

northwestern university  
DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY

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Quarter/Year	Course Number	Day/Time	Instructor
Spring 2019	ART-HIST 250	MW 12:30-1:50 + section	Zorach
Course Title			Degree/Distro Fulfillment
Introduction to European Art			

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How did European art come to be “European art”? This course studies the early modern period, ca. 1400-1800, the time of formation of many of the standard conventions and genres of European art, such as linear perspective and landscape. The period also coincides with the beginnings of European exploration and colonization of other parts of the world. What, if any, is the relationship between these two phenomena? What is the relationship of art to power, knowledge, conflict, race, religious devotion, gender relations, and aspirations to freedom and self-expression? We will study key works of European art produced in what are conventionally called the “Renaissance” and “Baroque” eras, in dialogue with

historical context and art objects produced around the globe. This course is intended as an introduction to the artworks and historical material covered in the class and to skills in visual analysis and historical interpretation. No prior art history coursework is required.

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Required Textbooks	Assessments
PDFs and other online readings. Optional: Gardner’s <i>Art Through the Ages</i> book D, Renaissance and Baroque (978-1285838014).	Midterm, short papers, final exam

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