

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)
 - 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)
 - 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.*

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Reading

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

Leonardo da Vinci, *Notebooks* (Oxford University Press, 2008)
(ISBN 9780199299027)

Martin Kemp, *Leonardo* (Oxford University Press, Revised Edition, 2008)
(ISBN 9780199583355)

Course Schedule

Specific chapters and pages are assigned below as they relate to the topics of the lectures. However, you may prefer to read the Kemp book straight through. Readings marked with (C) will be made available through the Canvas website.

- April 16 Emanuele Lugli, "Leonardo's Training in Florence"
 Kemp: Chapter 1, "A Strange Career"
 Notebooks: 269-74
- April 23 Christy Junkerman, "Leonardo and the Challenge of the Portrait"
 Kemp: Chapter 5, "Telling Tales" and Chapter 6, "Lisa's
 Room"
 Notebooks: 102-196 (read around in these pages for a sense of
 Leonardo's writing about art)
- April 30 Fabio Barry, "Domes and Ball-Bearings: Leonardo and the Ideal
 Church"
 Notebooks: 196-204
 James Ackerman, "Leonardo da Vinci's Church Designs,"
 Origins, Imitation, Conventions, MIT Press, 2002, 67-93. (C)
- May 7 Federica Favino, "*Homo sanza numeri*: Leonardo and the World of
 Renaissance Mathematics"
 Kemp: Chapter 2, "Looking"
 Notebooks: 8-10 and 105-121

Monica Azzolini, “Anatomy of a Dispute: Leonardo, Pacioli and Scientific Courtly Entertainment in Renaissance Milan,” *Early Science and Medicine*, Vol. 9, No. 2 (2004): 115-135. (C)

May 14 Paolo Galluzzi, "The Signs of Time: Leonardo da Vinci's History of the Earth and the Fate of Man"
Kemp: Chapter 4, “The Living Earth”
Notebooks, 14-36
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/21/world/europe/leonardo-galileo-paolo-galluzzi.html>

May 21 Paula Findlen, “Bodies and Machines: Leonardo's Anatomy and Engineering”
Kemp, Chapter 3, “Body and Machine”
Notebooks, 75-82 and 137-60

May 28 Jesse Rodin, “Science of Music in the Age of Leonardo”
Notebooks: 137–43, 184-194
Emmanuel Winternitz, “Strange Musical Instruments in the Madrid Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci,” *Metropolitan Museum Journal*, vol. 2, 1969, pp. 115–126 (C)

June 4 Jonathan Berger, “Leonardo and Perception”
Notebooks: 47-50 and 263-267
April 6, 2019 premier of Jonathan Berger’s chamber opera, *Leonardo*: <https://www.92y.org/event/jonathan-berger>
April 7 symposium on *The Soul of Leonardo da Vinci*:
<https://www.92y.org/event/the-soul-of-leonardo-da-vinci>

Suggested Further Reading (from a very large set of possibilities!):

Bambach, Carmen, *Leonardo da Vinci, Master Draftsman* (catalogue of the exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum, New York), Yale University Press, 2003.

Brown, David Alan, *Leonardo da Vinci: Origins of a Genius*, Yale University Press, 1998.

Clayton, Martin, *Leonardo da Vinci: The Mechanics of Man*, London: Royal Collection Enterprises, 2010.

-----, *Leonardo da Vinci: The Divine and Grotesque*, London: Royal Collection, 2002.

-----, *Leonardo da Vinci: A Singular Vision*, Abbeville Press, 1996.

Evans, Robin, “Perturbed Circles,” *The Projective Cast*, MIT Press, 1995, 3-47.

Feinberg, Larry, *The Young Leonardo*, Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Findlen, Paula, *Leonardo’s Library: The World of a Renaissance Reader*, Stanford University Libraries, 2019.

Galluzzi, Paolo, *Leonardo da Vinci: Engineer and Architect*, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, 1987.

-----, *Renaissance Engineers: From Brunelleschi to Leonardo da Vinci*, Giunti, 2001.

Gould, Stephen Jay, “The Upwardly Mobile Fossils of Leonardo’s Living Earth,” in *Leonardo’s Mountain of Clams and the Diet of Worms: Essays on Natural History*, Harmony, 1998, 17-44.

Kemp, Martin, *Leonardo da Vinci: The Marvelous Works of Nature and Man*, Oxford University Press, 2007.

Lester, Toby. *Da Vinci’s Ghost: The Untold Story of the World’s Most Famous Drawing*, Profile Books, 2011.

Moffatt, Constance J., and Sara Tagliagambara, eds. *Illuminating Leonardo: A Festschrift for Carlo Pedretti Celebrating His 70 Years of Scholarship (1944-2014)*, Brill, 2015.

Nicholl, Charles, *Leonardo da Vinci: Flights of the Mind*, Viking Penguin, 2004.

Pedretti, Carlo, *Leonardo Da Vinci: The Royal Palace at Romorantin*, Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1972.

-----, *Leonardo Architect*, Rizzoli, 1985.

Syson, Luke, *Leonardo da Vinci: Painter at the Court of Milan* (catalogue of the Exhibition at the National Gallery, London), Yale University Press,

Turner, A. Richard, *Inventing Leonardo*, University of California Press, 1994.

Wittkower, Rudolf, “The Centrally Planned Church in the Renaissance,
Architectural Principles in the Age of Humanism, 5th Edition, Academy Editions,
1998.

Zöllner, Frank, *Leonardo da Vinci, 1452-1519*, Taschen, 2005.

Zwijnenberg, Robert, *The Writings and Drawings of Leonardo da Vinci: Order
and Chaos in Early Modern Thought*, Cambridge University Press, 1999.