



De Sphaera manuscript, *Occupations under the Planetary God of Mercury*, c. 1450-60

Italian Renaissance Art History

Sierra Nevada College

ARTH 480 Fall 2015

Friday 1-3:45PM, HAMC 203

Course Reference No. (CRN): 80175

Instructor: Pierette Kulpa

Email: pkulpa@sierranevada.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday by appointment

Course Description

Varying topics on important individuals, genres, historical developments, and critical and theoretical issues in art history will be taught.

Art History 480 will provide students with an introduction to the art of the early and “High” Renaissance in Italy, conceived in chronological terms as the period from c. 1300 to c. 1530, and embracing developments from the emergence of the Mendicant orders in the later 13th century to the rise of “Mannerism” in the 16th century. Students will learn about the Renaissance through three periods, which were devised as early as 1555, called (in Italian) the Trecento, Quattrocento, and Cinquecento. Through lectures, course readings, and discussion you will learn to distinguish how Renaissance art was procured, designed, and paid for, and you will identify the choices that artists and patrons made when conceiving of a specific work of art. You will also become equipped with knowledge to enter into a museum or historic site and describe the works of art that you see in a critical manner. Ultimately, the goal of the course is to foster an awareness of the potential messages of all image-based media in the world around you.

Student Outcomes:

- To examine and discuss certain works, themes, and readings in greater depth in-class and in a research paper or project
- Demonstrate knowledge of the peninsula of Italy, including where cities are located, and what works of art are to be found there today
- Examine and describe art works in context of the historical period in which they were produced, and identify the continuity and changes that exist between the centuries discussed
- To develop knowledge of major topics concerning the field of art history throughout the Italian Renaissance and the methodology employed to study these themes

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes:

- Properly identify artworks and key terms from memory
- Compare and contrast works of art made during the time period covered in the course
- Become an expert on one work of art and present it to class in 5 minute “Curator microteach”
- Complete numerous reading and writing assignments, and a research paper or project
- Create a portfolio of “Field Notes” on specific artworks that draw on you own observations

Instructional Strategies

This class will utilize small group and individual work in class, full class discussions, lecture, and homework assignments. Readings will largely come from the textbook, be handed out in-class, or be available as a PDF on Moodle course management system.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

Students are responsible for coming to class having read the week’s required material and be prepared to ask questions and discuss the readings. Active participation is necessary for lively and thought-provoking discussions. The final grade will be based on 600 points:

- Attendance and Participation: 10%
- “Curator” Microteach: 10%
- Two quizzes: (15% each): 30%
- Field Notes (6): total of 20%
- Final Paper/Project and Project Proposal 15%
- Final Exam 15%

Required Texts and Materials

Readings will be assigned from the principal textbook, academic journals, and collections of primary sources and archival documents. All required texts will be available via Moodle for students to either read online or print.

Required Text

John T. Paoletti and Gary M. Radke, *Art in Renaissance Italy* (Prentice Hall; 4th edition, 2012). ISBN: 9780205010479. There are earlier editions, but you want to get the most recent paperback. You can rent this for fairly cheap on Amazon if you are **not** interested in keeping the book.

Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken at each class. Should it be necessary to miss a class, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor beforehand and obtain any hand-outs or lecture notes from a classmate. Because we meet just one day a week, more than 2 unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your overall grade by half a letter grade. It is better to be late than it is to miss an entire week's worth of material. However, excessive tardiness and/or repeated incidents will not be tolerated.

In-Class Policies:

All electronic devices must be put away during class, *this includes your computer, phone and tablet*. The temptation to use these devices for purposes other than aiding your learning is very strong and studies show that you learn more by synthesizing information and writing it down, than by transcribing it in MS Word. For more information on the topic, see this article: Dan Rockmore, "The Case for Banning Laptops in the Classroom," *The New Yorker* June 6, 2014. If you choose to use your electronic device for purposes other than those directly related to this class you will be asked to leave. We will have a 15-minute break and you are welcome to consult your devices then.

No headphones, earbuds, or food allowed in class. All students are expected to arrive prepared to speak out in class, to ask (and to answer) questions, and to participate in class discussions. The classroom should be protected as a safe place for opinions and responses; a courteous and respectful attitude is required.

Prim Library Resources

In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources as you complete your assignments and research. We will hold a class in the library to familiarize yourself with its many resources which will aid you in your "Curator" Microteach and your final paper or project, as well as studying. To start with, the following are excellent resources:

1. Citation Guides: <http://libguides.sierranevada.edu/content.php?pid=123799&sid=1063593>
2. Searching for art history articles:
<http://libguides.sierranevada.edu/content.php?pid=125041&sid=1074248>
3. Finding Images: <http://libguides.sierranevada.edu/content.php?pid=125041&sid=1074249>

Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism

The Honor Code

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for reporting all incidences of academic

dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes *cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication* and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. *Academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism, will result in an F in the course and subject to further disciplinary action by the College.*

1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu, or visit the office in Prim Library: PL-304.

The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, hotmail or gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having e-mail redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC e-mail account.

The Sierra Nevada College Mission Statement

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

Course Requirements:

“Curator” Microteach: Students will become experts on a work of art. They will present their knowledge to the class in a 5-minute presentation. Guidelines and Rubric will be provided.

Quizzes: Students will be asked to identify the location of cities on a map, to identify works of art, and to correctly define vocabulary.

Field Notes (total of 6): Field Notes are short, notes-based observations made on a single work of art of your choosing from the principle textbook. I will provide you with a form (available on Moodle), and, when assigned in the syllabus, you will select an image from the textbook, sketch the image, and respond to the questions in the syllabus. A handout with rubric and in-depth instructions will be provided separately.

Final paper or project & project proposal

There are few precise guidelines for the Final Project. It can be a creative project or a research paper, it can be written or it can be visual, but it must connect to the content of the course. A handout and a rubric will be provided separately.

Final exam

The final exam will be composed of a compare and contrast section and an unknown identification section. It is comprehensive.

The Core Themes:

Liberal Arts	Professional Preparedness
Entrepreneurial	Thinking Sustainability

Class and Reading Schedule (subject to change)

August 21st: Introduction: History, Art, Artists, and the Idea of the Renaissance

Readings:

1. Paoletti/Radke, 12-45 (Introduction/Art in Context)

Homework Field Note 1: Pick 1 artwork from Paoletti and Radke (P/R) reading.

Describe its material ONLY, make sure to draw your own picture of the work, too.

August 28th: Meaning and Materials/Origins of the Renaissance

Readings:

1. Paoletti/Radke, 47-66 (Ch.1)

Sept 4th: “The Agony and the Ecstasy” 1965

Homework: Work on your “Curator” microteach.

Sept. 11th: Assisi and Padua & Trecento Florence.

+ Curator presentations and discussion in-class

1. Paoletti/Radke, 67-98(Ch. 3)

Homework Field Note 2: Pick an image from the P/R reading. Focus on composition and describe how a narrative is transmitted through the composition (you are welcome to include multiple scenes from a single fresco cycle).

Sept. 18th: Florence and Siena

Readings:

1. Paoletti/Radke, 78-121 (Ch. 4-5)

Homework Field Note 3: Select an object/artwork from P/R. Focus on an image of a saint, how is the saint conveyed and why is he/she so important to the patron (be it a city, church, individual).

***September 25th: (At beginning of class) Quiz 1 + Venice “the most serene Republic” + Early Quattrocento in Florence.**

1. P/R, 136-152 (Ch. 7)

Readings:

1. Paoletti/Radke, 202-248 (Ch. 10)

Homework Field Note 4: Choose 1 altarpiece and note its composition, style, and color.

October 2nd: Early Quattrocento Florence, continued

Readings:

1. Paoletti/Radke, (Ch.10, as above)

October 9th: Florence and the Medici

Readings:

1. Paoletti/Radke, 249-285 (Ch.11)

Homework Field Note 5: Choose 1 work of art that the Medici family commissioned, and consider how the family’s message is displayed in the work of art.

October 16th: Fifteenth-century Rome and Venice

Readings:

1. Paoletti/Radke, 286-310 (Ch.12), 309-332 (Ch. 13)

*** October 23rd: Mar. 20-22: The Courts: Ferrara, Urbino, Mantua/Project Proposal Due**

Readings:

1. Paoletti/Radke, 333-383 (Ch. 14).

October 30th: NEVADA DAY. NO CLASS.

*** November 6th: (At beginning of class) QUIZ II + Michelangelo and the High Renaissance in Florence and Rome AND Leonardo and the High Renaissance in Sforza Milan**

Readings:

1. Paoletti/Radke, 362-383, 386-392, 396-411.

November 13th: High Renaissance in Rome: Julius II, Leo X and Clement XII

Readings:

1. Paoletti/Radke, 396-423 (Ch. 17).

November 20th: HAPPY THANKSGIVING! No class.

November 27th, Florence: Mannerism and the Medici, Cellini

Homework Field Note 6: Choose 1 work that can be classified as 'Mannerist' and compare it to another work of art that we have studied in class.

Readings:

1. Paoletti/Radke, 424-438 (Ch. 18).

*** December 4th: Final projects due, in-class &**

Sixteenth Century Venice and the Veneto: Titian & Palladio

Readings:

1. Paoletti/Radke, 451-485 (Ch. 20)

December 8-12th: Final Exam schedule to be announced.