



School of Arts & Sciences - Spring 2023
Department of Francophone, Italian, and Germanic Studies

ITALIAN VISUAL STUDIES

Through Modern Eyes: Adapting the Italian Renaissance

Tuesday & Thursday 1:45-3:15pm
Classroom: TBD

Instructor: Juliette Bellacosa (jbellaco@sas.upenn.edu)
Office Hours: TBD (Online and In-person, and by appointment)

Course ID: ITAL 3506-401/CIMS 3506-401

Course Description

Fad, foe, or friend? The boom in interest in the Italian Renaissance in the late 20th and 21st century reconceptualizes the relationship between spectator and cultural artifact. The works of the Renaissance have become symbols in and of themselves— but the question remains, symbols of what? It is within this context that new media have begun to change how the Renaissance is mythologized, perceived, experienced, and appreciated. Throughout the course we will examine different examples of contemporary adaptations of Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael in cinema, photography, and digital installation. These varied case studies, in their respective mediums, invite us to ponder the difference between kitsch and art. In this cross-disciplinary course we will tackle issues such as posterity, spectatorship, intermediality and adaptation with the goal of determining whether this trend of refashioning the Renaissance is one that will survive the moment in an enduring and enlightening way. **The course will be taught in English.**

Class Structure for Spring 2023

- In-Person Sessions
- Students will attend classes TR: 1:45-3:15
- Students will complete out-of-class assignments as indicated by the instructor, such as weekly Canvas discussion posts, completion of the assigned readings and written papers.

Out-of-class Activities

- Weekly Forum Discussion on Canvas
- Assigned Readings
- Midterm Paper (4-5 pages)
- Final Paper (10-12 pages)

Essential Course Policies

- Course material provided by the instructor through Canvas
- Access to Canvas

For students experiencing technical issues, please contact one of the following:

- Student Remote IT Support:
studentithelp@upenn.edu or call 855-249-3243
- Canvas
canvas@pobox.upenn.edu

Outline of Assignments and Assessments

- Participation and Attendance 20%
- Canvas Responses 20%
- Midterm Paper 20%
- Final Presentation 10%
- Final Paper 30%

Students will receive a Course Action Notice (CAN) from your instructor if you are having difficulty in any aspect of your performance in the course. You may receive one for attendance, participation, homework, etc. The CAN is an opportunity for you and your instructor to communicate clearly about your performance in the course and for you to improve upon the points raised by your instructor.

Students requiring accommodations of any kind should let the instructor know as soon as possible. Students are invited to consult with Student Financial Services to find out what support they are eligible to receive to cover course costs or other items that ensure their health, safety, and secure learning environment.

Learning Objectives

Each week students will encounter a different example of a contemporary visual adaptation of the Italian Renaissance, accompanied by readings related to the topic of that week. The case-studies selected represent varied mediums and forms of adaptation to offer an overview of the “genre” more

broadly. Among the major goals of this course is to be able to think critically about the proposed examples. More specifically, the objectives of this course are:

- A) To analyze contemporary visual re-workings of the Italian Renaissance, with an emphasis on the creative production of Michelangelo, Leonardo, and Raphael.
- B) To effectively use art historical formal analysis to accurately describe and interpret the Renaissance objects.
- C) To strengthen awareness of important scholars in the field and scholarship on adaptation, reproduction, and new media.
- D) To introduce key-terms within new media studies and adaptation studies to provide a critical framework to analyze the case studies in question.
- E) To identify trends within these adaptations of the Renaissance and consider the effectiveness, or lack thereof, in each of the medium specific examples we encounter.

Course Requirements

Participation: The goals of the course can only be achieved through regular attendance and participation. Students will be expected to participate actively in the classroom and on Canvas via the Discussions portal. Both forms of student engagement are intended to promote and enhance your ability to articulate evidence-based opinions and interpretations. Assigned readings will be analyzed at home to prepare for the discussion in class. In class, we will be using a PowerPoint presentation, which will be shared after each class on Canvas.

Weekly Blog Posts: Every week students will write a one/two paragraph response to a question posed by the instructor. Responses should be posted on our Canvas discussion site each Thursday by 12 pm. Responses should reflect not only that you have carefully mediated on the object/artist of the week but are able to articulate your thoughts using the knowledge/terminology learned in class and in the readings. The posts are graded on a 0-3 scale. To receive the full credit (3 pt), the weekly post needs to fulfill these criteria: a) it needs to clearly address and engage with the question b) refer to or integrate at least one point that was raised/discussed in the readings assigned and/or in class c) be submitted on time.

Midterm Paper: The midterm will be in the form of a short paper (4-5 pages). Each student will be tasked with offering an analysis of one of the contemporary adaptations dealt with in the course up until Week 7.

Final Presentations: In the last full week of the semester, students will present the topics of their final papers in class.

Final Paper: The final assignment of the semester will be a 10–12-page research paper on a topic of the student's choosing. The final paper should be approved by the instructor before the due date, May 9th. Papers will be in Times New Roman, size 12, double-spaced. The inclusion of images is not only allowed but encouraged. The final paper will be based on a detailed analysis of a chosen topic and object, supported by appropriate critical material or comparison. All footnotes and annotations should be in Chicago Manual Style.

*Students who would like to pursue a certificate, a minor, or a major in Italian Studies can take this course and ask the instructor to complete the midterm and final paper in Italian.

Electronic devices

The use of cell phones is not permitted. Cell phones and other devices are not to be used for any reason during class time (no texting, calling, etc.) unless assigned by the instructor for pedagogical purposes. Laptops are allowed insofar as they are used to take notes or access class. Using devices for any reason that is not directly related to in-class work and explicitly assigned by the instructor is strictly prohibited. Inappropriate use of electronic devices will negatively impact the participation grade.

Code of Academic Integrity

Students must adhere to all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity (cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, etc.) The work you submit in this class is expected to be your own. If you submit work that has been copied without attribution from some published or unpublished source including the Internet, or that has been prepared by someone other than you, or that in any way misrepresents someone else's work as you own, you will face severe discipline by the university.

For more info consult:

University Code of Academic Integrity

[http://www.upenn.edu/provost/PennBook/academic integrity](http://www.upenn.edu/provost/PennBook/academic%20integrity)

The Office of Student Conduct <http://www.upenn.edu/osc>

Gender Pronoun

This class community affirms people of all gender expressions and identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let your instructor and colleagues know. Feel free to correct others on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your instructor.

Statement of Inclusivity

This class community strives to be an inclusive learning space, valuing all of our differences. We aim to be respectful of all members of this class, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientation, etc.

Resources

Students with Disability

The Weingarten Center provides services for students who self-identify with a disability in order to ensure equal access to all University programs, activities, and services. The process begins when a student requests an accommodation, provides documentation of their condition, and meets with a Disability Specialist. To register with Disability Services, see <https://weingartencenter.universitylife.upenn.edu/disability-services/>

The Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers a wide range of services including individual and group counseling and therapy, crisis intervention, structured workshops, psychological testing, medication reviews, and consultation. One or more of our services could be suitable for you. In the past few years, we have provided individual counseling services to over 2,900 Penn students per year. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). 133 South 36th Street, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104. Hours: 9am - 5pm, Monday – Friday. Emergencies: 215-349-5490 (ask for CAPS Clinician on Call). Tel: 215-898-7021. Fax: 215-573-8966. Email: caps@pobox.upenn.edu
<http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/caps/>

