

Course guide

210354 - HAOI - History of Western Art I: from Fra Angelico to Francisco de Goya

Last modified: 01/07/2025

Unit in charge: Barcelona School of Architecture
Teaching unit: 756 - THATC - Department of History and Theory of Architecture and Communication Techniques.

Degree: DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE STUDIES (Syllabus 2014). (Optional subject).

Academic year: 2025 **ECTS Credits:** 3.0 **Languages:** Spanish

LECTURER

Coordinating lecturer:

Others: Primer quadrimestre:
CAROLINA BEATRIZ GARCIA ESTEVEZ - 1SI
JULIO FIDEL GARNICA GONZÁLEZ BÀRCENA - 1SI

REQUIREMENTS

Have completed History I.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

In the elective course History of Western Art I, students are encouraged to take an active role in the subject, through oral participation in class and critical visits to the collections of Barcelona's museums, as well as to temporary exhibitions held in the city or in other accessible locations, depending on the season. Of particular importance are the visits to the collections of the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya. In this setting, in direct confrontation with medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, or Romantic artworks, students can engage with the material and optical reality of pieces whose major models have been previously discussed in class.

Although the museum's collections include works by major artists—Fra Angelico, El Greco, Titian, Rubens, Velázquez, Goya, Tiepolo—the visits aim above all to explore the dialectic between the universal and the local, beyond any simplistic relativism. Class discussions and student interventions are consistently structured around a dialectical framework between inside and outside, artwork and context, the universal and the local, art and architecture.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

To become aware of the historical—not natural—origin of the artist and the architect, as well as of art and architecture, in the context of what intellectual work means in modern society, as opposed to mechanical labor and artisanal traditions.

To learn how to analyze works of art in terms of their style, context, and culture.

To relate them to architecture, theory, and the city.

To assess them ideologically, culturally, and politically.

By the end of the course, students will be able to: look at a work of art with discernment, situate it within a chronological and historical framework, navigate the path of interpretation through the conceptual tools provided by the course, and understand that art criticism is not merely a matter of taste or information, but that all criticism is historical, and every evaluation of art depends on the comparative capacity built by the art system.

STUDY LOAD

Type	Hours	Percentage
Hours large group	30,0	40.00
Self study	45,0	60.00

Total learning time: 75 h

CONTENTS

Lectures

Description:

The course syllabus offers a chronological and monographic journey through the history of art, establishing connections between artworks, art theory, architecture, ideology, society, the city, and politics. Special emphasis is placed on the relationships with the architectural and urban environment, considering that many of the key figures were also architects and theorists.

The monographic study of selected artists enables a dialectical progression from the end of the Middle Ages, through the major inventions of the Renaissance—perspective and antiquity—followed by the developments of Mannerism and the Baroque, and culminating in the crisis marked by the conflict between Neoclassicism and Romanticism, at the end of the Ancien Régime and the beginning of modernity, which will be the focus of the second course, History of Western Art II.

The course will focus on the following artists:

- Duccio
- Giotto
- Donatello
- Masaccio
- Piero della Francesca
- Mantegna
- Jan van Eyck
- Botticelli
- Leonardo da Vinci
- Raphael
- Dürer
- Michelangelo
- Titian
- Caravaggio
- Bernini
- Vermeer
- Velázquez
- Poussin
- David
- Ingres
- Goya
- Géricault
- Delacroix

Full-or-part-time: 30h

Theory classes: 30h

GRADING SYSTEM



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic:

- Giulio Carlo Argan. Renacimiento y barroco. Madrid: Akal, 1996. ISBN 8476002483.
- D. Arnold. Art history: A very short introduction. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- Ángel González García. Pintar sin tener ni idea. Madrid: Lampreave, 2007.
- Erwin Panofsky. Renacimiento y renacimientos en el arte occidental. Madrid: Alianza, 1975. ISBN 8420621218.
- Christopher S. Wood. A History of Art History. New Haven: Princeton University Press, 2020. ISBN 9780691156521.