



Weekend Courses 2023-24

The Renaissance world in seven Italian cities

Start date: 7 June 2024 **End date:** 9 June 2024

Venue: Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ

Tutor: Dr Sarah Pearson **Course Code:** 2324NRX040

Tutor biography

Dr Sarah Pearson is Teaching Associate in History of Art at the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education (ICE). She is an art and architectural historian with specialist interests in European Renaissance and the use of architecture to promote specific ideological or sociological principles.

Sarah's PhD is from the University of Reading and the subject of her doctoral thesis is the architect Francesco di Giorgio Martini on whom she has published articles and contributed to the book, *Reconstructing Francesco di Giorgio Architect* (Peter Lang, 2011).

Sarah has been lecturing at universities and adult education institutions on a variety of art and architectural subjects since 2001. She retains active research interests in Italian art and architecture with particular reference to the rise of Fascism and its expression through Italian design.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the Terrace Bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Florence - commerce and suspicion in the Republic
22:00	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Rome - a monument to the glory of the Popes
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Milan - power and authority in the warring North
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free time
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Venice - a city between East and West
18:00 – 18:30	Free time
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Mantua – a centre of education, and Renaissance feminism
21:30	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Naples – contested kingdom of the South
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Urbino - a gem of Renaissance Humanism
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

The course will allow you to:

- examine seven major centres of the Renaissance and show their significance in the wider development of Renaissance Art and Architecture
- demonstrate how and why different locations developed unique local style
- consider the importance of patrons in artistic development in each of the centres

Summary of content:

This course will examine seven key Renaissance centres to consider the importance of location in the development of Renaissance art and architecture. The chosen cities each present a different model of Renaissance society and we will consider how different political structures changed the nature of patronage and resulted in different forms of art and architecture.

We begin with the city of Florence, often called the birthplace of the Renaissance. Florence was a republic, a city of intrigue and assassination whose citizens trod a careful path between opulence and ostentation in their commissions. Rome was the city of the Papacy and each successive Pope sought to create a personal legacy through the commissioning of art and architecture. In Milan the Sforza family ruled as Dukes and presided over a court with strong artistic ties to the north commissioning a variety of artists including Leonardo da Vinci as their dynasty flourished. The city of Venice, founded on the insubstantial mudflats of the lagoon, provided a challenging environment for the construction of palaces whilst trading links to the East gave Venetian commissions a decorative language unlike any other Italian city. The city of Mantua was a centre of humanistic education, establishing a school which educated the children of many leading European families. Meanwhile Naples was the capital of a kingdom sought by France, Spain and the Holy Roman Empire.

We will complete the course with a study of the tiny city-state of Urbino, territory of the Montefeltro family, which despite its small size became a cultural centre in the Renaissance period, attracting leading thinkers and scholars. Through the study of these diverse locations, you will gain a broad understanding of artistic and architectural development in the Renaissance period, whilst engaging with the output of key artists and architects.

Presentation of the course:

Teaching will take the form of interactive lectures illustrated with slides. There will be a strong element of discussion in each session.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, you should be able to:

- discuss the differences in art and architecture between seven key centres of the Renaissance
- understand how important factors in the development of the Renaissance are geographic location and patronage
- name some of the key artists, architects, and patrons of the Renaissance in Italy

Reading and resources list

There are no compulsory readings for this course. However, you may find the below recommended reading list of interest to supplement your course.

Ballantyne, A, *Architecture: A very Short Introduction*, (Very Short Introductions), Oxford University Press (2002)

Baxandall, M, *Painting and Experience in 15th-Century Italy: A Primer in the Social History of Pictorial Style*, Oxford University Press (1988)

Hollingsworth, M, *Patronage in Renaissance Italy: 1*, Italian Art History (2021)

Johnson, G A, *Renaissance Art: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press (2005)

Welch, E, *Art and Society in Italy, 1350-1500 (Oxford History of Art)*, Oxford University Press (1997)

Online resources:

The online resource from the Metropolitan Museum of Art: <https://www.metmuseum.org/-/media/files/learn/for-educators/publications-for-educators/renaissance.pdf>

The expectation is not that it will be read in total but used as a resource to dip-in to areas of interest.

Note: Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) students are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current ICE course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

(Information correct as of 15 May 2023)