

## CLA 6930 ANCIENT SCULPTURE METHODS

Spring 2023

Tuesdays 7:00-9:30 p.m. EST in Zoom (see 'Zoom Conferences' in Canvas)

Instructor: Dr. Velvet L. Yates

Email: vyates@ufl.edu (or Canvas mail)

Office Hours by appointment

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### COURSE OBJECTIVE

To gain an authentic understanding of the process of creating an ancient Greek or Roman marble sculpture, and explore the implications of this understanding for art history, ancient literature, and ancient Greek politics and society.

### TEXTBOOKS

There are no required textbooks for this class. Some of the books used should be freely available online (Condivi, Alberti, Lanteri); other sources will be provided via pdf.

### TECHNOLOGY

A headset microphone is recommended for this class. Students using their device's built-in microphone may cause feedback and distortion for others in the class.

Technical difficulties: See the E-Learning help page (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>) or contact the UF Help Desk ([helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)).

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### POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

1. Please give the class your full attention for the full meeting. Let me know ahead of time if you have a scheduling conflict for a particular class, and we can accommodate you (and not deduct from the attendance grade). If you do need to leave the class for a short period to attend to something (like a small child), that's fine - just let me know (by e.g. a private message in Zoom).
2. The course grade will be based on four projects, including a final project; a blog; and weekly class discussions. Weekly attendance and participation will be especially important for this class.
3. On all work submitted for credit, the following pledge is implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."
4. Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

5. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).

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**CAMPUS RESOURCES** (some of these won't apply if you're outside Gainesville)  
Health and Wellness:

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

*Counseling and Wellness Center:* [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

*Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

*University Police Department:* [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

*UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

Academic Resources:

*E-learning technical support:* Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

*Career Connections Center:* Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

[Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

[Teaching Center](#): Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

[Writing Studio](#): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

*Student Complaints On-Campus*: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

*On-Line Students Complaints*: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#)

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**Course content:**

The course will be roughly divided into 4-week sections, each with a different focus (see the Schedule below for details). There will be weekly reading assignments and responses, in a blog format (as being more conducive to including links and images). There will be an Assignment for each section (except the last one), along with a Final Project (see Grading below for details).

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**GRADING** See <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> on grading policies.

25% Attendance and participation (including weekly blog post).

45% 3 Section Assignments at 15% each

Section 1 Assignment: pick a description of Michelangelo's sculpting method or of one of his works and 'correct' it, in light of what you've learned in this section. This should be a short, informal essay no longer than 5 pages; it can take the form of a blog post.

Section 2 Assignment: pick a description of an ancient statue or a description of how ancient statues were made, and enhance it with a proper appreciation of the sculptural process. (For example: what assumptions are involved in referring to "the sculptor" of a work, and how can you correct them?)

This should be a short, informal essay no longer than 5 pages; it can take the form of a blog post.

Section 3 Assignment: pick a description of an ancient statue or a description of how ancient statues were made, and enhance it with a proper appreciation of who was doing what manual work and where. (For example: who is wielding the tools Adams describes? How much carving was done at the quarry?) This should be a short, informal essay no longer than 5 pages; it can take the form of a blog post.

10% Final Project rough draft and meeting

20% Final Project: This can take the form of a research paper investigating one of the topics covered in class in more detail, or the form of a creative project, e.g. making a clay model and then a plaster cast of it; using calipers; carving marble; painting marble; documenting a tour of a nearby marble quarry. Research papers should be about 8-10 pages long; creative projects should be proposed well in advance of the Final Project deadline, so I can provide guidance.

#### Grading Scale

A	100-93
A-	90-92
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	80-82
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	70-72
D	69-67
D	66-63
D-	60-62
E	59 or lower

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#### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Section 1, weeks 1-4: Michelangelo's shadow

Section 2, weeks 5-8: the three-caliper method

Section 3, weeks 9-12: the manual labor: quarrying and carving

Section 4, weeks 13-16: impact on literature and politics (Pliny the Younger, the Socratic Circle)

#### Section 1: Michelangelo's shadow

Readings for this section will come from Condivi, Vasari, Alberti (all in translation), and assorted online and popular culture sources. Details will be given at least a couple of weeks before the readings are scheduled for class discussion.

Week 1 1/10 Introduction and syllabus

Week 2 1/17

Week 3 1/24

Week 4 1/31

**SECTION 1 ASSIGNMENT DUE FEB. 6**

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Section 2: the 3-caliper method

Readings for this section will come from Palagia (2003 and 2006), and standard sources on Greek sculpture methods (Adam, Casson, Etienne), as well as standard handbooks on Greek and Roman art history (e.g. Stewart, Fullerton). Details will be given at least a couple of weeks before the readings are scheduled for class discussion.

Week 5 2/7

Week 6 2/14

Week 7 2/21

Week 8 2/28

**SECTION 1 ASSIGNMENT DUE MARCH 6**

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Section 3: Manual labor - quarrying and carving

Readings and viewing materials for this section will come from 'The Art of Making' website, and videos of quarries and sculpture workshops (e.g., the Galleria Frilli site). Details will be given at least a couple of weeks before the readings are scheduled for class discussion.

Week 9 3/7

Week 10 3/14      **no class SPRING BREAK**

Week 11 3/21

Week 12 3/28

### SECTION 3 ASSIGNMENT DUE APRIL 3

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#### Section 4, impact on literature and politics (Pliny the Younger, the Socratic Circle)

Readings for this section will come from Pliny the Younger, Plato, Xenophon, and Aristotle (all in English translation, but students are welcome to read the originals), and relevant secondary literature. The reading from Pliny will focus on his remarks about stone, and about bronze vs. marble sculptors. The readings from the Socratic Circle will focus on remarks about craftsmen, and their arguments that manual labor deforms craftsmen physically and mentally, rendering them unfit for political participation, especially in the Athenian democracy with which they were closely associated.

Details will be given at least a couple of weeks before the readings are scheduled for class discussion.

Week 13

Week 14 4/11 (rough draft meetings; details TBD)

Week 15 4/18

**FINAL PROJECT DUE: TUES. 4/25**