

# *The Art and History of Renaissance Venice*

Lecturer: Prof. Adriane Aboud

## **Schedule of Topics:**

### **1. Week 1 Topic**

Introducing Renaissance Venice: The first lecture in this series will lay the groundwork for understanding Venetian history, geography, and basic information about what made Venice a politically and artistically unique city-state during the Renaissance.

### **2. Week 2 Topic**

Venetian Society: Week two will focus on the hierarchical structure of Venetian society and the intricate social lives of the people of Venice through their art. We will look at paintings of social events and learn how to distinguish between the members of different social groups in Venetian society.

### **3. Week 3 Topic**

Religion in Venice: Renaissance Venice was a very religious place and Catholic imagery permeated every corner of the city. This lecture will study images of key religious figures and explain how and why they were so important to the Venetians of the time.

### **4. Week 4 Topic**

Politics and Trade: As a city built on the water, Venice's extensive trading had a huge impact on the culture of the city. So, this week will look at art that is a reflection of that massive industry and how it affected the politics at the time which in turn led to Venice's creation of its own distinct political iconography.

### **5. Week 5 Topic**

The Great Council Hall I: In 1577 there was a fire that destroyed all of the art in one of the most publicly important and largest rooms in Venice, the "Sala del Maggior Consiglio" in the Doge's Palace. For centuries this was the largest room in Europe, and for a very good reason, it was the chamber in which all eligible citizens would gather to vote. Venice immediately set about repairing and redecorating, and used this as an opportunity to create a massive visual program that now acts as a reflection of their society at the time.

### **6. Week 6 Topic**

The Great Council Hall II: Building on the previous lecture, this final one will complete the visual analysis of the redecoration scheme of the “Sala del Maggior Consiglio” and illustrate how this immense effort was such a great reflection of the massive ego of the “Serenissima Repubblica”.