History of Art Criticism

## Prof. Cristina Fumarco

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to introduce students to the knowledge of the critical judgment of art from the Middle Ages to the 18th century.

At the end of the course, students will be able to recognise the main features of the historical artistic thought of the different periods, in relation to the culture, the society, and the religion of that time.

***COURSE CONTENT***

*History of art criticism in Italy from the Middle Ages to the 18th century.*

The course will be mainly focused on the following topics and authors: the Medieval aesthetics between the Cluniacs and the Cistercians; Petrarch and the Humanists of the beginning of the 15th century, and the concept of art; Ghiberti; Leon Battista Alberti; the art-related writings by Leonardo and Piero della Francesca; Giorgio Vasari; the theories of Mannerism and the Counter-Reformation; the debate between Classicism and Naturalism in the authors of the 17th century; Winckelmann and Neoclassicism.

***READING LIST***

*- Coursepack* (volume *La critica d'arte dal Medioevo al Settecento*), available at the UCSC Reprographic Service, containing anthological passages and selected parts of various texts to be studied for the exam.

- J. Schlosser Magnino, *la letteratura artistica,* La Nuova Italia, Florence, reprint 2006 (only the parts focused on the topics examined in class).

- D. Levi, *Il discorso sull’arte. Dalla tarda antichità a Ghiberti,* Saggi Bruno Mondadori, Milan-Turin 2010 (only the parts focused on the topics examined in class).

- For non-attending students, also: U. Kultermann, *La storia della storia dell'arte,* Neri Pozza, Vicenza, 1997.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures based on the reading of texts and the analysis of images related to the artistic periods considered in class.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam in which students must demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of key concepts related to the authors and periods in question.

Students will be assessed on: relevance of answers, appropriate use of specific terminology, ability to structure reasoned and coherent argumentation and ability to identify conceptual links.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course will explore the critical thought of art from the Middle Ages to the 18th century. For this reason, before enrolling in the History of Art Criticism course, they are invited to attend the previous courses covering the historical period mentioned above.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.