Department of History  
Art History Program Course Descriptions  
Spring 2020

AAH 1101-001  
History of Western Art: Ancient Mediterranean  
T R 10:00-11:15 a.m.  
Dr. Jeanne Brody  
This survey of Western Art History covers painting, sculpture, and architecture, and decorative arts from prehistory to the Middle Ages. We will consider questions about the origins of art, how it was created, and its artistic techniques, themes, and styles. Special emphasis will be paid to how social, religious, and political climate affected all areas of art production. Through lectures and directed discussions, we will examine not only the linear history of art, but also how religions, governments, philosophers, cultures, and artists themselves expressed ideas through art, as well as how such imagery has been interpreted.

AAH 1903-001  
Internship Elective  
TBD  
Dr. Timothy McCall

AAH 2009-001  
Contemporary Art  
M W F 10:30-11:20 a.m.  
Dr. Mark Sullivan  
Contemporary Artists: A survey of the world art scene from the 1960s to the present, covering movements such as Pop Art, Minimalism, Neo-Expressionism, Arte Povera, Graffiti Art, and Performance Art. Featured artists will include Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg, Roy Lichtenstein, Anselm Kiefer, Komar and Melamid, Francesco Clemente, Keith Haring, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Laurie Anderson, Joseph Beuys, Andrew Wyeth, Chris Ofili, Damien Hirst, Judy Chicago, and Jennifer Bartlett.  
Attributes: Fine Arts, Cultural Studies, Diversity 3

AAH 2009-DL1  
Contemporary Art  
T 8:00-9:00 p.m.  
Dr. Jeanne Brody  
This on-line course surveys the historical origins of contemporary art, and explores the ways artists over the last few decades have challenged notions of what art is and should be. Special emphasis will be paid to how race, gender, global socio-economic structures, religious institutions, and political climate have led to new ideas and work, some of which may not even be tangible objects.  
Attributes: Diversity 2, 3

AAH 2012-001  
High Renaissance Art in Italy  
M W 1:30-2:45 p.m.  
Dr. Tim McCall  
This course explores the social, political, and stylistic contexts of Italian art and architecture from 1480 to 1550, the period traditionally known as the High Renaissance. We investigate the youths and maturity of artists including Leonardo, Michelangelo, Titian, and Raphael, and we examine concepts and categories including Mannerism, portraiture, and talking statues. Works of art, sites and modes of production, patrons and audiences, and techniques and materials will all be related to specific social, political, economic, and cultural conditions. We investigate the
visual culture of spectacle and the multisensory phenomenology of art and its reception, in
addition to the rise of the professional status of the artist, the construction of the idea of “genius,”
and the emergence of celebrated female painters. Our survey ranges over the Italian Peninsula,
focusing on well-known sites such as Venice, Florence, and Rome, and also moves well beyond
them. All students are welcome, as this course also provides a good introduction to Art History
and to Italian culture and history.
*Attributes: Fine Arts Requirement*

**AAH 3001**

**Women in Art**

**T R 8:30-9:45 p.m.**

**Dr. Jeanne Brody**

Since 1970, when Linda Nochlin asked, “Why Were There No Great Women Artists?” art
historians have sought to explore women’s place in art and art production. In the past 40 years,
feminist art history has evolved from its original goal of rediscovering women artists to include
many exciting strategies for thinking about how gender is constructed in art and history,
including the intersection of images of gender with race and class. In this course, we learn about
how art and artists approach gender by analyzing art and popular culture imagery which
expresses ideas about the construction of “maleness” and “femaleness.” We will complement
Villanova University GWS and CST curriculum in our exploration of how artistic debate among
artists and scholars who focus on gender, sexuality, feminism and queer studies has been
transformed since the 1970s, and how artists create and construct images of gender, race, and
social systems.
*Attributes: Fine Arts Requirement, Gender & Women’s Studies, Diversity 2*

**AAH 3002-010**

**Art of Philadelphia**

**T R 1:00-2:15 p.m.**

**Dr. Mark Sullivan**

Philadelphia’s unique contribution to American culture in the areas of painting, sculpture, and
architecture, from the early Welsh and Swedish settlers to contemporary greats like Andrew
Wyeth and Robert Venturi.
*Attributes: Fine Arts*

**AAH 3007-001**

**The Art of Ireland**

**T R 4:00–5:15 p.m.**

**Dr. Tina Bizzaro**

Why did “Star Wars,” Episode VII, chose Ireland’s westerly island of “Skellig Michael” as the
rendez-vous scene for Luke and Leah? Ireland’s medieval visual culture provides us with a rich
cache of sacred sites and mysterious artifacts. This course seeks to stimulate an interest in and love of
the unique art of Ireland—from the Stone Age through the Middle Ages—before the cultures of
Western Europe permeated Ireland’s borders, when Ireland was insular and isolated, when it was
uniquely Celtic and non-Western. Together, we will investigate: Ireland’s fascinating passage graves
and Stone Age art; the defensive architecture of ring and hill forts and living spaces and the sculpture
of the Bronze and Iron Ages; the flowering of Christianity in Ireland under Patrick and before,
manifest in Ireland’s famous illuminated manuscripts of the Golden Age and in early church
architecture; through the development of medieval churches in the 11th and 12th centuries in the
Romanesque style. The student leaving this course will have developed a love for and a firm
knowledge of the major monuments of Irish Art.
*Attributes: Fine Arts, Irish Studies*
AAH 3009-001  History of the Art Market  
M W F 12:30–1:20 pm  
Dr. Mark Sullivan  
A history of the Western art market from the 1400s to the present day, with emphasis on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. There will be broad considerations of the wider economic and political forces that have shaped various art markets over the past 600 years, as well as detailed looks at key artists, patrons, collectors, scholars, dealers, auctioneers, museum professionals, and even forgers, who have influenced the art market.

AAH 5010-001  Senior Research Seminar  
T R 1:00-2:15 p.m.  
Dr. Tim McCall  
*By arrangement with instructor.*  
Attribute: Fine Arts Requirement  
Prerequisites: AAH 4010

AAH 5515-001  Independent Research  
TBA  
Restrictions: Majors only