DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY & ART CONSERVATION

ARTH 345 / 3.0
Italian Art of the High Renaissance

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Una D’Elia
TIME: TBA
LOCATION: TBA
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CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: The sources of High Renaissance art will be examined and special attention will be given to the works of Leonardo, Raphael and Michelangelo, up to about 1520.

Prerequisites: Level 3 or above.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
What we call the “High Renaissance” was a radically new style of painting, sculpture, and architecture that was intimately tied to lavish court of Rome and to the politics and personalities of the papacy at the turn of the sixteenth century. This course will examine the rise of Rome of a cultural centre by beginning with the fifteenth-century popes, their patronage of humanists and artists, their increasingly lavish focus on spectacle, and the scandals (including sexual scandals) that arose from the secular pageantry and private behaviour of the popes and cardinals. We will then focus on the brilliant courts of the notoriously bellicose Pope Julius II and the pleasure-loving Pope Leo X, who were as much the creators of the Renaissance as Michelangelo, Bramante, Raphael, and the other the artists they patronized. This cultural moment of extraordinary latitude in the mixing of pagan and Christian imagery was brief, soon to be crushed by the austere papacy of Pope Hadrian VI, the brutal Sack of Rome, and the new atmosphere brought by the Protestant Reformation. By reading both those who lauded this time as an apogee of greatness and such critics as Erasmus and Luther, we will explore how the High Renaissance, though brief and inextricably connected to the politics and personalities of this particular moment, formed the conventions that governed Western art for centuries.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
A detailed list of readings and requirements will be available at the first class. The class will be part lecture, part discussion. The requirements will include tests and written assignments.