through the use of comments and/or questions, and is clearly focused and logically organized. The quality of writing immediately engages the reader. Mastery of complex materials and ideas is demonstrated. The writing is of appropriate length, and demonstrates mastery of techniques so that results are meaningful and not simplistic. Regarding **research**, a majority of the secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted and proper citation has been used.

75-79 (Very Good, B+)

The **writing** shows above average analysis, critical thinking and independent thought. Written claims are supported by ample evidence and the components of the topic are well-researched and presented. The work is addressed in reasonable depth and/or breadth and covers material appropriate to the course. Written analysis is organized around focal points and the development of the argument is easily followed. The writer demonstrates an above average ability to write in an intelligible style and to condense material meaningfully and with a concern for priorities of that material. Regarding **research**, a representative selection of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted and proper citation has been used.

70-74 (Good, B)

The **writing** shows a satisfactory attempt at analysis and critical thinking. Written claims are supported by reasonable evidence. The work is addressed in some depth and/or breadth, with references to the appropriate literature and course material. Written analysis is organized around focal points. The text is generally well written and well argued. Regarding **research**, a somewhat limited selection of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted and proper citation has been used.

60-69 (Competent, C)

The **writing** demonstrates adequate engagement with the topic. The writing is on topic and is a reasonable response to material covered in the course, but goes no further. Written facts are stated accurately; the quality of writing is sufficiently intelligible with enough elaboration and enough connections made between ideas to permit a reader to understand the point of the text. Regarding **research**, an insufficient number secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted but proper citation has been used.

50-59 (Marginal, D)

The **writing** shows less than adequate engagement with the topic and with the material covered by the course. The writing is a less than adequate summary of sources and/or is considerably off-topic. Written facts are stated inaccurately or ambiguously; the writing style is difficult to follow; there is insufficient elaboration to permit reader's comprehension of relations among ideas; little judgment is shown in selecting detail for inclusion in the text. Regarding **research**, few secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted; proper citation may or may not have been used.

Below 50 (Unacceptable, F)

The **writing** demonstrates a failure to comprehend the topic. Written material is disorganized and unintelligible. The work clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment. Regarding **research**, secondary sources pertaining to the topic have not been consulted and proper citation has not been used.

POLICIES

Student Conduct:

All students will conduct themselves in a manner that will be consistent with the maturity and academic integrity expected of university students. Student conduct shall be consistent with the general laws of the community and with University regulations. Students shall show regard and respect for the rights, safety, and property of all members of the University community and are expected to act in a responsible manner within the University and the community at large.

Attendance:

A student who misses more than 15% of the course hours, without written corroboration for health or bereavement, can be debarred from writing final exams, or participation in final studio evaluations. Note that if a student consistently is absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, they will exceed the 15% cutoff and can be debarred.

Prerequisites:

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal.

If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism, which may be defined as "The act or an instance of copying or stealing another's words or ideas and attributing them as one's own," will not be tolerated. (Citation excerpted from *Black's Law Dictionary*, 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170). (Refer to <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg113.html> or the 2015/2016 Western Academic Calendar, with regards to academic penalties for plagiarism.)

Medical Policy:

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. See course outline for specific arrangements regarding less than 10% of assignments.

Mental Health Policy:

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Building Access:

The John Labatt Visual Arts Centre will be closed at 10:30 pm each night. There will be no after-hour access for undergraduate students. The Centre is open weekends 12:00 noon-5:00 pm. Students should be prepared to vacate the building promptly at 10:30 pm and 5:00 pm. You must also sign-in with the building monitors when working in the workshop areas outside of regular office hours.

Please remember:

One of the most important resources for course counselling, special permissions, course changes, grade appeals, etc., is the Undergraduate Chair of Visual Arts, Prof. David Merritt (tel. 519-661-3440; vaugc@uwo.ca). Please note, however, that should you encounter any serious difficulties due to illness, family emergency, etc., you should consult the Academic Counselor for your Faculty. The Faculty of Arts and Humanities is located in IGA Building, Room 1N20 (Ms. Amanda Green and Mr. Ben Hakala are the counselors for A&H).

The Student Development Centre (WSS room 4111; tel: 519-661-3031; www.sdc.uwo.ca) offers a wide range of useful services to students including workshops on learning skills, career and employment services, and an effective writing program, amongst many more.

The D.B. Weldon Library offers orientation tours from the first week of classes until Thanksgiving, where you will get acquainted with the numerous research resources available. As well, the University libraries have an extremely useful website where you can search the library system, the databases, view your circulation record, renew materials, access your UWO e-mail account, and much more. Check it out at: www.lib.uwo.ca.

Financial Aid Services is your main source of information for OSAP, bursaries, loans, scholarships, and the work-study program which offer part-time positions on campus for Western students.

Tel: 519-661-2100; e-mail, finaid@uwo.ca; or check out their website at http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student_finances/financial_counselling.html