

Prof. Victor Coonin
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Office Hours: TTH 12:30-2:00
Or by Appointment

Art 365-01
Venice: Art and Architecture in the Most Serene City
Spring 2005
TTH 2:00-3:15

Course Objectives and Description

This class will cover Venetian art from its medieval origins through the eighteenth century. Emphasis will be placed on the city's unusual topography and light, situated in a lagoon, and the way the construction of civic myth and propaganda informed the city's art. Special focus will be placed on Renaissance art produced by masters such as Bellini and Titian, church and civic architecture, the unique palaces that line the magnificent Grand Canal, and painted views of the city. We will also briefly study the way in which Venice's cityscape has become a peculiar protagonist in western literature and recent film.

Required Textbooks:

Art Books

- Filippo Pedrocchi, *The Art of Venice: From Its Origins to 1797*, 2002
- Deborah Howard, *The Architectural History of Venice (revised edition)*, 2004
- Patricia Fortini Brown, *Art & Life in Renaissance Venice*, 2003

Literature (any edition)

- Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*
- Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice*
- Henry James, *The Aspern Papers*

Other

- Additional readings as assigned
- Film viewings as assigned

Grading:

Final grades will be based on the following:

- Mid-term exam (30%)
- Final Exam (30%)
- Class Presentation (30%)
- Class Participation (10%)

Further instructions on assignments will be provided. All exams and assignments are to be completed in accordance with the honor code regulations followed at Rhodes College. Note that class attendance will affect the participation grade and that excessive absences (more than 2 for any reason) may result in a lowered score.

Schedule of Classes

The following is the intended schedule. Modifications are usually necessary, especially depending on the length of individual presentations and student preferences for discussion.

January

- 13 Introduction to the course**
- 18 The Origins of the City and the Myths of Venice**
Howard: Chapter 1 (Henceforth H: 1); Pedrocco, pages 7-10 (Henceforth P: 7-10)
(Note that no student may add this course after today's class.)
- 20 The Medieval City**
H: 2&3; P: 11-21
- 25 The Gothic City**
H: 4; P: 22-40
- 27 The Early Renaissance (Painting)**
P: 40-65

February

- 1 The Early Renaissance (Architecture)**
H: 5
- 3 The Sixteenth Century (Painting)**
P: 66-121
- 8 The Sixteenth Century (Architecture)**
H: 6
- 10 Discussion of *Art and Life in Renaissance Venice***
- 15 Baroque Venice (Architecture)**
H: 7
- 17 Class rescheduled due to CAA**
- 22 Baroque Venice (Painting)**
P: 122-142
- 24 The Eighteenth Century (Architecture)**
H: 8; P: 142-189

March

- 1 Venetian Painting in Memphis**

Visit to the Memphis Brooks Museum

3 Mid-term Exam

Spring Recess

15 Modern Venice
Reading from William Murray to be assigned

17 Discussion of *Invisible Cities*

22 Discussion of Film: *A Dangerous Beauty*

Easter Recess

29 Discussion of *The Aspern Papers*

31 Student Presentations and discussion

April

5 Discussion of *Death in Venice* (Book and Film)

7* Student Presentations and discussion

12* Student Presentations and discussion

14* Student Presentations and discussion

19* Discussion of Film: *Don't Look Now*

21* Student Presentations and discussion

26* Student Presentations and discussion

28 Final Class

[29 URCAS]

May

2 (Tuesday) Final Exam scheduled to begin at 1:00pm