

# CET Syllabus of Record



UNIVERSITY  
of VIRGINIA



CET ACADEMIC  
PROGRAMS

**Program:** CET Siena

**Course Title:** Topics in Renaissance Art History: Sienese Art & Architecture

**Course Code:** SN/ARTH 3525

**Total Hours:** 45

**Recommended Credits:** 3

**Primary Discipline:** Art History

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** None

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## Description

This course explores the development of art in Siena from the beginning to the end of the Republic (mid-13<sup>th</sup> century to mid-16<sup>th</sup> century), focusing on its cultural and historical context. Particular attention is devoted to the golden age of the Sienese Gothic Era. In-class lectures and slide presentations are combined with field trips to Siena, Pienza and San Gimignano, and on-site lectures in churches and museums, so that students have the opportunity to see the art they are studying in its proper context.

## Objectives

By the end of this course, students have acquired:

- General knowledge of early and late Renaissance art in Central Italy
- Specific knowledge of Medieval and Renaissance art in Siena
- Extended familiarity with backgrounds, styles and works of the great Sienese masters like Duccio, Simone Martini, Ambrogio Lorenzetti, Giovanni Pisano, Sassetta, Vecchietta, Sodoma and Beccafumi
- Critical tools necessary to recognize and appreciate the most important artworks produced by the Sienese School

## Course Requirements

The students are expected to read the pages and/or material listed for each class and to engage in active discussions on relevant issues. Students can expect to be assigned at least 30 to 50 pages for each topic covered.

Students are required to write two essays (looking assignments) about an art piece of an artist discussed during class. The first assignment is about 300 words; the second assignment is about 600 words. Students should select the art piece from those discussed in class, either in the classroom or on site, and analyze it using the skills they have learned in class.

The class includes two exams, a midterm and a final. Each exam comprises two sections—slide identification (40%) and two essay questions (30% each). The final exam is cumulative for material covered over the course of the entire term.

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## Methods of Evaluation

The final grade shall be determined as follows:

Attendance and Participation:	10%
Writing Assignment 1:	10%
Writing Assignment 2:	20%
Midterm Exam:	30%
Final Exam:	30%

## Primary Texts

Giuliano Catoni, Gabriella Piccinni, *An Illustrated History of Siena*, Pacini, 2008, pp.1-39; 190-197.

Bruno Santi, *The Marble Pavement of the Cathedral of Siena*, Scala, 1982.

Timothy Hyman, *Sienese Painting*, New York, Thames & Hudson, 2003.

Maria Grazia Antonelli, *Panel Painting*, Firenze, Sillabe, 2002.

Jole Vichi Imberciadori, Marco Torriti, *The Collegiate Church of San Gimignano*, Firenze, Nencini, s.d. AAVV., *Monteoliveto Maggiore*.

There is also a coursepack of selections from the following texts:

Enzo Carli, *Sienese Painting*

Enzo Carli, *Italian Sculpture*

John White, *Art and Architecture in Italy 1250-1400*

Diana Norman, *Painting in Late Medieval and Renaissance Siena*

## Supplementary Texts

H.B.J. Maginnis, *The World of the Early Sienese Painter*, Penn State Press.

Diana Norman, *Painting in Late Medieval and Renaissance Siena*, Yale University Press.

David Bomford, Jill Dunkerton, Dillian Gordon and Ashok Roy, *Art in the Making: Italian Painting before 1400*, National Gallery of London.

Millard Meiss, *Painting in Florence and Siena after the Black Death*, Princeton University Press.

## Outline of Course Content

Note: Fall/Spring students cover approximately one topic per week. During the summer term, when class periods are longer, students cover approximately two topics per week.

Topic 1 - History of Siena from the Origins to the End of Republic  
Walking through Siena: Architecture and Historical Changes. Walking along the Francigena Road in Siena and exploring the urban and historical changes in Siena from the feudal society of the XI century (the *castellare*) to the pre-capitalistic society of XIV century (*casa-torre*) to the XV century renaissance (palace).

Topic 2 - Visit to the Cathedral

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The idea of the cathedral in Siena and the history of the three cathedrals of Siena from the pagan temple of Minerva (I century A.D.) to the fourth, unfinished “duomo nuovo” (XIV century). An examination of the floor of the cathedral and the pulpit by Nicola Pisano

## Topic 3 - XIII Century Painting and Sculpture

Visit to the Crypt & Museo dell'Opera. The beginning of the Sienese school of painting with the painters of the crypt (mid XIII century). Exploration of an untouched romanesque church with an analysis of its frescoes and architecture. Inside the Museo dell'opera del duomo, the class focuses on the first part of the golden era of Sienese art by analyzing the following artworks: statues of the façade of the cathedral by Giovanni Pisano, the stained glass and Maestà by Duccio; the Birth of the Virgin by Pietro Lorenzetti, the Madonna degli occhi grossi, Stories of St. Bernardine by Sano di Pietro. Finally, a climb to the top of the façade.

## Topic 4 - The Medieval Sienese Artist at Work

The technique of Sienese XIV century panel painting. An analysis and reading of some passages from the *Craftman Handbook* by Cennini. A video of the restoration Lab of the Pinacoteca of Siena.

## Topic 5 - The Greatest Masters of XIV century Sienese painting

Simone Martini, Pietro Lorenzetti.

## Topic 6 - Visit to the Palazzo Pubblico

Topic 7 - The Last Master of XIV Century Painting in Siena: Ambrogio Lorenzetti  
Early XV century Painting in Siena, from Sassetta to Sano di Pietro, and from Giovanni di Paolo to Francesco di Giorgio Martini.

## Topic 8 - Visit to S. Gimignano

Exploring the influence of Sienese and Florentine Art in a medieval town. Visit to the town hall (XIII century frescoes) and the Collegiata (medieval and renaissance works by Tederico Memmi, Bartolo di Fredi, Taddeo di Bartolo, Domenico Ghirlandaio).

## Topic 9 - Jacopo della Quercia and Renaissance Sculpture in Siena

Works by Jacopo della Quercia and the influence of Donatello for Sienese sculpture. The patronage of Pius II and Antonio Federighi. Finally, the architecture and statues by Francesco di Giorgio Martini.

## Topic 10 - Visit to the Libreria Piccolomini

The figure of pope Pius II and humanistic Siena during the second half of XV century. Inside the cathedral--the artistic patronage of the Piccolomini popes during renaissance, Pinturicchio's frescoes about Pius II life.

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## Topic 11 - Excursion to Monteoliveto and Pienza

Visit to the abbey of Monteoliveto and its cloister, decorated by Luca Signorelli and Sodoma with stories of St. Benedict Life. Inside the church, the renaissance choir, with trompe-l'oeil inlay works. In Pienza, the ideal renaissance town with the square designed by Leon Battista Alberti for pope Pius II, and the cathedral, with altarpieces by Vecchietta, Matteo di Giovanni, Sano di Pietro and Giovanni di Paolo.

## Topic 12 - Visit to the Spedale of the Santa Maria della Scala

The Pellegrinaio room, with XV century frescoes by Vecchietta, Domenico di Bartolo and Priamo della Quercia; the Chapel of the Holy Nail, decorated with the Creed by Vecchietta. The second level-- the Brotherhood of St. Catherine, the third level-- the structure and the history of the Spedale, from Middle Ages to Renaissance.

## Topic 13 - Late Renaissance in Siena

The Mannerist style in Siena and artworks by Sodoma and Beccafumi.

## Topic 14 - Visit to the Pinacoteca

Introduction to some masterpieces of Sienese painting in the Pinacoteca. Art from XIII to XVI century, works by Duccio, Simone Martini, Pietro and Ambrogio Lorenzetti, Bartolo di Fredi, Giovanni di Paolo, Sassetta, Francesco di Giorgio Martini, Vecchietta, Sodoma, Beccafumi.

## Topic 15 - The Purismo and Art Criticism and Collecting of Sienese Art in America

The "Accademia delle Belle Arti" and the Romantic "purismo" in Siena and XIX century local artist of the gothic revival in architecture (Partini), sculpture (Sarrocchi and Duprè) and painting (Mussini and Franchi). The Modern criticism of Sienese art from XIX century gothic revival by John Ruskin to Bernard Berenson. English and American collecting of Sienese art, the XX century forgeries.