

northwestern university  
DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY

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Quarter/Year	Course Number	Day/Time	Instructor
Spring 2020	ART-HIST 250	TR 11:00-12:20	Escobar
Course Title			Degree/Distro Fulfillment
Introduction to European Art, 1400-1800			200-level

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This course surveys Renaissance and Baroque painting, sculpture, architecture, and other visual media produced in Europe from ca. 1400 to ca. 1800. Beginning in the fifteenth century, we will examine the power that images and monuments have held in Western European society. We will also focus on the achievements of singular individuals in history and consider the changing role of the artist in society over time. This latter topic is especially relevant in the sixteenth century when artistic biography emerged as a popular form of writing and, one could argue, art history as a discipline began to take shape. Additionally, we will investigate how art has responded to technology from the development of linear perspective in the early Renaissance period to the assimilation of advances in optical sciences in the Baroque era. Throughout the course, we will pay attention to the ways in which art reflects Europe's engagement with the wider globe, via colonialism, trade, and cultural exchange with

Africa, Asia, and the Americas. In short, Art History 250 evaluates works of art from the past as expressions of their particular social, political, and historical contexts.

Writing assignments will help students learn the skills of visual analysis. A visit to the Art Institute of Chicago will provide students first-hand exposure to works of art and the raw material for the term research paper. Students are expected to complete reading assignments prior to class meeting times and be prepared for active classroom discussion during Friday sections led by Teaching Assistants.

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#### Required Textbooks

Marilyn Stokstad and Michael W. Cothren,  
*Art: A Brief History* (Seventh edition, 2020).  
E-text ISBN 9780135215166

#### Assessments

Attendance and participation are mandatory.  
Two short writing assignments. Two exams  
with substantial writing components.