

HA2A9-15 The Italian City States in the Age of Dante and Petrarch

26/27

Department

SCAPVC - History of Art

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Louise Bourdua

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

60% coursework, 40% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The module focuses on the rich visual culture of the Italian towns in their most successful period of economic growth and social change, c.1215-c.1400.

Module aims

The module analyses and compares the civic identities that were crafted by four Italian communes: Siena, Florence, Padua and Venice. It also addresses the importance of religious renewal, above all the impact of the mendicant orders, for the religious art and devotional ritual of the Italian communes. It will encourage students to place the visual arts of this period in relation to political thought, social history and contemporary literature (for example Dante's Divine Comedy and Petrarch).

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Historical overview of medieval Italy
Miracle-working panel paintings in Florence and Siena
Two Madonnas in Majesty in Siena
Peace, War, Tyranny, Justice: Ambrogio Lorenzetti's frescoes
Painting for Bankers & Merchants
Giotto's commissions for the Bardi and Scrovegni families (Florence and Padua)
Dante's Comedy and Its Influence on Artistic Production
The Age of Pandemics. Disasters' Effects on Artistic Production
Padua under the Carrara: Urban growth and humanism
The Italian City-States and the World

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a critical knowledge and understanding of the function of painting, sculpture and architecture in late medieval Italian cities.
- Compare the different civic identities of a selection of Italian urban centres as articulated in art and architecture .
- Discuss the impact of religious change and renewal on the use and reception of images.
- Apply visual analysis skills to assess buildings and imagery of Italian medieval cities.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Subject specific skills

- broad knowledge of painting, sculpture and architecture in late medieval Italy
- knowledge of different civic identities as articulated in art and architecture
- knowledge of the impact of religious change and renewal on the use and reception of images
- sophisticated visual analysis
- critical analysis of cultural artefacts in their context

Transferable skills

- initiate and sustain group discussion through intelligent questioning and debate at an appropriate level
- ability to undertake research and to write up the results in the form of a well-structured argument at an appropriate level
- familiarity with essential ICT skills
- ability to collaborate effectively with others
- show understanding of diverse viewpoints
- ability to find, select, organize and synthesize evidence
- ability to formulate a sustained argument

- think conceptually and independently at an appropriate level
- bibliographical skills at an appropriate level

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	10 sessions of 2 hours (13%)
External visits	1 session of 2 hours (1%)
Private study	128 hours (85%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Required and recommended reading for seminar presentation, research for written assessments and revision for examinations.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group D

Assessment component	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessed Essay 2000 word essay	50%		No

Reassessment component is the same

Weighting Study time Eligible for self-certification

Assessment component

Engagement	10%	No
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Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Centrally-timetabled examination (Online) ~Platforms - WAS	40%	No
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- Online examination: No Answerbook required

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback and dedicated feedback tutorials.

[Past exam papers for HA2A9](#)

Availability

Pre-requisites

n/a

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UHAA-V3R3 Undergraduate History of Art with Italian

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 2 of UHAA-V401 Undergraduate History of Art

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 2 of UHAA-V3R3 Undergraduate History of Art with Italian