Course Title: The Genius of Leonardo da Vinci: A 500th Anniversary Celebration  
Course Code: CLS 88  
Instructor: Paula Findlen, Christy Junkerman

Course Summary:

Leonardo da Vinci, who died on May 2, 1519, observed the world around him—“all the manifest works of nature,” as he put it--with boundless curiosity and inexhaustible patience. In a few famous paintings and in thousands of pages of notes and drawings, he left a body of work of stunning range. His effort was not just to look at the natural world as a painter might, but also to seek to understand how nature worked, what caused things to be the way they were. His interests were seemingly unlimited. He studied anatomy, the growth of plants, hydraulics, geology, mathematics, mechanics, the flight of birds. He designed architecture and machines, weapons of war, played music and made maps. He redefined painting and drawing as a science and strove to make them capable of communicating what he had learned.

This course commemorating Leonardo and the 500th anniversary of his death brings together a group of scholars from several disciplines—history, music, art history and the history of science—to address the work of a great and endlessly fascinating mind.

Grade Options and Requirements:

• No Grade Requested (NGR)  
  o This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.

• Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)  
  o Students must attend 6 out of 8 class sessions.

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose the Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.
The Genius of Leonardo da Vinci: A 500th Anniversary Celebration

Reading

The following books have been chosen as textbooks for this course.

(ISBN 9780199299027)

(ISBN 9780199583355)  
Specific pages will be announced on the course syllabus.

There may be some additional reading for lectures that will be available on Canvas.

Course Schedule

April 16  Emanuele Lugli, "Leonardo's Training in Florence"

April 23  Christy Junkerman, “Leonardo and the Challenge of the Portrait”

April 30  Fabio Barry, “Domes and Ball-Bearings: Leonardo and the Ideal Church”

May 7  Federica Favino, “‘Homo sanza numeri:’ Leonardo and the World of Renaissance Mathematics”

May 14  Paolo Galluzzi, "The Signs of Time: Leonardo da Vinci's History of the Earth and the Fate of Man"

May 21  Paula Findlen, “Bodies and Machines: Leonardo's Anatomy and Engineering”


Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions  
365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305  
continuingstudies@stanford.edu  
650-725-2650