

**DEPARTMENT OF
ART HISTORY &
ART CONSERVATION**

Fall Term 2023

ARTH 352 / 3.0

**Printmaking in
Early Modern Europe**



Abraham Bosse, *Printmakers at Work*, etching, 1643

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

A chronological survey of the history of printmaking in Western Europe from its beginnings in the 15th century to the Industrial Revolution. Topics include the cultural impact of the reproducible image, the development of woodcut, engraving, etching and lithography, and the achievements of printmakers such as Dürer, Goltzius, Callot, Rembrandt, Hogarth and Goya.

Prerequisites: Level 3 or above. ARTH 120 and ARTH 253 recommended.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Painting, sculpture, and architecture form the core of most courses on European art history. Yet, while these arts were flourishing among elite consumers in Renaissance Europe, a revolution was underway that would transform the role of art in society, as the invention of printmaking made visual images available to a broader public than ever before. From the late 1400s onward, printed images, together with printed books, contributed to significant advances in religion, politics, science, and commerce. Printmaking became a fine art in its own right, practiced as an adjunct to painting or as a full-time professional specialty.

This course offers an alternative history of visual culture in early modern Europe with a focus on the development and consequences of printmaking. Emphasis is given to the sociocultural impact of the printed image, the diverse technologies of printmaking, and the achievements of gifted printmakers such as Albrecht Dürer, Rembrandt van Rijn, and Francisco Goya.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A detailed syllabus will be posted the first week of class. Requirements will include class attendance, readings, discussion forums, tests, and writing assignments. Most resources will be posted on OnQ or available electronically through Stauffer Library. Activities will include first-hand study of prints in the collection of the Agnes Etherington Art Centre.