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)


Pope-Hennessy, John, *Italian Gothic Sculpture*

____, *Italian Renaissance Sculpture*

____, *Italian High Renaissance and Baroque Sculpture*


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


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

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>August 22:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Introduction, Questions, and Research Methods</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>August 29:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gothic Precursors and the Dawn of the Renaissance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 5:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Early Renaissance Sculpture (Ghiberti and Donatello)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 12:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Class rescheduled due to Holiday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 19:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Public Lecture on Desiderio da Settignano I</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 3:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Class rescheduled due to Desiderio Conference at National Gallery</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 10:</strong></td>
<td><strong>First Student Presentations</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall Break</strong></td>
<td><strong>Second Student Presentations</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 17:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Second Student Presentations</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 24:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Third Student Presentations</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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)