

Art and Literature of the Italian Renaissance

Humanities 211

Section: E100

Term: 2011 Spring

Instructor: Dr. Emily OBrien

Discussion Topics: This interdisciplinary course offers an introduction to the art and literature of the Italian Renaissance (c. 1300 c. 1550). From Giotto's frescoes in the Scrovegni Chapel to Michelangelo's in the Sistine, we will study the central developments in Italian Renaissance painting, sculpture and architecture. At the same time, we will explore the literary culture that grew alongside this artistic flowering and read some of its most important and influential texts. In the poetry of Michelangelo and the autobiography of Benvenuto Cellini, we will also consider how Renaissance art and literature intertwined. The works we will study give breadth and variety to our survey: our literary texts represent both vernacular and Latin traditions, both humanist and non-humanist writing and a wide range of genres (including poetry, drama, novella and autobiography). We will sample art and literature of both civic and court cultures, and tour the Italian peninsula, from Naples in the south to Venice and Milan in the north.

Grading: 15% = Class participation

10% = Written exercises for tutorial

20% = Midterm

20% = Essay

35% = Final Exam (take-home)

Required Texts: Giovanni Boccaccio, *The Decameron* (Signet Classics, Penguin, 2002)

Custom Courseware Packet

Both can be purchased at SFU's Burnaby campus bookstore.

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: Prerequisite: 30 credit hours.

Notes:

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.