This course places the revolutionary developments that took place in Italian art and architecture from 1300 to 1527 within a broad historical and thematic frame. This entails scrutiny of particular artists—Giotto, Ghiberti, Brunelleschi, Donatello, Mantegna, Botticelli, Bramante, Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael and others—and particular works of art—paintings, sculptures, prints, and architecture. Emphasis falls on the most active and influential art center, Florence, but the political, social, and artistic environments of Rome, Siena, Mantua, Milan, Ferrara, Urbino and Venice are also considered. The aim of the course is to provide an understanding of the social and physical contexts of early Renaissance art, as well as an introduction to a range of art historical analyses and interpretative methods. In pursuing this goal, issues of production and reception, gender and representation, religious and political ideologies, public and private space, memory and likeness are addressed.

Image: Michelangelo Buonarroti, Creation of Adam (detail), c. 1511-12, fresco, Sistine Chapel, Vatican City.

Required Textbooks


Assessments

Class participation, midterm examination, short essay, final take-home examination.