

# Special Topics: History of Art from Ancient Greece to the Italian Renaissance – ARH 376

3 credits (45 hours)

## Faculty

**Ilaria Tartaglia**

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Art is the highest expression of a culture. Political, historical and social changes lie at the heart of art. Works of art are the reflection of the ages in which they are produced and are often used as a “tool” to carry messages. During our classes we will focus on the study of the development of art during the centuries and how it affects today’s artists. We will have a brief review of the main artistic movements starting from the ancient Greek reaching Italy’s Baroque period.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

- Interpret a work of art with understanding of its historical and social background.
- Demonstrate written and oral communication skills in analyzing a piece of art

## DIVISION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Topic	Total Hours
The cradle of civilization: Crete and Mycena, Greek art: Archaic, Classical (Athens and Fidia) and Hellenistic periods	2
Pre Roman art: Etruscan art	2
The Romans: the Art of the Power: Republican and Imperial Art	3
Roman Construction: city walls, bridges, aqueducts, temples and houses. Wall decoration styles and mosaics art.	3
Site Visit: Pompeii	4
Site Visit: Naples Archaeological National Museum	3
The Christians and the new meaning of Art: Roman Basilicas: transition from Pagan to Christian religion. The Catacomb of San Gennaro in Naples.	3
Medieval Art: Romanic and Gothic Art. The Battistero of San Giovanni in Florence, the Tower of Pisa, Giotto and Simone Martini	3
The Italian Renaissance: Brunelleschi and the Duomo of Florence, Donatello and his sculptures, Leon Battista Alberti and the “invention” of the prospective,	3

Botticelli and his masterpieces, Raffaello and Tiziano	
Site Visit: Naples National Museum of Capodimonte in Naples	3
Italian genius: Leonardo and Michelangelo	2
The Basilica of San Pietro in Rome: a history of 17 centuries	2
Site Visit: Basilica of San Pietro and Vatican Museums	5
Baroque in Italy: Caravaggio and Bernini	2
Baroque in Naples: The Duomo, the Church of Gesù Nuovo, the Certosa of San Martino. The main artists: Cosimo Fanzago, Luca Giordano, Francesco Solimena and Ferdinando Sanfelice	2
Site Visit: Baroque churches of Naples	3
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>45</b>

## TEXTS

- L. Mozzati, *Italy*, Milano, Electa S.p.A, 2004.
- E. Cantarella, Luciana Jacobelli, *A day in Pompeii, daily life, culture and society*, Napoli, Electa, *Artistic Guide of Naples*, Electa Naples, 2002
- U. Pappalardo, *The Gulf of Naples, Archaeology and History of an Ancient Land*, Arsenale Editrice, 2006
- *Naples, where to find...* Scala Group S.p.A., Florence, 2004

## ASSESSMENT

- 20%: Mid Term Evaluation  
 20%: Oral presentations (two)  
 20%: Attendance and Participation  
 40%: Final exam + Term Paper (15% + 25%)

The term paper (10 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12) will be focused on one specific art period, style, artist, or civilization, with a comparison to at least one other art period, style, artist, or civilization; papers will be shared with the class.

## SANT'ANNA INSTITUTE ABSENCE POLICY

During the Semester terms you are allowed two unexcused absences. Documentation for any other absence MUST be produced and APPROVED by the professor or the Academic Director. For absences due to illness, please provide the professor with a doctor's note upon returning to class as well as inform them and/or the school the first day of illness. Each unexcused absence after the second will reduce your grade by 3 percentage points.