

**Dr. Sara N. James** (preferred form of address: Dr. James)

**Website:** <http://www.mbc.edu/faculty/sjames/>

**Phone & Voice mail:** x7195

**Office Hours:** TTh 10:45-11:15, 1-1:15 (slide room); 2:40-3:30; MW 1:30-2:00 and by appointment

**Classroom:** Deming 105 TTh 1:25-2:40

**Office:** Chris House 102

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**CONTENT OF COURSE:** This course is a survey of Early Renaissance Art in Italy. You will be introduced to examples of painting, sculpture, architecture, and urban planning. We will study the art in context, considering the history, politics, religion, literature, social situation, economics, and cultural atmosphere that caused the art to be what it is. We will consider who is paying for the art and why and what purposes it served.

**Website:** The course syllabus, schedule, and details of assignments can be found through links at [www.mbc.edu/faculty/sjames/](http://www.mbc.edu/faculty/sjames/). The syllabus and schedule are subject to change. Changes and notices will be made on-line, so check the website often. Always refer to the online versions for the most up-to-date course materials.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- To understand the role of historical inquiry in studying art and to learn to interpret art in the context of time and place. Understanding when, why, where, how, by whom, for whom, and for what purpose art was made helps us to see these objects as those who created it and paid for it intended. We also gain a greater understanding of what made the people in times past who they are today.
- To understand significant events and artists and the development of artistic styles within the context of history, culture, religion and political and economic developments.
- To foster an appreciation for intellectual and theoretical ideas that contribute to Early Renaissance art in Italy.
- To develop into an informed observer with the ability to recognize, discuss, analyze and write about art.
- To acquire knowledge of art history terminology, research methods, and library reference tools.
- To develop your skills in organization, critical and logical thinking, art history research, term paper form, and good, clear writing.

**TEXTS:** Hartt/Wilkins. History of Italian Renaissance Art 7th edition, Prentice Hall) ISBN-13: 9780205705818

Optional: Writing About Art by Sylvan Barnet ISBN-13: 9780205708253

Use outlines and ARTstor files as supplement.

**COMMUNICATION:**

Please check your MBC email at least once daily. Please feel free to use e-mail for questions, problems, or messages. Please also feel free to make an appointment for discussion when wanted or needed. I make every effort to be available during my office hours; however, sometimes college business may conflict. I can give you a better quality of time if you make an appointment in advance, either during my scheduled office hours or at another mutually convenient time. I may be able to talk with you on the spur of the moment outside of office hours; sometimes I cannot. Please ask if it is a good time to chat and do not take it personally if I am busy. When you try to conduct business with me in the moments before class starts or at the end of class, I sometimes feel harried and can't give your issue the attention it deserves.

**KEY TO SUCCESS:** "Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." St. Francis of Assisi.

You will get from the class what you put into it. Industrious students succeed; slackers fail. To succeed, you must prepare for class, read your assignment in advance, and ask questions in order to understand the material. Moreover, you must review week-by-week, if not class-by-class, so the exams will not overwhelm you. I want you to succeed in art history and share my enthusiasm for the material. I will serve as your enthusiastic coach, as in athletics, but you must do the training, which means studying: reading ahead, looking over notes, and doing proper research for your papers.

**How The Classroom Runs...****Professor's Responsibilities (you can expect me to):**

- Begin and end class on time, come prepared and maintain control of the classroom.
- Provide organized lectures and discussions with appropriate visual aids that relate to and expand upon the materials you have read in your textbook.
- Help you master the material and offer outside of class assistance for those who need extra help through tutors and individual appointments.
- Give periodic evaluation of student work through exams and papers.
- Maintain & update a website as a resource for outlines, study guides; use email for announcements.

**Your obligations to the course and to the professor (What I expect of YOU):**

- A lively interchange between faculty and students is ideal in college classrooms. In order to gain the best from this teaching method, the students must bear responsibility, too. You need a foundation to understand the lectures
- You must come to class prepared; otherwise, you are cheating yourself of an education. You are here to get an education, which you cannot do passively or without hard work. You will learn best if you are prepared each day. Read the text BEFORE coming to class to enable us to have an informed and lively discussion. College guidelines recommend 2-3 hours of study for every hour spent in class. Use this time to read, work on time lines and review your class notes.
- Accept responsibility for your learning. Be an active learner: be prepared, be attentive, take careful notes and participate in discussions. Don't spring behind. Seek help if you are struggling.

**Classroom demeanor:**

- Students must always communicate in a civil and courteous manner, whether addressing the professor or peers. Students who exhibit inappropriate, rude, or disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the classroom and will receive zeroes for daily work and attendance. Repeated offences or severe first time offences can result in permanent dismissal from the class and/or Judicial Board action. See your Student Handbook for Disruptive Policy.
- The classroom is for teaching, learning, and note-taking for the class in progress. Engaging in activities unrelated to that subject is inappropriate behavior. This includes, but is not limited to, homework for other classes, reading, working puzzles, drawing, knitting, text-messaging, and the like. Offenders will be considered disruptive and will be excused from the class.
- Please make every effort to be punctual. Student tardiness is disruptive and distracting to your professor and your classmates. It is subject to reprimand, especially for habitual offenders. Please leave back row seats for late comers. Late comers are requested to enter quietly and not allow the door to slam.
- Turn off cell phones, computers, and music devices and put them in your bag, out of sight before entering the classroom. The in class use of mobile phones, including text messaging, is inappropriate and will be treated as disruptive behavior. Offenders will be excused from the class.
- Computers are not allowed except in unusual circumstances and with the professor's permission. Students who use computers must sit in the row along the blackboard. They must run on battery power, as no outlets are available.
- Save meals, snacks, naps, trips to the bathroom, personal grooming, and private conversations for outside of the time allotted for class so that you can focus on the material covered in class. It may not be in your book.
- You must do honest work. Cheating and plagiarism are academic dishonesty and will not be tolerated.
- Historically, students who sit in front make better grades. You can hear better, too.

**Schedule of Assignments:** I love teaching this material and I have prepared carefully for you. I hope you will put forth the effort necessary to enjoy learning it.

- The schedule below gives approximate areas covered in class on a given date. Read the text BEFORE coming to class to enable us to have an informed discussion; we all learn best this way. Do not be persuaded by those who tell you to come to class unprepared and read later. You need a foundation to understand the lectures and to gain the most from the class. College guidelines recommend 3 hours of study for each hour spent in class. Study and digest the material week by week so the exams will not overwhelm you.
- Readings in Hartt and Vasari are essential. Vasari will be woven into the lectures, and I will expect you to have read the entries as they fit into the material. Except as noted, Paoletti/Radke is supplementary, as are Baxandall, Alberti, Cole and other sources. These will help clarify the material for you.

**Term III:**

**Week 1: January 10/12:** Italy and Italian Art in the 1200s. Hartt, Ch 1 and Ch 2; P-R: Introduction, through p. 42; begin Vasari, Introduction and Part 1. Read introduction to Vasari carefully.

**Week 2: Jan 17/19:** Trecento in Florence. Hartt, Ch.3; Vasari 57-81; Giotto and Followers Assisi and Florence: P-R: Ch.2, p.81-92. Discussion of research paper process, guidelines and expectations.

**Week 3: Jan 24/26:** Ch. 3; Trecento in Siena Hartt, Ch. 4; Trecento in Florence and Siena P-R: 93-109. Paper topics discussed. **Paper topics due January 26.**

**Week 4: Jan 31/Feb 2:** Late Gothic in Tuscany & N. Italy; Hartt, Ch.5 Required: Venice in P-R 171-175.

**Week 5: Feb 7/9:** The Quattrocento. Beginnings of Renaissance Architecture; Hartt Ch. 6; Vasari pp.83-123. **Feb. 9, first Annotated Bibliography.**

**Week 6: Feb 14/16:** Tuscan Sculpture, Hartt/Wilkins (Ch.7) continue Vasari.

**Wed. Feb 15:** *Art Trip to Washington National Cathedral and National Gallery: \$15.00, first come first serve. Bus leaves from in front of Grafton library promptly at 7:30 AM and returns around 6 PM.*

**Week 7: Feb 21/23:** Chapter 7, continued, review and **TEST** on Feb 23. Attendance required. 2-3 pages of paper draft due March 15.

**Week 8: Feb 28/March 1:** Transitions in Florentine Painting. Hartt, Ch.8.Vasari, pp. 175-223.

**March 1: Second annotated bibliography**

**Spring Break: March 4 (after class)-March 11: Term IV:**

**Week 9: March 13/15:** Ch. 9: Heritage of Masaccio; Ch. 10: Florentine Architecture (read: Alberti On Painting, introduction is especially important) (continue Vasari, second part)

**Museum papers due March 16 noon, Deming 105**

**Week 10: March 20/22:** More on Alberti; Hartt, Ch 11.

**Week 11: March 27/29:** Chapter 12: Art in Florence under the Medici (Alberti On Painting) P-R pp.281-93. **Term papers due March 27 at the beginning of class**

**Week 12: April 3/5:** Chapter 12-13: Art in Florence Under the Medici I&II

**Week 13: April 10/12:** Lower walls of Sistine Chapel; read Ch. 13/14 and Perugino: 375; Pinturicchio, 379; Signorelli 485; loose ends, review, Discussion of research.

**Week 14: Final Examination: Tuesday April 17 @ 1 PM** (slides at 1:30) in Deming 105. Rescheduling for Tuesday morning is possible only for students who have a conflicting exam.

**Academic Requirements:**

**ATTENDANCE:** Discussion is an important part of the course, and to discuss, students must participate. Please come to class prepared. You need this foundation to understand the lectures and the discussion. The interchange makes learning exciting for you and for your professor. Attendance is crucial: if you do not come, you cannot participate. You have 3 absences. Attendance at exams is mandatory.

**RESERVE SHELF:** There are books in the library on reserve and in the college collection that contain readings assigned in class. An earlier version of your textbook is on reserve in the library.

**REQUIREMENTS/GRADING:** No extra credit is available, but you have many opportunities to succeed.

**GRADING:** 10-point scale.

60 %: 2 exams of equal value

10%: Museum Paper

25%: Term paper

5%: Participation and attendance

Students who adequately fulfill all assignments in a timely manner and have good attendance earn the privilege of having their best grade added TWICE in the final average. This privilege can make a letter-grade difference.

**EXAMINATIONS:** Your tests/exams count equally. Format includes image identification, essay and short answer based on the lectures and readings.

**WRITTEN WORK:** Take pride in your work. All out-of class, written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, legibly printed, with 1" margins and numbered pages. No plastic covers or three-ring binders. Use a paper folder with pockets or brads for your journal. E-mail attachments and faxes are not appropriate ways to deliver written assignments and will not be accepted.

**Museum Paper:** see my website under Resources/Formal analysis for more information.

This assignment is a style analysis and not a biography of the artist or a research paper. Choose a work that appeals to you and that complements the material in your class. If you do not like it, you will not convince your audience. Check your topic with your professor if you are in doubt about whether it fits.

**VITAL INFORMATION:** You need to give the vital statistics about your work early in the paper. Give the museum location, origin, artist if known, and date. Consider issues such as: size, style, and materials and how the object was used. Describe by going from the general to the specific in a systematic way. Can your reader form a reasonable visual picture from your description? Later in the paper, do not be afraid to be personal. If the work of art moves you, tell why.

**ARTIST:** Who did the work? Is the artist innovative? Does the work itself tell you anything about the artist? Remember, your paper is about the work of art and is not a biography of the artist.

**STYLE/ANALYSIS:** What is the style? How can you tell? Describe the work and how it is representative of its style. Is the work unique in any way? What draws you to it?

**SUBJECT:** Is the subject religious, secular, portrait, landscape? When in the artist's career was the work done? Is the subject unusual in any way? Think about others who made art that way or produced the same subject.

**MATERIALS:** If it is a painting, what is the texture of the paint? Oils? Tempera? Can you tell? How? Is the paint a vehicle for expression? Does the work have meaning or symbolic value? If it is sculpture, what is it made of? What qualities of the material are apparent? Finish? Smooth? Rough?

**PROFESSOR'S NOTE:** Your success in this class is important to me. I want you to understand the material and share my enthusiasm for it. Please see me if you need help or wish to chat about concerns, interests, etc. Don't wait for a crisis. Remember, I know more about the material being covered and the expectations of the professor than your friends or relatives. You can communicate by email, telephone, or in person. I make every effort to be available during my office hours; however, sometimes college business may conflict. I can give you a better quality of time if you make an appointment in advance, either during my scheduled office hours or at another mutually convenient time. I may be able to talk with you on the spur of the moment outside of office hours; sometimes I cannot. Please ask if it is a good time to chat and do not take it personally if I am busy. When you try to conduct business with me in the moments before class starts or at the end of class, I sometimes feel harried and can't give your issue the attention it deserves.

**RESEARCH PAPER:**

**Due:** March 27, 2012. No Extensions granted for any reason. Late papers penalized.

**TOPIC:** Your paper topic needs to address art or architecture appropriate to our period, c.1300-1475. If you are going to Italy, it should be something you expect to see and can talk about there. Suggestions: a single work of art, a patron and a project; a group of related works; a building considered in terms of its type, its architect, function, patron, time, style, and/or place in the urban fabric; a painting program. You need an "angle," you need to analyze. It can be helpful to see work by "your" artist at the National Gallery in Washington. Do not write a biography or just a style analysis.

**Length:** The text of the paper must be at least 8 and no more than 10 double-spaced pages with 1" margins. Times-New Roman 12 point type. Print on one side only. Copy the paper on a computer disk and a photocopy for yourself before you turn it in.

**Sources:** You need to do some research and you must document your sources. You need at least eight scholarly sources, three of which should be journals, although this will vary according to topic.

**Proper Form:** Chicago Style. Library has a sheet. Also read & follow Guidelines on my website under "Resources." If the form is incorrect, the paper will be returned to you to fix and considered late.

**Footnotes/Endnotes:** Use Chicago Manual of Style or Kate Turabian (MBC library). We use footnotes or endnotes, your choice, with page numbers. MLA and Social Science parenthesis notations within the body of the paper are not acceptable in Art History. Any paper with MLA notations will be returned to be reworked. Your grade will be lowered for being late.

**Printed hard copy:** Print assignments on one side of the paper and stapled at upper left corner. Email attachments will be accepted only from off-campus ADP students or by prior arrangement.

**Eight-Error Rule:** Carelessness indicates to your reader that you did not take the assignment seriously and that you did not spend adequate time refining it. Run-on sentences, misspelled words, sentence fragments, and comma splices are not acceptable. After 8 such errors, the paper receives an automatic F.

**Plagiarism** is academic dishonesty and it will not be tolerated; an offense will negate all of your work and will be reported to the Honor Council. Your professor is skilled in detecting plagiarism.

**Documentation:** You must document both paraphrases and quotations. Document carefully, including, author, source, and page numbers for material cited in your endnotes/footnotes. At the same time, do not over notate. Use your words to describe and save quotations for primary sources or argument. Sylvan Barnet's Writing About Art is helpful for the novice for form and approach.

**Tips for Evaluating Sources:**

**For books:** Consult your textbook bibliography. Look at call number. Does it begin with an N? If not, it's not art. History (D), religious studies/ philosophy (B/ BS, BX), are fine. No novels and other fiction.

Note the publisher: Academic presses are usually the best, such as Yale University Press, Cambridge University Press, etc. There are other good academic presses, too, such as Ashgate, Abbeville, Blackwell, Prentice-Hall (usually textbooks, but fine). Self-publishing houses, such as Edwin Mellen and Ex Libris, means the books have not been subjected to careful peer review; instead, the author has paid the press to have the book published. Some are good; many are not.

**Note the author:** What are his/her qualifications? Is this person in your textbook's bibliography? What other books/articles has this person written?

**Internet Sources:** Beware of Internet sources. Anyone can post a web site. Most are not scholarly. Are the articles signed? What are the author's qualifications? Do the articles have a bibliography? Data bases through the MBC library will bring you in touch with academic journals. Avoid popular magazines.

**Keep a critical eye:** How does the information fit with other you have found? If it's significantly different, what support do they have for their argument? Qualifications of author?

**HELP:** Ask for it. Please let me know if you do not understand something: either asks a question in class (others may have the same question) or come see me. I am at MBC Monday-Thursday, or you can make an appointment to see me. I am available after your class. Please avoid the time just before class unless we have agreed in advance to meet at that time. I need that time to prepare for class!

**Time Schedule for Research Project due March 27, 2012**

Note: email attachments will not be accepted from students on campus.

Each phase of the project will be noted. You will leave this class prepared to do 300-level research and write a paper about your topic in any Art History or Humanities class. You will understand the basic research techniques and will know the basic bibliographic and documentation style. Your fears of research will be behind you. I want you to learn that research is like a treasure hunt, and that it can actually be fun!

- Note research paper and notation guidelines on my website under "Resources."
- You may make an appointment with me at any time to discuss your progress and/or problems.
- Do the work along the way and correctly the first time and you will save yourself a lot of trouble.

January 17: Research paper and methods mentioned.

Meet in the library with the librarian either alone or in groups. Have librarian sign a note that you've been there.

January 26: Commit to a topic. You can narrow or refine it as needed.

February 9: First Annotated Bibliography. Write a ½-1-page prospectus paper telling me what you wish to do, including at least 4 bibliographic entries using proper form and a note from the librarian. Analyze your sources. What is the book about? Approach? Helpful? How so or how not? ¼-½ pages each on 4 or more sources. List any other sources you have.

March 1: Second Annotated Bibliography. Turn in your first prospectus/annotated bibliography along with 3 more annotated sources and a refined prospectus of 1 page. Prospectus: Write about your topic, why you chose it, how you intend to approach it, and an outline or an overview of what you plan to do. You may not change your topic after this date. Annotated bibliography: On a separate sheet, give new annotated bibliography. Use proper form. Be prepared to discuss your project with your classmates. Turn in first bibliography and prospectus with this assignment.

Visit Writing Center Take draft to be sure your thesis statement is well articulated and that grammar and punctuation are correct. Be sure you understand documentation.

March 16: Museum paper due: 2-3 pages. Style analysis of one work that you see in a museum during the course of the present semester (between January 10-March 14, 2012).

If you go on the New York Trip, you may turn in your museum paper on an object in a New York Collection (Metropolitan Museum, Cloisters) on April 9.

March 27: Research paper due. Paper must be in proper form. Follow guidelines posted on my website under "Resources." I WILL NOT extend the deadline for any reason. Late papers penalized ½ letter grade for each day it is late. No paper submitted after March 20 is eligible for a rewrite.

April 5 NOON: Rewrites must be in. Highest possible grade for a rewrite is B+.

Nov 29/31: You will give an informal presentation of your research in class.

If you do your work well along the way the task should not be overwhelming for you. Come see me if you need help or want to brainstorm. With steady work on this, improving mistakes as you go along, the final grade should be a good one. I will return all papers before the final exam.

**Research Paper Check list**

Things to consider as you polish your term paper:

Proof read and check your paper to be sure that your paper:

- (1) Has a clear thesis statement (argument) articulated in the first paragraph.
- (2) Presents an argument, an angle, an idea, more than a history or description. It must not read like an entry in an encyclopedia.
- (3) Is completely clear and logically organized.
- (4) Is specific, concrete, and sticks to the topic.
- (5) Is clearly focused; includes only relevant information.
- (6) Offers evidence or examples to support each claim.
- (7) Is concise, avoids wordiness and/or repetition.
- (8) Is neatly presented: typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins top, bottom, and sides. No spaces between paragraphs. No plastic covers.
- (9) Plagiarism is NOT tolerated. Infractions result in a zero on the paper. Do you give credit for all ideas & words that are not the author's own with proper footnotes and bibliography. Use proper footnotes or endnotes, noting paraphrases as well as direct quotations. (Questions? ASK!!!! Besides your professor and the writing center, resources include Turabian, Barnet, or Art Bulletin form on the web).
- (10) Pages are numbered. Papers without pagination will not be accepted. Such omissions could cause your paper to be marked LATE and thus penalized.
- (11) Is grammatically correct, correctly spelled and punctuated. Especially watch out for: misspelled words, its and it's: use correctly, incomplete sentences (you need a verb!) run-on sentences, Noun/verb disagreements, semi-colon and comma usage
- (12) Photocopies of images are properly labeled with title, artist, date and museum location. They are noted in the text by title and image (figure) number (fig. 1).
- (13) My paper has been proofread and run through spell-check. You may have a writing center tutor assist for form, organization, and grammar. You may use a classmate to assist here as well.
- (14) This paper meets the criteria of the Honor Code: Any sources which I have used are properly notated. I am responsible for my own written work, which I alone have done. I pledge that this is my own work.