

# Bowdoin College Art History

## Course Offerings \* Fall 2021

### **ARTH 1500/AFRS 2660 African Americans and Art**

#### **Course Description**

Investigates the intersection of African American life and art. Topics include the changing definitions of "African American Art," the embrace of African cultural production, race and representation in slavery and freedom, art as source of inspiration for social movements, and the politics of exhibition. Our mission is to develop art-historical knowledge about this critical aspect of American art history, while facilitating ways of seeing and writing about art.

### **ARTH 2140 The Gothic World**

#### **Course Description**

Introduces students to art produced in Europe and the Mediterranean from the twelfth through the early fifteenth century. Following a general chronological sequence, investigates the key artistic monuments of this period in a variety of media, including architecture, painting, manuscript illumination, stained glass, sculpture, and the decorative arts. Explores a particular theme in each class meeting through the close analysis of a single monument or closely related set of monuments, as well as those that students may encounter in future studies.

### **ARTH 2220 Medici's Italy: Art, Politics, and Religion, 1300-1600**

#### **Course Description**

Introduces students to art produced in Europe and the Mediterranean from the twelfth through the early fifteenth century. Following a general chronological sequence, investigates the key artistic monuments of this period in a variety of media, including architecture, painting, manuscript illumination, stained glass, sculpture, and the decorative arts. Explores a particular theme in each class meeting through the close analysis of a single monument or closely related set of monuments, as well as those that students may encounter in future studies.

### **ARTH 2430/URBS 2431/ENVS 2431 Modern Architecture: 1750-2000**

#### **Course Description**

Examines major buildings, architects, architectural theories, and debates during the modern period, with a strong emphasis on Europe through 1900, and both the United States and Europe in the twentieth century. Central issues of concern include architecture as an important carrier of historical, social, and political meaning; changing ideas of history and progress in built form; and the varied architectural responses to industrialization. Attempts to develop students' visual acuity and ability to interpret architectural form while exploring these and other issues.

### **ARTH 2640 American Art from the Civil War to 1945**

#### **Course Description**

A survey of American architecture, sculpture, painting, and photography from the Civil War and World War II. Emphasis on understanding art in its historical and cultural context. Issues to be addressed include the expatriation of American painters, the conflicted response to European modernism, the pioneering achievements of American architects and photographers, the increasing participation of women and minorities in the art world, and the ongoing tension between native and cosmopolitan forms of cultural expression. Works with original objects in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

### **ARTH 3330 Studies in Seventeenth-Century Art: Caravaggio and Artemisia Gentileschi**

#### **Course Description**

Contrasts two artists -- one male, one female -- whose powerful, naturalistic styles transformed European painting in the seventeenth century. Starting with a close examination of the artists' biographies (in translation), focuses on questions of their educations, artistic theories, styles as a reflection of character, and myths and legends of their lives. Also examines the meanings of seventeenth-century images of heroic women, such as Esther, Judith, and Lucretia, in light of social and cultural attitudes of the times. Prerequisite: Introductory level course.

### **ARTH 3350/GSW 3350 Desire and Difference: Exploring Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Medieval Art**

#### **Course Description**

Gender, sexuality, race, and other aspects of identity have come to play a huge role in our public and private lives, and these same issues can be key to understanding how people lived and understood their lives in the past. Through in-class discussion and individual research projects, students in this seminar examine intersections of these concerns with the visual arts produced in medieval Europe and the Mediterranean region (c. 500 --c. 1500), gaining a deeper and richer understanding of how people in the past imagined and depicted themselves and their lives, and negotiated their senses of identity. Specific topics covered will include representations of women and minorities, the roles played by women as makers and patrons of art, and the relevance of modern categories of sexuality, gender, and race in the context of medieval studies.

- A To-be-Determined 2000 level course in Asian Art will be offered by a Visiting Professor of Art History.