

HUMS 2102: Modern European Art: 14th C to the Present

Winter 2026

College of the Humanities, Carleton University

January 5, 2025 - April 5, 2025

Professor: Sheena Ellison

Office hours: By appointment

Sheena.Ellison@Carleton.ca

Preclusions: This course precludes additional credit for HUMS4101 and 3101 Restricted to students enrolled in the Bachelor of Humanities Program.



Course Description: This course is a survey of Western painting and sculpture from the Renaissance to the present. Because we will be covering a great deal of material in only one semester, the nature of the course is necessarily selective. The aim of the course is to introduce students to some of the major monuments, issues and themes in Western art. Through lectures, and research, we will develop different ways of interpreting and viewing works of art in their historical and social contexts.

Course Organization: The class will meet once per week for a three-hour lecture. The course will proceed chronologically. In each lecture, we will examine one or two themes, which will be illustrated by a select number of artworks. This approach will enable us to examine the cultural contexts in which these works were created and to develop different interpretive strategies.

Course Objectives: This course is aimed to introduce you to the history of Western art. You will learn how to analyze the formal features of works of art, and how to make basic distinctions between the various periods in the history of art. Of equal importance, you will also gain an understanding of some of the historical and social contexts in which the major monuments were produced. Together these aspects of the course will help you develop various interpretive strategies for understanding works of art.

Course Evaluation:

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| Weekly Reflection Papers (Best 8 X 2.5%) | 20% |
| Midterm Exam (February 26, during class time)..... | 20% |
| Close-looking Research Assignment (Due April 2)..... | 20% |
| Weekly Participation (on-going)..... | 10% |
| Final Exam (TBD)..... | 30% |

Weekly Reflection Papers: What is the most interesting thing you learned this week? This assignment is meant to be completed after attending the weekly lecture. Your paper should explain what you have learned, why you found it interesting and how you have expanded on your learning. In lieu of assigned weekly readings, students are expected to consult Smarthistory to expand their understanding of lecture topics by exploring the periods, artists and techniques introduced in lecture. This expanded learning should be outlined in your weekly reflection. All assignments should make specific reference to one work of art from lecture. Each reflection should be 250 words long and cite all sources in accordance with the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style by including foot- or endnotes and a bibliography. Evaluation will be based on vocabulary, application of research, depth of engagement with course concepts and relevance of information. Assignments should be submitted no later than the Sunday following that lecture. Specific deadlines indicated below on the weekly breakdown. Students will complete 9 weekly reflection papers

and their evaluation will be based on their best 8 grades.

Midterm test: The midterm test will have 4 sections: vocabulary, slide ID, comparison and a mystery slide. Students should review lecture slides posted on BrightSpace, lecture notes*, and reading notes*. Slides will be selected from the abbreviated slide lists posted on Bright following each lecture. Tests will be returned within two weeks.

*Students are responsible for taking their own lecture and reading notes each week. Notes are not provided by the instructor.

Close-Looking Research Assignment: Essays will be written about artworks at the National Gallery of Canada. Students will select one painting from a list of 8-10 works in the European and American collection. Students are expected to spend time observing their selected artwork in person, looking closely at the artwork and making careful and detailed observations, as well as conducting scholarly research to analyze the artwork and develop an prove a contextually relevant argument. Essays will be returned at the final exam. Students will be evaluated on their visual analysis, the strength and relevance of their argument, the coherence of their argument, the quality of their research, and their writing style. Essays should be 1500-2000 words in length excluding cover page, notes and bibliography. All essays should adhere to the regulations set forth in the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style. Late papers will be penalized 5% per day for three (3) university working days. After this deadline, no later work will be accepted without formal accommodations.

Weekly Participation: Participation will be evaluated on the basis of active, substantive and productive contribution to class discussion in the form of asking and answering relevant questions and contributing to a positive learning environment. Attendance will be taken with a sign-in sheet to serve as a part of the participation grade. Students are expected to attend the whole lecture to have their attendance counted.

Final Examination: The final examination will follow the same format as the midterm. This exam is not cumulative and will cover material from after the midterm test.

Office Hours: By appointment. Please don't hesitate to request a meeting.

Resources at Carleton University: Carleton has a number of great resources to help you develop academic skills and get the most out of your university experience. **Carleton University Library:** references, help with research, etc.; **Learning Support Services:** study rooms, free study skills workshops, tutorial services and **The Academic Writing Centre and Writing Tutorial Service.**

BrightSpace: The course syllabus and all assignment details and formats will be made available exclusively on BrightSpace. Weekly slide lists and lecture slides and additional resources will be posted to BrightSpace to facilitate studying. Students can also email each other through BrightSpace. Additionally, announcements about the course will also be posted through BrightSpace. **Students are expected to check BrightSpace and their Carleton email regularly.** If you are having difficulty accessing your BrightSpace account or our class page, it is essential to contact the instructor or tech services as soon as possible.

Smarthistory: <https://smarthistory.org> This is a free online resource that will be used in lieu of a textbook. Students are responsible to accessing information relevant to each lecture by consulting the corresponding periods, artists and technique for each week. To benefit from the audio-visual formats on this site, you

must develop study approaches that differ from those you employ with written text. Listen carefully and take notes – distilling the information and taking notes on the videos will help you retain the material rather than passively absorb it.

Academic Accommodation: You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows: Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#). Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

Use of AI in This Course: Artificial intelligence tools (like ChatGPT, DALL·E, Gemini, or other text/image generators) can be used as a support tool, but all work you submit must be your own. Think of AI like a digital assistant—it can help you brainstorm, organize ideas, or check spelling/grammar, but it cannot replace your critical thinking, analysis, or creativity.

Guidelines for AI use:

- Be transparent: If you use AI for anything beyond basic proofreading (for example, generating ideas, drafting text, or creating images), you must acknowledge it in a short note at the end of your work. For example:
 - *“Parts of the text were generated with the assistance of ChatGPT.”*
 - *“Layout ideas were informed by AI suggestions using DALL·E.”*
- Proofreading is okay: You may use AI to check grammar, spelling, or clarity, without disclosure, as long as the AI is not changing your ideas or argument.
- Do your own thinking: Your argument, analysis, and design must remain your original work.
- Follow academic integrity rules: Using AI to do your work without disclosure is considered misconduct.
- Use AI responsibly to enhance your process, not replace it.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Weekly Breakdown

| Week | Lecture topics | Assignment details |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Week 1 | Introduction: Form vs. Content | Reflection due Sunday January 11 |
| January 8 | Review of 14 th C. Italy | |

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| Week 2 January 15 | Humanism: The Visual Arts in the Quattrocento 15 th C. Italy and Northern Europe | Reflection due Sunday January 18 |
| Week 3 January 22 | Art as Biography High Italian Renaissance | Reflection due Sunday January 25 |
| Week 4 January 29 | Art for Change The Reformation and the Northern Baroque (Netherlands) | Reflection due by Sunday February 1 |
| Week 5 February 12 | Art-Historical Periods Southern Baroque (Italy, Flanders, and Spain) | Reflection due by Sunday February 8 |
| Winter Break February 19 | No Class | |
| Week 6 February 26 | Midterm Test | Topic covered: -15 th C. Italy and Northern Europe -High Italian Renaissance -The Reformation and the Northern Baroque (Netherlands) -Southern |

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| | | Baroque (Italy, Flanders, and Spain) |
| Week 7 March 5 | Formalism French Baroque and Rococo | Reflection due Sunday March 8 |
| Week 8 March 12 | Art of the Middle Class Neoclassicism and Romanticism | Reflection due Sunday March 15 |
| Week 9 March 16-20 Asynchronous Learning | Visit the National Gallery of Canada | Select artwork from list provided and complete careful looking portion of research assignment. |
| Week 10 March 26 | Gender and Social Realism, Impressionism, Post Impressionism, Symbolism and Art Nouveau | Reflection due by Monday March 29 |
| Week 11 April 2 | Modernism and the Avant-garde The Twentieth Century and Beyond Expressionism, Cubism, Surrealism, Dada, Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, Performance, Installation, Post Modernism | Research Assignments due April 2, at the start of lecture. Reflection due by Monday April 5 |

University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses

(July 21, 2025)

Academic Dates and Deadlines

This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the *Important Dates and Deadlines* section of the Registration Website.

Copies of Written Work Submitted

Always retain a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments, or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

Online Learning Resources

Resources collected by Carleton Online can support your success in online courses, including strategies for learning, study skills, technology, and online engagement.

Academic Integrity Policy

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as *“presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one’s own.”* This includes reproducing or paraphrasing someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of source, without proper citation.

Examples of plagiarism include but are not limited to:

- Any submission prepared in whole or in part by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT).
- Using ideas, quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, or concepts without acknowledgment.
- Using another’s data or research findings without acknowledgment.
- Submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else.
- Failing to cite sources or use quotation marks when required.

Plagiarism is a serious offence. Allegations are reviewed by the Associate Dean, and penalties may include a final grade of **F** for the course.

Co-operation or Collaboration

Carleton encourages collaborative learning, but students must not collaborate on work designated as individual. Group work is permitted where indicated by the instructor.

Academic Accommodations

Academic accommodation refers to educational practices, systems, and supports designed to accommodate diversity and difference, without compromising learning objectives. Carleton provides academic accessibility for all students.

Processes for accommodation requests, including academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances, are outlined on the *Academic Accommodations* website.

Addressing Human Rights Concerns

Carleton is committed to maintaining an environment free from harassment or discrimination. For concerns, contact the Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities: equity@carleton.ca.

Grading System

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the Dean's approval. Grades submitted may be revised until approved by the Dean. Conversion scales are available online.

Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

Course materials (lectures, presentations, outlines, etc.) are protected by copyright and may not be distributed without the author's consent. Students may make copies for personal educational use only.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Carleton strives to provide a safe, respectful environment. The *Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy* governs non-academic behaviour and promotes fairness and growth.

Deferred Term Work

Students unable to complete work due to extenuating circumstances may request academic consideration under the University's policy.

- Short-term (≤5 days): use the University's self-declaration form.
- Long-term (>5 days): consult with the Registrar's Office or Graduate Registrar.

Deferred Final Exams

Students who miss a final exam due to extenuating circumstances may apply for deferral within three (3) working days, with supporting documentation.

Academic Consideration Policy

Students facing short-term extenuating circumstances may request academic consideration for coursework. Requests are not automatically approved and must follow course and University policy.

Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

Be aware of separate deadlines for financial and academic withdrawal. Failure to withdraw formally may affect tuition fees, transcripts, and academic standing.

Mental Health and Wellness

Carleton provides resources for students experiencing mental health challenges. Visit wellness.carleton.ca.

Emergency Contacts:

- Suicide Crisis Helpline: **9-8-8** (24/7)
- Immediate danger: **911**

Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre: <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- CSAS: <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off-Campus Resources:

- Distress Centre: 613-238-3311 / dcottawa.on.ca
- Crisis Line: 613-722-6914 / crisisline.ca
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389 / students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454 / good2talk.ca
- Walk-In Counselling Clinic: walkincounselling.com

Indigenous Support and Community Engagement

Indigenous students can access culturally centered, confidential counselling through the Centre for Indigenous Initiatives.

Department Contact Information

- **Bachelor of the Humanities** – 300 Paterson Hall — CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca
- **Greek and Roman Studies** – 300 Paterson Hall — GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca
- **Religion** – 2A39 Paterson Hall — Religion@cunet.carleton.ca
- **Digital Humanities (Graduate)** – 2A39 Paterson Hall — digitalhumanities@carleton.ca
- **Digital Humanities (Undergraduate Minor)** – 300 Paterson Hall — digitalhumanities@carleton.ca
- **MEMS (Undergraduate Minor)** – 300 Paterson Hall — CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses (December 2025)

Academic Dates and Deadlines

This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the Important Dates and Deadlines section of the Registration Website.

Grading System at Carleton University

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion can be found [here](#). [Grade Appeal Process Information](#)

Student Rights and Responsibilities at Carleton

Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness.

The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

Academic Accommodations

Academic accommodation refers to educational practices, systems and support mechanisms designed to accommodate diversity and difference. The purpose of accommodation is to enable students to perform the essential requirements of their academic programs. At no time does academic accommodation undermine or compromise the learning objectives that are established by the academic authorities of the University.

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the *Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances*, are outlined on the [Academic Accommodations website](#).

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes can be [found here](#).

Addressing Human Rights Concerns

The University and all members of the University community share responsibility for ensuring that the University's educational, work and living environments are free from discrimination and harassment. Should you have concerns about harassment or discrimination relating to your age, ancestry, citizenship, colour, creed (religion), disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, place of origin, race, sex (including pregnancy), or sexual orientation, please contact the [Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities](#) at equity@carleton.ca.

Academic Consideration Policy

As per the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), if students encounter extenuating circumstances that temporarily hinder their capacity to fulfil in-class academic requirements, they can request academic consideration. The

Academic Consideration for Coursework is only available for accommodations regarding course work. Requests for accommodations during the formal exam period must follow the [official deferral process](#).

NOTE: As per the Policy, students are to speak with/contact their instructor before submitting a request for Academic Consideration. Requests are not automatically approved. Approving and determining the accommodation remains at the discretion of the instructor. Students should consult the course syllabus about the instructor's policy or procedures for requesting academic consideration. [More information here](#).

Academic Integrity Policy

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as 'presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.' This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT)
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgment
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own
- failing to acknowledge sources with proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor.

The Associate Dean of the Faculty follows a rigorous process for academic integrity allegations, including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of "F" for the course.

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of extenuating circumstances, as defined in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made.

The application for a deferral must:

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office no later than **three (3) working days** after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation. In cases of short-term extenuating circumstances normally lasting no more than five (5) days, students must complete the University's self-declaration form which is included in the deferral application found on the [Registrar's Office website](#). Additional documentation is required in cases of extenuating circumstances lasting longer than five (5) days and must be supported by a medical note specifying the date of onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [here](#).

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of extenuating circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work. Requests for academic consideration are made in accordance with the [Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical or Other Extenuating Circumstances](#).

1. Students who claim short-term extenuating circumstances (normally lasting up to five days) as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor. If the instructor requires supporting documentation, the instructor may only request submission of the University's self-declaration form, which is available on the [Registrar's Office website](#). The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule.
 - a) Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student's earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.
2. In cases where a student is not able to complete term work due to extenuating circumstances lasting for a significant period of time/ long-term (normally more than five days), the instructor and/or student may elect to consult with the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses) or Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) to determine appropriate action.
3. If a student is concerned the instructor did not respond to the request for academic consideration or did not provide reasonable accommodation, the student should follow the appeals process described in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#).
4. If academic consideration is granted, but the student is unable to complete the accommodation according to the terms set out by the instructor as a result of further illness, injury, or extraordinary circumstances beyond their control, the student may submit a petition to the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses)/Graduate Registrar (graduate courses). Please note, however, that the course instructor will be required to submit an earned final grade and further consideration will only be reviewed according to established precedents and deadlines. (More information: [Undergraduate](#).)

Department Contact Information

Digital Humanities (Minor), Bachelor of the Humanities, Greek and Roman Studies, and
MEMS:
300 Paterson Hall
CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Religion and Digital Humanities (Graduate):
2A39 Paterson Hall
Religion@cunet.carleton.ca