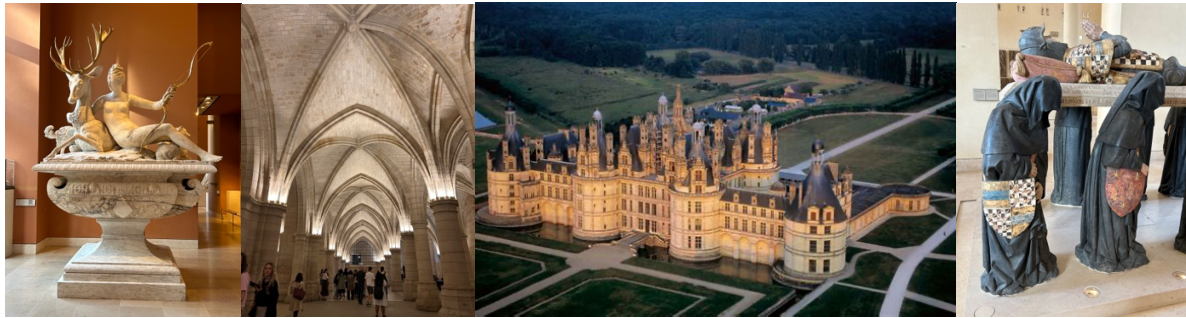


FAH3930Y: Studies Abroad in Renaissance Art and Architecture

Special Topic: The French Renaissance

Professor Christy ANDERSON

Paris, May 5 – 30, 2024



General Information about Course

“There is but one Paris,” declared Vincent Van Gogh in 1886. This course explores the city’s art, architecture, and museum collections focusing on the early modern period, when Paris acquired its reputation as a world capital of art.

The course will be entirely conducted on site, through visits to important museums, buildings, and spaces in Paris and the landscapes beyond. A unique feature of this course will be the opportunity to hear French art historians and curators present material on site. We will hear from experts in France on the materials they know and study.

Three weeks of the class will be based in Paris, visiting the Bibliothèque National to look at Renaissance books and manuscripts; studying original manuscripts in the French archives; and learning how early furniture is restored at the workshop of a leading craftsman and conservator. We will have behind-the-scenes visits to a painting conservation workshop, and learn how French travelers brought back objects from the New World that are now in French collections.

One week we will travel to the Loire Valley to visit some of the great chateaux and gardens built by royal and elite patrons. We will likely be based in the city of Blois for three nights, and then travel by coach bus to see some of the great houses and landscapes in this verdant and rich river valley.

Your Instructor

[Christy Anderson](#) studies and teaches the history of architecture. While most of her work focuses on the buildings of early modern Europe, these projects extend broadly across oceans and into contemporary design. A full-time member of the Art History Department at the University of Toronto, and a member of [the Graduate Faculty at the Daniels](#), she enjoys teaching both the undergraduate students and those in the professional programs. She received her PhD

from MIT in the School of Architecture. In addition to teaching at the University of Toronto since 2005, she has also taught at Yale University, MIT, and the Courtauld Institute in London.

Out of her many years of teaching, Christy Anderson has published a survey of *Renaissance Architecture* (Oxford University Press, 2013) that treats buildings across Europe and rewrites the history of the field. She has also published on the complicated history of classicism and gender, the failure of architectural language, and the politics of wonder. Her most recent project is a study of the ship as an architectural type by exploring the spaces and environments that connect the sea to the shore.

Projects and Assignments:

The main assessment for this course will be the creation of a notebook that you will submit four times during the course, on Friday of each week. In this notebook you will respond to a question set for each week. Using the readings, discussions, site visits, and most importantly, your own observations, you will respond to the question given. By Friday of each week you can take pictures of up to 6 pages from the notebook and submit these through Quercus. Each week of the notebook submission will be worth 20 points x 4 weeks = 80 points.

The final 20 points will be based on a presentation that you will make at one of the sites we are visiting. There will be a sign up for the presentations.

Course Expectations and Responsibilities

The opportunity to study art in person, and in context, is an extraordinary privilege and joy. While it is tempting to think of a month in France as a vacation, and to want to see all the things that tourists might see, the requirements of the class should be your main occupation. This course covers the material of a full year in 4 weeks, and certainly Monday through Thursday of each work will be taken up with visits and coursework. While it is tempting to want to see everything, especially when so many places in Europe are so close by, I suggest focusing your time during the week on the class, and then enjoying the weekends by exploring Paris and places nearby.

Preliminary Weekly Schedule:

Week 1: Paris

Monday: Morning, introductory meeting; afternoon, Louvre w/ Stéphanie De Prouw [curator, Ecoen]

Tuesday: Visit to Archives with Audrey Nassieu-Maupas; afternoon, walking through Marais

Wednesday: Musée de l'Armée

Thursday: Fontainebleau [day trip; using public transportation]

Week 2: Chateaux in the Loire

This week we will leave Monday morning and go by bus to visit chateaux in the Loire valley: Blois, Chambord, Chenonceau, Anet. We will return on Thursday afternoon. There will be three nights spent in the Loire [likely in or near Blois].

Week 3: Paris – Museums, Materials, and Collections

Monday: Ecoen, Museum of the Renaissance

Tuesday: Branly Museum with Marie Colas des Francs; Royal entrances

Wednesday: Anna Baydova, at the Bibliothèque National: Renaissance Books and Manuscripts

Thursday: visit to the furniture restoration workshops with François Reutin

Week 4: Paris – Architecture and Urban Transformation

Monday: architecture tour in Paris

Tuesday: Architecture w/ Barbara

Wednesday: Architecture with Stéphanie De Prouw

Thursday: Royal tombs at St Denis; Musée Carnavalet