This course presents an in-depth study of Italian Renaissance Art through the direct analysis of the major architecture, sculpture and painting artworks from XIV to XVI century displayed in the Florentine museums and churches. It's first objective is to provide the students with the capability to identify the most important artworks from the major Florentine collections. Those artworks will not only be viewed with respect to their stylistic characteristics but also in relation to their social religious, historical and political context. The course’s second objective is therefore to lead the students to read the artwork's connections with the subject, the artist's will and the commissioner's urgencies.

The methodology for the course will include lectures by the instructor and class discussion based on the topics presented and readings completed by the student at home. Studying in Italy means that students will have the opportunity to view the works of art discussed directly and for this reason we will take advantage of the fact that we are in Florence and participate in numerous visits to museums, churches and other important sites. The class will begin with lectures in English, slowly evolving into Italian after the mid-term exam.