COURSE DETAIL

LOVE AND SEXUALITY IN EARLY MODERN ITALY
Country Italy
Host Institution UC Center, Rome
Program(s) Art, Food and Society
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Women’s & Gender Studies Italian Art History
UCEAP Course Number 108
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title LOVE AND SEXUALITY IN EARLY MODERN ITALY
UCEAP Transcript Title LOVE&SEXUALITY ITAL
UCEAP Quarter Units 5.00
UCEAP Semester Units 3.30

Course Description

This course explores love and sexuality in Italian culture from circa 1350 to 1650. From the verses of Petrarch, to the writings of Ficino, Leone Ebreo, Aretino, and poems by Marino, love and sexuality were theorized and represented in the treatises, poetry, paintings, and sculptures of this period. Mainly on-site in the churches, palaces, and museums of Rome, this course considers the poetic, social, and visual aspects of the topic in an interdisciplinary study that examines both word and image. The course begins with Michelangelo's SISTINE CEILING and its reflection on the fall of Adam and Eve with their subsequent awareness of their sexuality. Following Leo Steinberg's theory about the sexuality of Christ, students explore the theology of nudity in Christian art as well as the “amor dei” (love for God) or mystic marriage through Baroque sculptures such as Bernini's SAINTS IN ECSTASY. The second part of the course focuses on the more secular, sensuous, and even lascivious aspects by considering the revival of ancient classical culture. Central to this evolution is the METAMORPHOSES by Ovid and the themes deriving from the many commentaries on it such as, unrequited love through Bernini's APOLLO AND DAPHNE, rape though Bernini's ABDUCTION OF PERSEPHONE, and love for the self through Caravaggio's NARCISSUS. The course concludes with exploring socio-historical, gendered topics such as marriage, courtesans, male virility, female chastity, homosexuality, androgyny, and hermaphroditism through a variety of art objects.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

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https://uceap.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/DocumentLibrary/ETfgbxLThIRCoNh7kOfvDJsBF9Xx...

Host Institution Campus
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Accent
Course Last Reviewed 2024-2025

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