CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: An examination of selected topics in 15th-century Italian painting.

Prerequisites: Level of 3 or above

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course focuses on Italian painting of the 1400’s, a period that witnessed the birth of new media and techniques in art, shifting interests towards new naturalism and the revival of antiquity, and an unprecedented elevation in the status of the artist. A thematic approach to the study of painting in this period will be applied in order to equip students with a sense of the dominant concerns that defined the early Renaissance – the religious, political, cultural, intellectual contexts out of which these works emerged. We will also consider the ways in which the work of Quattrocento painters formed a prelude to the achievements of the High Renaissance successors. Students who have completed ARTH 214 can expect to deepen their knowledge of art of this period, as we move away from a basic chronological survey of the major figures towards a more critical examination of typologies, as well as a consideration of issues related to gender, cultural exchange, artistic rivalry and the emergence of humanist theories of painting.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
A detailed list of readings and requirements will be available during the first class. The course will consist primarily of lectures by the instructor, although there will be opportunities for class discussion.