Department & Course Number
Art History 98T

Course Title
At Home in Renaissance Italy

1. Check the recommended GE foundation area(s) and subgroup(s) for this course

   **Foundations of the Arts and Humanities**
   - Literary and Cultural Analysis
   - Philosophic and Linguistic Analysis
   - Visual and Performance Arts Analysis and Practice

   **Foundations of Society and Culture**
   - Historical Analysis
   - Social Analysis

   **Foundations of Scientific Inquiry**
   - Physical Science
     - *With Laboratory or Demonstration Component must be 5 units (or more)*
   - Life Science
     - *With Laboratory or Demonstration Component must be 5 units (or more)*

2. Briefly describe the rationale for assignment to foundation area(s) and subgroup(s) chosen.
   The course will require sustained study of art objects created in Italy during the fifteenth and sixteen centuries. In this course, we will consider why certain objects were produced, study the documentation of these objects, and discuss why these objects changed over time.

3. List faculty member(s) who will serve as instructor (give academic rank):
   Lisa Boutin, teaching fellow; Joanna Woods-Marsden, Professor of Art History

4. Indicate when do you anticipate teaching this course over the next three years:
   - 2010-2011 X Winter Enrollment
   - 2010-2011 X Spring Enrollment

5. GE Course Units
   Proposed Number of Units: 5.0
6. Please present concise arguments for the GE principles applicable to this course.

- **General Knowledge**: This course will provide instruction on the arts of the Renaissance in relation to style and social context.

- **Integrative Learning**: This course will use approaches from art history, history, material culture studies, economics, gender studies, and comparative literature to examine Renaissance art objects.

- **Ethical Implications**: This course will inform students of important artistic, historical, and literary developments of the Renaissance that are essential for educational and personal development.

- **Cultural Diversity**: Students will study the household objects of different groups and social classes during the Italian Renaissance.

- **Critical Thinking**: Students will conduct independent research and write a term paper with a succinct argument based on their findings.

- **Rhetorical Effectiveness**: Students will be required to lead the discussion of an article or book chapter, and, at the conclusion of the course, present the findings of their own research.

- **Problem-solving**: Students will face challenges in their independent research, and they will need to determine the best methods for finding the information they seek.

- **Library & Information Literacy**: To conduct their research, students will need to use books in the university arts and research libraries, online databases and catalogs, and the websites of museums and other art institutions. Instruction on art historical research will be provided in class.

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**A) STUDENT CONTACT PER WEEK (if not applicable write N/A)**

1. Lecture: 3 (hours)
2. Discussion Section: N/A (hours)
3. Labs: N/A (hours)
4. Experiential (service learning, internships, other): N/A (hours)
5. Field Trips: 1 trip - conducted during lecture period (hours)

(A) TOTAL Student Contact Per Week 3 (HOURS)

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**B) OUT-OF-CLASS HOURS PER WEEK (if not applicable write N/A)**

1. General Review & Preparation: 1 (hours)
2. Reading: 4 (hours)
3. Group Projects: N/A (hours)
4. Preparation for Quizzes & Exams: N/A (hours)
5. Information Literacy Exercises: N/A (hours)
6. Written Assignments: 4 (hours)
7. Research Activity: 3 (hours)

(B) TOTAL Out-of-class time per week 12 (HOURS)

GRAND TOTAL (A) + (B) must equal at least 15 hours/week 15 (HOURS)
SYLLABUS:
AT HOME IN RENAISSANCE ITALY

This course examines the collection and consumption of domestic objects during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. We will discuss the objects used and displayed in the upper-class households of cities like Florence and Venice, as well as in the aristocratic collections of Italian courts. We will first consider how these objects gained importance in these households through the discussion of consumption and surviving inventories. In light of this framework, we will examine individual objects of various media and examine use and significance. We will then discuss severe restrictions on consumption, called sumptuary laws, which reveal many of the trends and excesses of this period. Finally we will discuss many recent museum exhibitions that focus on these objects.

A central point of discussion will be the relatively low status of these objects in the art historical canon. How these objects came to be known as “minor arts,” when during the Renaissance these objects were often of equal or greater value than traditional paintings and sculptures, will be a reoccurring topic of discussion in the course.

Required Readings:  Course Reader

Course Requirements:
1. Lead the seminar discussion on one article on book chapter. Prepare relevant images, pose questions, and highlight argument strengths and weaknesses.
2. Based on your selected research topic, write a “state of the question” paper, which explains the state of scholarship of your research question. The “state of the question” paper will form the first part of your final research paper.
3. Complete a rough draft of your research paper. The paper should include an argument, a discussion of the current state of scholarship on your topic, a clear methodology, and evidence to support your argument.
4. Present the main points of your argument as a PowerPoint presentation.
5. Using feedback from your rough draft, complete a final draft of your paper. Include necessary images.

Grading:  Lead in-class discussion of reading/Participation  15%
State of the Question Paper (5 pgs.)  15%
Rough Draft  20%
Final Presentation  15%
Final Paper (15-18 pgs.)  35%
Week 1: Introduction to Renaissance “Things” and Material Culture

What is Renaissance material culture?
What are the different possible approaches to the material?
What can these objects reveal about individuals and society in Renaissance Italy?


Week 2: Primary Sources

How can primary sources be used as a tool for researching Renaissance objects?
What do primary sources reveal about attitudes towards the commissioning of art?
How should inventories be used in Renaissance material culture scholarship? What can we gain? What are the drawbacks?

**Meet with instructor during office hours to finalize paper topic**


Week 3: Money and Markets

How effective is the combination of economic and material culture studies?
What types of information regarding prices and consumption practices survive?

**State of the question paper due in class**

Rab Hatfield, “The High End: Michelangelo’s Earnings,” in *The Art Market in Italy*, eds.


**Week 4: Banquets and Studioli**

*How did individuals use art objects to cultivate unique identities in the context of the banquet and private study?*

*Guest Speaker: Valerie Taylor, Ph.D. University of Sussex, expert in Renaissance silver design and banquet practices*

**State of the question paper returned in class**


**Week 5: Marriage and Childbirth**

*What objects accompanied marriage and birth during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries? What did these objects signify? How were they viewed?*


**Week 6: The Islamic World: Trade and Influence**

*How can we account for the growing influence of Islamic trade in Renaissance Italy?*

**Rough draft of paper due**

*Seminar participants will present the status of their research (approximately 5 minutes)*


**Week 7: Sumptuary Laws**

*What information on consumer trends can be gleaned from laws that limited consumption?*

**Rough draft of paper returned**


**Week 8: Renaissance Objects and Museum Display**

*Meet at the Getty Center for Tour of Decorative Arts and Discussion of Museum Display*
Consider how art objects can best be displayed in museums.


**Week 9: Presentations**

**Exam 10: Presentations**

**Final Paper Due at the end of Exam Week**
Possible Paper Topics and Additional Bibliography:

**Silver Plate**


**Feasts**


**Art and Economics**


**Devotional Objects**

**Maiolica**


**Costume and Textiles**

**Cassoni (Wedding Chests) and Marriage**  


**Deschi da parto (Birth Trays)**  

_____. “Conception and Birth” in *At Home in Renaissance Italy*, eds. Marta Ajmar-Wollheim and Flora Dennis, London: Victoria and Albert, 2006, 244-253.

**Glass**  


**Jewelry and Personal Adornment**  

**The Collection and Display of Antiquities during the Renaissance**  

**Musical Instruments**

**Paintings representing domestic interiors: Reality or Illusion?**

**The Renaissance Study**


**Medals**
# New Course Proposal

## Art History 98T
**At Home in Renaissance Italy**

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<tr>
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**Requisites**: Satisfaction of entry-level Writing requirement. Freshmen and sophomores preferred.

**Course Description**: Seminar, three hours. Enforced requisite: satisfaction of Entry-Level Writing requirement. Freshmen/sophomores preferred. Examination of collection and consumption of domestic objects during 15th and 16th centuries in upper-class households of cities like Florence and Venice, as well as in aristocratic collections of Italian courts. Letter grading.

**Justification**: Part of the series of seminars offered through the Collegium of University Teaching Fellows.

**Syllabus**: File [Art History 98T syllabus.doc](#) was previously uploaded. You may view the file by clicking on the file name.

**Supplemental Information**: Grading Structure

- Lead in-class discussion of reading/Participation 15%
- State of the Question Paper (5 pgs.) 15%
- Rough Draft 20%
- Final Presentation 15%
- Final Paper (15-18 pgs.) 35%

**Effective Date**: Winter 2011

**Discontinue Date**: Summer 1 2011

**Instructor**: Lisa Boutin  
**Title**: Teaching Fellow

**Quarters Taught**:  
- [ ] Fall  
- [ ] Winter  
- [ ] Spring  
- [ ] Summer

**Department**: Art History

**Contact**:  
**Name**: CATHERINE GENTILE  
**E-mail**: cgentile@oid.ucla.edu

**Routing Help**:  
**Name**: CATHERINE GENTILE  
**E-mail**: cgentile@oid.ucla.edu

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**Routing Status**

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Comments or questions? Contact the Registrar's Office at cims@registrar.ucla.edu or (310) 206-7045