European Paintings: From Leonardo to Rembrandt to Goya
Uncover the meaning behind the art of the great painters from 1400 to 1800

SYLLABUS

July-September 2015
INTRODUCTION

The goal of the course *European Paintings: From Leonardo to Rembrandt to Goya* is to help learners become familiar with the leading European painters and paintings from approximately 1400 to 1800, and with the issues that found expression in the art of painting. Included in this broad timeframe are artists of the importance of Leonardo da Vinci, Caravaggio, Velázquez, Rembrandt, Vermeer or Goya. Painters during this period were concerned with ideas such as beauty and human dignity, and in their works we find traces of the emergence of the modern mindset, and information on issues such as the respective roles of men and women in the world.

The duration of the course is seven weeks. The core content of the course are the six videos that will be shown each week, each with an approximate duration of 8-10 minutes. They will include images and explanations of paintings. Accompanying these videos is the “course forum”. This will center on discussions of the material seen in the videos, and also on additional issues relevant to the painters and periods discussed.

If this is your first course on edX, do not hesitate to enroll in the Demo course to get to know the courseware: [https://www.edx.org/course/demox-edx-demox-1](https://www.edx.org/course/demox-edx-demox-1).

GOALS OF THE COURSE

As a result of this course, students are expected to gain a greater knowledge of the history of European art, and also to develop the following skills:

- Learn to identify paintings by the artists and from the periods covered in the course.
- Learn about the variety of ways in which a work of art can be interpreted.
- Acquire the tools to develop a critical spirit and a personal point of view with regards to the history of art.
- Become familiar with the language and concepts necessary to understand the history of art and to continue studying it in the future.
- Learn to use knowledge of art history to make sense of life and of the experience of being in the world.

COURSE STAFF

- **ALEJANDRO VERGARA**: Professor of the course. He is the narrator of the videos and the person responsible for their content, and for the general content of the course. He will also participate in the course forum.
- **JENNIFER CALLES**: Her task is to provide content for the course forum, and to make sure that it is active and lively. She is also responsible for the design of the course exams and evaluation.
COURSE STRUCTURE

WEEK 1

Introduction
Lecture 1: The Renaissance. A Fundamental Break with the Past.
Lecture 2: Fra Angelico (c. 1400-1455). Painting Piety in Fifteenth-Century in Italy.
Lecture 3: Sandro Botticelli (1444/45-1510). Painting Beauty in Fifteenth-Century in Italy.
Lecture 4: Andrea Mantegna (1430-1506). Painting Antiquity in Fifteenth-Century in Italy.
Lecture 5: The Fifteenth Century in the Netherlands.
Lecture 6: Jan Van Eyck (c. 1390-1441). Beauty is in the details.

WEEK 2

Lecture 7: The Pictorial Intelligence of Rogier van der Weyden (c. 1399-1464).
Lecture 8: Hieronimus Bosch (c. 1450-1616). Painter of Sins.
Lecture 9: Patinir (c. 1480-1524) and the Invention of Landscape Painting.
Lecture 10: Pieter Bruegel the Elder (c. 1525-1569). The Human Face of the Renaissance.

WEEK 3

Lecture 13: The Ideal World of Raphael (1483-1520).
Lecture 14: Albrecht Dürer’s Signature Style (1471-1528).
Lecture 16: El Greco (1541-1614). From the Outside looking in.
Lecture 17: Painting in the Seventeenth Century.

WEEK 4

Lecture 19: The Wake of Caravaggio in Naples: Jusepe de Ribera (1591-1652) and Mattia Preti (1613-1699).
Lecture 21: The Classical Ideal in Poussin (1594-1665) and Claude Lorrain (1604/5-1682).
Lecture 22: The Vitality of Rubens (1577-1640).
Lecture 23: Van Dyck’s Stylized Elegance (1599-1641).
Lecture 24: Velázquez (1599-1660). Paintings that We can Walk Into.

WEEK 5

Lecture 25: The Mysterious Realism of Francisco de Zurbarán (1598-1664).
Lecture 26: Still-life Painting.
Lecture 27: Frans Hals (1581/5-1666). Faces of the Netherlands in the Seventeenth Century.
Lecture 29: Vermeer’s Frozen Moments (1632-1675).
Lecture 30: Gerard ter Borch (1617-1681) and Pieter de Hooch (1629-1684). Dutch Domestic Interiors.

WEEK 6

Lecture 31: The Eighteenth Century.
Lecture 33: The Seductive Charm of Watteau (1684-1721) and Boucher (1703-1770).
Lecture 34: Caricature and Character in the art of William Hogarth (1697-1764).
Lecture 36: Goya’s rebellion (1746-1828).

WEEK 7

Lecture 37: Women Painters.
Lecture 38: The Role of Patrons.
Lecture 39: The Painter in the Workshop.
Lecture 40: The Art Market, Then and Now.
Lecture 41: The History of Art History.

COURSE METHODOLOGY

The core content of the course is based on lectures whose videos are 8-10 minutes long. After viewing the videos, students are recommended to do some exercises in a variety of formats to check their learning. These activities will not be considered in the final grade.

The Course Forum will be updated after each video with information related to the theme covered in the videos, and to the discussions opened by students.

The course blog will be fed with news relevant to the themes covered, such as outstanding exhibitions held in museums around the world, relevant and interesting publications, and events in the art market.

The course also offers a glossary of artistic terms to help students understand key concepts of the history of art.

COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS

The professors of the course will communicate with the students through the COURSE FORUM. The course forum will be used to let students participate actively and share information and opinions on the issues covered in the course videos. The EMAILING and the COURSE INFO PAGE will be aimed to keep the learners informed and updated. Students can also use TWITTER, using the hashtag #pinturaedx.

We want to encourage students to see art first hand. We encourage students to visit museums, galleries, palaces, churches, and any place that houses paintings related to the content of this course, and to share images and opinions of those visits in the course forum.
EVALUATION

The final grade for the course will be the result of FOUR EXAMS. These exams are mandatory only for those who wish to request a certificate at the end of the course.

The first exam will include lectures 1-16 (the lectures that cover the Renaissance) and is graded the 30%; the second will include lectures 17-30 (which cover the seventeenth century) and is graded the 30%; the third exam will cover lectures 31-36 (the eighteenth century) and is graded the 20%; and the fourth exam will cover lectures 37-41 and is also graded the 20%. The exams will be available until September 14 (23:59 UTC).

To PASS THE COURSE it will be necessary to obtain the 60% of the final grade.

CALENDAR

The course, starting on the 14 July, is seven weeks long and each week will consist of six videos. The weekly videos will be posted on the courseware, together with the exercises for self-evaluation, the first day of the week (on Tuesday), so that students can manage the materials according to their own schedules. Other contents, such as the updates, news and forum discussions will be available daily, as well as the “glossary”. During the course there will be four exams, all of them due on September 14 (23:59 UTC).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>RELEASE DATE</th>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>14 July</td>
<td>Lectures 1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>21 July</td>
<td>Lectures 7-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>28 July</td>
<td>Lectures 13-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Exam 1 (lectures 1-16): test (graded). Due on 14 September (23:59 UTC).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4 August</td>
<td>Lectures 19-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>11 August</td>
<td>Lectures 25-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Exam 2 (lectures 17-30): test (graded). Due on 14 September (23:59 UTC).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>18 August</td>
<td>Lectures 31-36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Exam 3 (lectures 31-36): test (graded). Due on 14 September (23:59 UTC).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>25 August</td>
<td>Lectures 37-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Exam 4 (lectures 37-41): test (graded). Due on 14 September (23:59 UTC).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The course **European paintings: From Leonardo to Rembrandt to Goya** will finish on September 14 (23:59 UTC). Certificates will be ready after this date.