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*Office Hours: TTH 1:00-2:00*  
*and by appointment*

## **Sculpture in Early Renaissance Florence**

### **Art 485: Senior Seminar in Art History**

**Art 485** is a senior seminar designed to allow junior and senior art history majors a chance to examine the discipline of art history by concentrating on a focused topic. Emphasis is placed on critical reading and writing, analysis of art through class discussion, essays, and formal presentations.

#### **Course Objectives and Description**

This course will introduce students to advanced critical methods of art history through an extensive examination of Early Renaissance Sculpture in Italy. Students will be introduced to the most important artists and issues and engage in analysis of the most current research and exhibitions in the field. Students will fully engage themselves with an extensive bibliography, intensive critical debates, and critical issues of iconography, connoisseurship, patronage, and the contextualization of renaissance sculpture. A crucial aspect of the course is to learn how art historians select objects and subjects for research, how they investigate works of art, and how they employ different methodologies in the course of critical analysis.

#### **Grading:**

- Several Informal Presentations to be assigned weekly (with 1-page summaries)
- 1 Formal Presentation (20 minute talk with slides, followed by feedback from a critical audience)
- 1 research paper with full notes and bibliography based on one of the above

#### **Required Textbook:**

John Pope-Hennessy, *Italian Renaissance Sculpture* (latest edition)

### **Preliminary Bibliography:**

#### **I: General Books and Catalogues (in English) on Italian Renaissance Sculpture**

Avery, Charles, *Florentine Renaissance Sculpture*

*Desiderio da Settignano: Sculptor of Renaissance Florence*. eds. Marc Bormand, Beatrice Paolozzi Strozzi, and Nicholas Penny

Hartt, Frederick, *History of Italian Renaissance Art* (any recent edition)

*Italian Renaissance Sculpture in the Time of Donatello*. Exhibition Catalogue, Detroit, 1985.

Janson, H.W., *The Sculpture of Donatello*, Princeton, 1957 and 1963.

Middeldorf, Ulrich. *Sculptures from the Samuel H. Kress Collection, European Schools XIV-XIX century*, London, 1976.

Pope-Hennessy, John, *Italian Gothic Sculpture*

\_\_\_\_\_, *Italian Renaissance Sculpture*

\_\_\_\_\_, *Italian High Renaissance and Baroque Sculpture*

\_\_\_\_\_, *The Study and Criticism of Italian Sculpture*, New York, 1980.

\_\_\_\_\_, *Catalogue of the Italian Sculpture in the Victoria and Albert Museum*, London, 1964.

Radke, Gary M., ed., *The Gates of Paradise: Lorenzo Ghiberti's Renaissance Masterpiece*, New Haven, Yale University Press, 2007

Seymour, Charles, *Sculpture in Italy: 1400-1500*

Wilk, Sarah Blake, *Fifteenth-Century Central Italian Sculpture: an annotated bibliography*, Boston, 1986.

Vasari, Giorgio, *Lives of the Artists* (any translation).

## **II: Crucial Online Databases**

### **A. Available through Rhodes, Barret Library**

**JSTOR:** Electronic archive of core academic journals in a wide variety of disciplines. Coverage begins with volume 1 of any journal and proceeds typically to within the most recent 5 years.

**BHA:** Covering European and American art from late antiquity to the present, the *Bibliography of the History of Art* indexes and abstracts art-related books, conference proceedings and dissertations, exhibition and dealer's catalogs, and articles from more than 2,500 periodicals. The *Bibliography of the History of Art* is updated quarterly and covers 1973 to the present.

**Wilson Select Plus:** An expanded full-text database of approximately 1,300 journals. All records will point to complete online full text. Full-text articles from this database will link to citations throughout the FirstSearch service.

### **B. Other Important Databases**

#### **OPAC - Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, Max-Planck-Institut:**

[http://opac.khi.fi.it/cgi-bin/hkhi\\_en.pl](http://opac.khi.fi.it/cgi-bin/hkhi_en.pl)

#### **Villa I Tatti: The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies:**

<http://catalogo.iris.firenze.it:8991/F>

Note: While there are nice collections of books and journals at Rhodes, the U Memphis, and online, do not assume that the resource you need is automatically available. You should check these sources early and order what you need through interlibrary loan.

Note: With the above resources there is NO excuse for unfamiliarity with the literature.

**Schedule of Classes, Wednesdays: 6:00-8:30p.m.**

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>
<b>August 22:</b>	<b>Introduction, Questions, and Research Methods</b> Introduction to the discipline of art history, substance and methodology; Review of Research Methods and Sources; Assignment of Projects
<b>August 29:</b>	<b>Gothic Precursors and the Dawn of the Renaissance</b> Reading: Pope-Hennessy, Skim biography of Donatello and related sculptures
<b>September 5:</b>	<b>Early Renaissance Sculpture (Ghiberti and Donatello)</b> Reading: Frederick Hartt, "Art and Freedom in Quattrocento Florence"
<b>September 12:</b>	<b>Class rescheduled due to Holiday</b>
<b>September 19:</b>	<b>Public Lecture on Desiderio da Settignano I</b> Readings: Pope-Hennessy, Chapters on The Humanist Tomb and Renaissance Relief; and Desiderio da Settignano Desiderio catalogue: Funerary Monument of Carlo Marsuppini, sculptures in Desiderio's Reliefs and The Madonnas, and Decorative Sculpture and Stone Furnishings
<b>September 26:</b>	<b>Public Lecture on Desiderio da Settignano II</b> Readings: Pope-Hennessy, "The Portrait Bust" Desiderio catalogue: The Busts, The Bambini, and essay on "Desiderio and Donatello"
<b>October 3:</b>	<b>Class rescheduled due to Desiderio Conference at National Gallery</b>
<b>October 10:</b>	<b>First Student Presentations</b> Monographic and encyclopedic treatments of artist and works
<b>Fall Break</b>	
<b>October 17:</b>	<b>Second Student Presentations</b> Major themes and global issues
<b>**October 23:</b>	<b>Lecture by Prof. Sarah McHam, Rutgers U.**</b>
<b>October 24:</b>	<b>Third Student Presentations</b> Current debates (research, exhibitions, conservation, etc.)

**October 31: First Draft of Formal Presentations**

**November 7: Second (revised) Draft of Formal Presentations**  
**?Dress Rehearsal?**

**November 14: Formal Presentations**

## **Thanksgiving Recess**

**November 28:**      **Dealing with Feedback**

**December 5:**      **Where do we go from here?**

**December 7:**      **Papers Due** (include copies of summary for each classmate)