

ONLINE COURSE SPRING 2019

HA 394 Special Study in Renaissance Art: PRINTMAKING IN EUROPE



This course explores the extent to which printmaking revolutionized the dissemination of knowledge in Renaissance Europe. Until the advent of photography in the nineteenth century, prints were one of the few forms of reproductive visual media known to western civilization. By examining early printed books and images, students will be given the opportunity to rethink the mechanical replication of visual imagery as both a means of cultural transmission and artistic achievement. Students will investigate how different artists and authors utilized prints for the expression of personal identity, religious practice, scientific advancement, and political propaganda. Prints were often produced to create consensus or exploit social division in early modern communities. In order to assess these functions, this course will also examine the beholder's participation in the generation of a print's meaning(s) within specific contexts of use.