

Weekend Courses 2024-25**The Renaissance world in Italy and beyond - a study of seven cities****Start date:** 25 April 2025 **End date:** 27 April 2025**Venue:** Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ**Tutor:** **Dr Sarah Pearson** **Course Code:** 2425NRX039

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.

Summary of content

This course will examine seven Renaissance centres across Western Europe 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 Siena where we see emerging Renaissance qualities in medieval art alongside visual representations of the concept of Good Government. Moving to Bruges we consider the powerful influence of the north on the development of Renaissance art with the introduction of oil painting. The city of Bologna was a centre of Renaissance learning we will consider the architecture of the oldest University in Europe and the art the city produced. Palermo in Sicily was subject to multiple influences from east and west resulting in a unique art and architecture, whilst in the city of Blois French monarchs embraced Italianate forms in the design of the Chateau Royal. Moving to Spain we will examine the influence of the Catholic monarchs on the development of art and architecture in the city of Granada. The weekend concludes in the city of Vicenza where we consider how the architecture of Andrea Palladio allowed the local elite to express their cultural superiority.

Through the study of these seven diverse locations, you will gain a broad understanding of the Renaissance as a European phenomenon, whilst engaging with Renaissance material culture and examining the output of key artists and architects.

Aims

This course aims to:

- introduce seven important centres of the European Renaissance and show their significance in the development of Renaissance Art and Architecture and thought
- demonstrate how and why separate locations developed unique local style
- consider the importance of patrons in artistic development in each of the centres

Course sessions

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	Siena – City of Ceremony and Good Government
22:00	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Bruges – The powerful influence of the Northern Renaissance
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Bologna – City of Science, Education and Artistry
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free time
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Palermo – Influence and tradition on the island of Sicily
18:00 – 18:30	Free time
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Blois – Royalty, Riches, and Murder on the banks of the Loire
21:30	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Granada – Chapels and Palaces of the Catholic Monarchs
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Vicenza - Nobility and the expression of Humanist culture
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

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.

Learning outcomes

As a result of the course, you will gain a greater understanding of the subject and you should be able to:

- discuss the differences in art and architecture between seven key centres of the European Renaissance
- understand how geographic location and patronage are important factors in the development of the Renaissance
- name some of the key artists, architects, and patrons of the Renaissance period
- consider the Renaissance as a pan European Phenomenon which manifested differently in different centres

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.

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.

Ajmar-Wollheim, Marta, Editor, Dennis, Flora, Editor, Miller, Elizabeth, Editor, *At Home in Renaissance Italy* (V&A Publications 2006) ISBN-10:1851774882 (available online)
https://archive.org/details/athomeinrenaissa0000unse_m5n8/page/n5/mode/2up

Brotton, Jerry, *The Renaissance: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press 2006) ISBN-10: 9780192801630

Palladio, Andrea, *The Four Books of Architecture: Volume 1 (Dover Architecture)* (Dover Publications Inc 2000) ISBN-10:0486213080 (available online)
https://archive.org/details/gri_33125011569684/page/n111/mode/2up

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 April 2024)