

## FAH390YO Seville: Twenty Centuries of Art History

**Professor:** Eric Davis

### Introduction

This course will explore facets of Spain's rich artistic tradition by placing a special emphasis on Seville's very own unique and extensive art history. We will survey artistic trends and developments across twenty centuries in Spain and Seville, beginning with prehistoric Art and passing the Roman ruins of *Itálica* and ending with architect Santiago Calatrava's contemporary Alamillo Bridge. Seville's varied artistic history will allow us to examine Roman monuments, Islamic palaces, and Gothic cathedrals. We will also analyze works by many of Spain's greatest painters and architects.

Weekly site visits and field trips to local monuments, palaces, museums, and galleries will allow us to use Seville's rich cultural heritage to really bring our subject matter to life.

All readings and discussions are in English. No knowledge of Spanish is required.

We will use a Google Classroom platform to hand in our assignments and to keep track of our grades.

*Required text: Students will purchase a course pack/reader at the beginning of the course. We will purchase that the first day of class at a copy shop near our classroom. Most class readings and assignments included in the reader will come from John Moffitt's "The Arts in Spain" (London, Thames & Hudson, 1999); the reader also has several chapters from diverse sources. As well as the reader, we will share a Google Drive platform where we can consult assigned readings from the following sources. Debra DeWitte, Ralph Larmann, and Kathryn Shields' "Gateways to Art" (New York, Thames & Hudson, 2012).*

*If possible please purchase "The Arts in Spain" book before coming to Seville, it is a good book to have, not large and not expensive. I will put all readings in the course reader and if you cannot obtain a copy of "The Arts of Spain", I can provide the chapters from that for you.*

**Please note that changes in this schedule can occur.**

### **Week 1**

Class Day 1: Monday, June 26

Course Introduction, Prehistoric Art, the Cave Art of Altamira in Northern Spain, the first monuments in Antequera, Southern Spain. Paleolithic and Neolithic periods. We will look at the early inhabitants of Spain, colonizers such as the Greeks, Phoenicians, Celts, and Iberians. We will watch segments of "Finding Altamira", dir. Hugh Hudson, 2016.

Read the "Introduction" in *Gateways to Art* (26-44).

"The Prehistoric and Ancient Mediterranean" in *Gateways to Art* (219-314).

Moffit (6-23).

Class Day 2: Tuesday, June 27

Class discussion: "What was the purpose of Prehistoric Art?"

Roman Spain. We will study the important Roman legacy in Spain, then we will have a **FIELD TRIP** to visit



**Metrosol Parasol**, a very interesting subterranean ruin in the heart of Seville, contained under an ultra-modern contemporary structure.

Read Moffit, (23-26)

Gateways to Art, Christianity and Islam in the Formation of Spanish Art (470-484).

Class Day 3: Wednesday, June 28

Class discussion: What have the Romans left us?

We will study Islamic Spain and also the unique Spanish style known as Mudejar.

Class Day 4: Thursday, June 29

We will have an exciting **FIELD TRIP** to the Alcazar Royal Palace of Seville

Read Moffit. Christianity and Islam in the Formation of Spanish Art. Al -Andalus. (62-66)

Read in Class Reader: "The Church Militant" and "The Church Triumphant" p. 70-100

***(TBC) Weekend trip to Cordoba and Granada.*** This two-day trip is a real high point for the course! We will walk all over these beautiful cities and see the unforgettable Mosque of Cordoba and the Alhambra of Granada as well as other historic attractions.

## Week 2

Class Day 5: Monday, July 3

– **First Reaction Paper Due;** the Alcazar of Seville.

Class discussion; “What were your impressions of Itálica?”

We will cover Romanesque Art and then we will take a look at the Gothic period in Spain.

Student Oral Presentations.

Read Moffit, 140 -160.

Read course reader, 75 -84.

Class Day 6: Tuesday, July 4

**FIELD TRIP to the Cathedral of Seville**, the largest Gothic Cathedral in the world and also the **Barrio Santa Cruz**, which is the most historic and photogenic part of Seville, so bring your cameras!

Read course reader, 84 – 100.

Class Day 7: Wednesday, July 5

Class discussion; “Compare Islamic and Christian Architecture.”

El Greco, the great painter of Toledo.

Ribera, a very important Baroque painter.

Review for mid-term exam.

Student oral presentations.

Class Day 8: Thursday, July 6

Thursday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of July, **Mid-Term Exam**.

Student Oral Presentations.

### Week 3

Class day 9: Monday, July 10

**Second Reaction Paper Due;** the Cathedral of Seville

Class discussion: "Impressions of your visit to Cordoba and Granada".

Class lecture on Velazquez, the Painter's Painter!

We will watch "the Rokby Venus" BBC video.

Class lecture on Seville's late Baroque master Murillo.

Read: Moffitt 88-125.

Read "Art of Renaissance and Baroque Europe" in *Gateways to Art* (376-398).

Student Oral Presentations.

Class Day 10: Tuesday, July 11

**FIELD TRIP** Visit to the **FINE ARTS MUSEUM OF SEVILLE.**

Read: Moffitt 126-174.

Class Day 11: Wednesday, July 12

Class Discussion: Do you like Baroque Art? Why or why not? Can you describe Baroque Art?

Class lecture on Goya, the Grandfather of Romanticism.

Romanticism and Spain's peculiar style Custombrismo.

Read: Moffitt 175-189 (The Bourbon Court).

Student Oral Presentations.

Class Day 12: Thursday, July 13

**FIELD TRIP** Visit Parque Maria Luisa, Seville's most spectacular park and scene of the 1929 World's Fair.

The Old Tobacco Factory, today the University of Seville.

The Avenida de la Constitución, Seville's grand main street.

Read Moffit 160 – 190.

**(Optional, Dates and Time TBC) Weekend Trip to Madrid, New this year, we will walk the streets of Madrid, visiting some of the finest museums in the world, The Prado, the Reina Sofia, as well as other historic sites.**

### Week 4

Class Day 13: Monday, July 17

**Third Reaction Paper Due;** "What was your favourite Artwork in the Fine Arts Museum of Seville and Why?"

Class discussion, "What was your favorite Artwork in Madrid and why?"

Gaudi, Barcelona's innovative modernist Architect.

Pablo Picasso. The most influential painter of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Read: Moffitt (189-23)

Student Oral Presentations.

Class Day 14: Tuesday, July 18

Miro, Mallorca's quirky abstract original.

Dali, popular artist of great fame.

Student Oral Presentations.

Class Day 15: Wednesday, July 19

**Field Trip** visit CAAC. Seville's Center of Contemporary Art of Andalucía. A vanguardist Art collection in a fascinating historic monument, La Cartuja.

Class Day 16: Thursday, July 20

**Fourth Reaction Paper Due.** "Pablo Picasso, creator or destroyer?"

Calatrava's Futuristic architecture.

Barceló, Spain's most valued living artist.

Student Oral Presentations.

**FINAL EXAM: Friday, July 21**

**FAREWELL DINNER.**

#### Assignments and Exams:

10% **Class attendance and active participation.**

25% **Midterm**

15% **Oral presentations**

20% **Field Trip Reaction Papers (5% each)**

30% **Final Exam**

**Grading Scheme** (using University of Toronto's Grading Scheme)

Numerical Scale of Mark	Letter Grade
90-100	A+
85-89	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F