

**Eurotour Art 103 History of Western Art**  
**Wake Forest University**  
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**Summer 2008**

This course offers the opportunity to experience and to study major monuments of western art and architecture in museums and historic sites in 8 of the 13 cities we will visit this summer. We live in an age of visual images endlessly reproduced. Studying the history of art in Europe's major cities will help us understand many of those images better--where and how they originated; how they articulate the assumptions and values of their makers, their patrons, and their audience; and how certain works ended up where they are (the Pergamon Altar in Berlin, the Parthenon marbles in London, and the Mona Lisa in Paris). Traditionally art and architecture are elite activities associated with economic, political, and cultural power. Starting in the 1980s cities such as Paris, London, and Berlin embarked on ambitious projects, updating and reconfiguring their cities, making them today major places to see contemporary architecture.

**Goal for the Course:**

- To use our geographic journey to develop a basic understanding that art and culture change over time, depending on place and circumstances
- To be able to identify major periods, major monuments, and major artists
- To develop a familiarity with art terminology and key concepts
- To explore art and architecture via text, media, internet, and actual site experience

**Textbook:** Fred Kleiner and Chistin J. Mamiya, *Gardner's Art Through the Ages: a Concise History* (2006-DVD). Purchase ASAP. Should be consulted BEFORE and AFTER the trip, but NOT taken on the trip—too heavy for a backpack! Select your “to-see” list from this text. We have to travel light.

There are tour notes for each city, describing important monuments, places of interest, and their locations.

**Course Format and Requirements:**

- Compile list of 8 “to-see” monuments, based on *GATTA:ACH*, one in each of the 8 cities we will use in our class: Amsterdam, Paris, Florence, Rome, Venice, Prague, Berlin, London – As you look through the text, check to see where the images are located, i.e. Nefertiti in the Egyptian Museum in Berlin; St. Peter's in Rome. Try to get a chronological spread—early to late. Email selections to MSS by May 12, 2008 (10%)
  - Class visits to one or two museums or sites in each of the 8 cities. (promptness and attendance mandatory -5% per city = 40%)
  - Journal on art experiences to be handed in 3 times during the Eurotour (10%)
  - Each student leads a class outing to monument/site/art work of choice (15%)
  - Final paper comparing and contrasting 3 works of art or architecture, from 3 different cities, based on a thorough bibliographic search & your experience of actually being there. Together, we will construct your thesis and examples on the trip. Approximately 8-10 double-paced, typed, pages to be turned in by August 1, 2008 (25%)

### **City/Art/Architecture Focus**

**Amsterdam** – Holland’s 17<sup>th</sup> Century Golden Age: Rembrandt, Hals, Vermeer, Leyster (*Rijksmuseum, Rembrandthuis*); Post-Impressionist 19<sup>th</sup> Century, with Vincent Van Gogh (*Van Gogh Museum*); Early 20<sup>th</sup> c. Modern architecture, H. P. Berlage, the Amsterdam Exchange (1897-103) & Michel De Klerk, Eigen Haard (public housing) 1913-19; Late 20<sup>th</sup> c. architecture, Neu Metropolis (NEMO Science & Technology by Renzo Piano).

**Paris** – A major city since Roman times the present. Remember that key monuments, such as Notre Dame Cathedral, Versailles, the Louvre, Invalides, the Arc d’Triomphe, and the Eiffel Tower represent power as well as culture. The former home of French kings, the *Louvre* opened to the public in 1793 after the French Revolution. In the 1980s French President Francois Mitterand promoted Paris’s cultural hegemony with 9 “Les Grand Projects,” including the Louvre glass pyramid (I. M. Pei, 1989) and the *Musee d’Orsay* (train station to museum of French art 1848-1914, good Impressionism).

**Florence**—The Cradle of the Renaissance, Florence has works by Donatello, Masaccio, Michelangelo, and many others in churches and museums across the city. Since the Academia (Michelangelo’s David) and the Uffizi are closed when we are in Florence we will can visit Masaccio’s Brancacci Chapel frescos or the Palazzo Pitti/Boboli Gardens.

**Rome**- Roman remains, from the Colosseum to the Forum and Pantheon, and Catholic Baroque grandeur, including St. Peter’s Basilica, the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, to fabulous fountains at the Piazza Navona and Trevi.

**Venice**-Byzantine splendor in the Basilica of San Marco, late Gothic in the Doge’s Palace, and High Renaissance Venetian artists such as Giorgione, Titian, Tintoretto, Veronese in churches such as the Church of the Frari and San Giorgio, Maggiore (Andrea Palladio), and museums such as the Accademia. Early 20<sup>th</sup> c. art is the focus of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, next door to Wake’s Casa Artom.

**Prague**-Besides numerous historical castles, churches, bridges, squares, and cemeteries, Prague is a good city to experience Art Nouveau, with the Alphonse Mucha Museum, and contemporary architecture, with Frank Gehry’s “Dancing Building” (1992-94).

**Berlin**- The city is the site of explosive new building after the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989) including the Reichstag (Norman Foster), the development of Potsdamer Platz, and the Jewish Museum, which is Daniel Libeskind’s “deconstructed Star of David.” Museum Island has the Pergamonmuseum and the Altesmuseum.

**London**-As a world-class city, London has the British Museum, the world’s oldest, with the controversial Parthenon marbles; the National Gallery of Art; the Tate (English art) and the Tate Modern; the Courtauld Gallery (French Impressionism); and the Victoria and Albert Museum plus spectacular churches such as the gothic Westminster Abbey, and Baroque St. Paul’s cathedral (Sir Christopher Wren).

### Art/Architecture/Period > City

Here are major periods of art organized by the city where you can see major examples. Chapter organization/page numbers are from GATTA:ACH.

The link to the WFU resource webpage on western art might be helpful: <http://zsr.wfu.edu/research/guides/arts/westernart.html>

You should explore Web sites on your own that complement this course: as an example, Mother of All Art History Links Pages; Art History Resources on the Web

For "virtual" museums: Webmuseum Paris, Vatican Museums-Christus Rex; Museums Around the World

- 1-Mesopotamia (Iran/Iraq) (22-30) London (*British Museum*), Berlin (*Pergamon*), Paris (*Louvre*)
- 1-Egypt (31-45): Berlin (*Egyptian Museum*)
- 2-Greek & Hellenistic Art (56-87): Rome (*Vatican*), Paris (*Louvre*), Berlin (*Pergamon*)
- 3-Roman Art (88-120) City of Rome! (*Vatican*)
- 4-5-Early Christian, Byzantium, & the Islamic World (122-55) Rome, Venice, London (*V&A Museum*)
- 6-Early Medieval and Romanesque Europe (156-83) London (*British Museum*)
- 7-Gothic France & England (184-203) Paris (*Louvre*) & London (*British Museum*)
- 7-Gothic Europe: Italy (203-213) Florence (*the city, Uffizi*)
- 8-15<sup>th</sup> Century Europe: Renaissance Italy (227-47) Florence (*the city, Uffizi, Bargello*)
- 9-16<sup>th</sup> Century Europe High Renaissance (248-83) Paris (*Louvre*), Rome (*Vatican*), Venice (*the city and Accademia*), Florence (*Uffizi*), London (*National Gallery*)
- 10-Baroque Italy & Spain Europe (284-298) Rome (*St Peters & city*), Florence (*Uffizi*), Paris (*Louvre*)
- 10-Baroque Flanders, Holland, France & England (298-315) Amsterdam (*Rijksmuseum*), Paris (*Louvre*), Versailles, London
- 11-Europe and America 1750-1850 (317-43) Paris (*Louvre*), London (*Wallace Collection, National Gallery*),
- 12- Europe and America 1850-1900 (344-68) Paris (*Louvre, Musée d'Orsay*), London (*Tate*)
- 13- Europe and America 1900-1945 (369-403) Mostly in American collections!
- 14-Europe and America Art/Architecture After WWII (404-32) Mostly in America! Paris Contemporary Trends in Architecture: Paris, Berlin, London, Prague, Copenhagen (Malmo)
- New Museums: London, Paris, Berlin