

Arts & Humanities

Example 10 hr bespoke programme for a pre-degree student

Module 1: Theory and practice in art history

- ▶ Artistic taste: What is ‘good’ art?
- ▶ The relationship between art and politics: What can we learn about past societies from art?
- ▶ The messages of art: How should we interpret them, if at all?

Pre-tutorial preparation—independent learning to help you get ahead

1. Choose a painting, drawing or sculpture that you find interesting. Describe the historical context of this work of art. This might include the artist’s biography, the subject matter of the work, or other information that can shed some light on the painting’s meaning.
2. Read extracts from: Heinrich Wölfflin, *Principles of Art History*; Erwin Panofsky, *Studies in Iconology*; T. J. Clark, *Image of the People*; John Berger, *Ways of Seeing*

Formal submission—your tutor will give written feedback on each submission

Essay question: “Examine the impact of Erwin Panofsky’s theory of Iconology on the modern practice of Art History.”

Module 2: The Italian Renaissance

- ▶ What made the Renaissance unique?
- ▶ The relationship between artist and patron: focus on the Medicis in Florence
- ▶ Humanist principles, religion and women

Pre-tutorial preparation

1. Briefly familiarise yourself with: Giotto, Masaccio, Botticelli, da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael
2. Read extracts from: Jacob Burkhardt, *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy*; Campbell and Cole, *A New History of Italian Renaissance Art*; Christopher Hibbert, *The House of Medici: Its Rise and Fall*

Formal submission

Essay question: “Using at least two examples, explain how the perceived role of the artist changed during the Renaissance”

Module 3: Expressionism

- ▶ The development of expressionism in the early twentieth century
- ▶ Expressionism and politics
- ▶ Representing ideas: feelings, emotions and ideas in art

Pre-tutorial preparation

1. Briefly familiarise yourself with: Schiele, Kokoschka, Marc, Nolde, Munch, Kandinsky
2. Read extracts from: Donald E. Gordon, *Expressionism: Art and Idea*; Ida Katherine Rigby, *Expressionism and the Third Reich*

Formal submission

Essay question: “Why did the Nazis call Expressionism ‘Degenerate’?”

Example topics only. Exact content will depend on the expertise of the individual tutor and will be tailored to the prior knowledge, ability and interests of the student.