

DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY & ART CONSERVATION



ARTH370: ARCHITECTURE OF THE BAROQUE PERIOD

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

The Baroque era (c.1580–c.1800)—a time of social and religious crisis—is characterized by some the most gargantuan, lavishly-decorated buildings in the Western canon. This course will look at how Baroque architects attempted to create a sense of sublimity and authority or a sense of escape by combining painting, sculpture and architecture.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Architecture of the Baroque Period is dedicated to the built environment of early Modern Europe, Latin America, and Colonial Asia between ca. 1560 to ca. 1800. It will consider the transition from the Late Renaissance to a style more concerned with its emotional impact on the viewer in the wake of the Reformation and a resurgent Catholic church as well as the rise of Absolutism (divine right to rule) in France, Spain, and elsewhere. It will then look at the transition to the Rococo, a style born in the Parisian townhouse that was more concerned with comfort, liveability, and sociability but which also became one of the most widespread styles of décor in religious structures. The course will look at urbanism (city design, fountains, bridges) and the ways buildings fit into their environment, as well as interiors, which the Baroque turned into multi-media experiences designed to direct the visitor toward either a mystical experience (in churches) or one which emphasized power and glory (as in palaces). The course will also consider garden architecture, the impact of theatre on architecture, as well as ephemera (temporary structures usually built for feast days or triumphal entries into cities).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A detailed list of readings and requirements will be available during the first class. The assignments will include five mini-essays and a term paper.