

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, the 4th of July. 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, the 5th of July.

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, the 6th of July. 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, the 7th of July. 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

Friday the 8th of July to Sunday the 10th of July.

Weekend trip to Cordoba and Granada. This 3 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, the 11th of July

– **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, the 12th of July, **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, the 13th of July, 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, the 14th of July, **Mid-Term Exam.**

Student Oral Presentations.

Week 3

Class day 9; Monday, the 18th of July. **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, the 19th of July. **FIELD TRIP** Visit to the **FINE ARTS MUSEUM OF SEVILLE.**

Read: Moffitt 126-174.

Class Day 11: Wednesday, the 20th of July. 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 Custumbrismo.

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

Student Oral Presentations.

Class Day 12; Thursday, the 21st of July.

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

The Old Tabacco Factory, today the University of Seville.

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

Read Moffit 160 – 190.

Friday, the 22nd – Sunday, the 24th of July

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, the 25th of July. **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 Achitect.

Pablo Picasso. The most influential painter of the 20th Century.

Read: Moffitt (189-23)

Student Oral Presentations.

Class Day 14; Tuesday, the 26th of July.
Miro, Mallorca's quirky abstract original.
Dali, popular artist of great fame.
Student Oral Presentations.

Class Day 15: Wednesday, the 26th of July.
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, the 28th of July.
Fourth Reaction Paper Due. "Pablo Picasso, creator or destroyer?"
Calatrava's Futuristic architecture.
Barceló, Spain's most valued living artist.
Student Oral Presentations.

Monday, the 1st of August.
FINAL EXAM.
Tuesday, the 2nd of August, **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