



UCD School of Art History & Cultural Policy

Diploma in the History of European Painting

&

Purser-Griffith Lectures

2024/26 Information

2024/26 is the FIRST year of a two-year Diploma cycle

The *Diploma in the History of European Painting* (Z187) is delivered in conjunction with the *Purser-Griffith Lectures* (Z188). This part-time evening course explores the history of European painting from late Antiquity to the turn of the 20th century. No previous experience in the study of art history is necessary to apply.

This course traces its origins to 1934 and an historic endowment made by the artist Sarah Purser (1848-1943) and her cousin Sir John Griffith (1848-1938) to encourage the study of history of art in Ireland. In recognition of this endowment the *Purser-Griffith Medals* are awarded to the diploma student who takes first place with distinction, and to the diploma student who takes second place.

This course can be taken either for Credit (Z187) *Diploma in the History of European Painting* or Audit (Z188) *Purser-Griffith Lectures*. The *Diploma in the History of European Painting* runs on a two-year cycle and involves continuous assessments in pursuit of the qualification. Audit students attend the *Purser-Griffith Lectures* purely for interest and do not undertake any form of assessment. Lectures take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays evenings. Students registered for the *Diploma* attend an additional weekly tutorial, a small-class adjunct to the lectures. From 2024 the *Diploma* is one of UCD's University Access Courses for admission to 1st Arts (DN520) and 1st Humanities (DN530).

The Tuesday lectures provide a sweeping historical survey of the major artistic developments and styles and artists in European painting. These lectures are partnered with thematic Wednesday lectures exploring such topics as pictorial language, iconography, the techniques of works of art, as well as such subjects as 'The rise of the artist: status, training and practice', 'Women and the art world' and 'The 19th century and the modern'. Schedule and circumstances permitting, we endeavour to have at least two Gallery visits each year. Subject to student numbers and interest we would hope to organise an optional study trip to Florence during March 2025.

Teaching Term Dates 2024/25

Autumn 2024 Trimester: Monday, 19 September – Friday, 29 November

Spring 2025 Trimester: Monday, 20 January – Friday, 7 March & Monday, 24 March – Friday, 25 April

A full lecture schedule & reading list will be circulated to diploma and audit students before teaching commences.

Lectures [diploma & audit students]

TUESDAYS: 7:00pm – 8:30pm

In **YEAR ONE** the course covers the period from late Roman antiquity through to Renaissance art of the early 16th century. The first twelve lectures examine the art of late Antiquity, the early Christian period & the Byzantine Empire through to the stained glass, illuminated manuscripts and great fresco schemes of the Middle Ages, concluding with artists such as Giotto, Duccio and the Limbourg brothers and the early stirrings of the Renaissance. The second set of twelve lectures explores 15th- and early 16th-century European painting, and the concept of the Renaissance as a period of revival and transformation in Western culture. The work of the van Eyck, Memling, Fouquet, Masaccio, Botticelli, Leonardo, Michelangelo, the Bellini & Titian among others will be discussed in the context of the Renaissance. Developments in society with respect to individual and civic identity, and related changes in artistic practice, status and patronage will also be considered.

WEDNESDAYS: 7:00pm – 8:30pm

The chronological examination of key artistic developments and styles on Tuesdays is partnered in **YEAR ONE** with an exploration of pictorial language, subject matter and meaning, and the different techniques involved in the production of a painting. The first twelve lectures aim to extend the understanding of European art through an introduction to the formal and critical analysis of a painting. In addition, the question of subject matter and meaning is introduced with a particular focus on the language of attributes, signs and symbols. The second set of twelve lectures considers the fundamental techniques and working methods involved in the production of a work of art. Focussing on painting, though also considering sculpture and printmaking, the series will explore a variety of media used by artists including fresco, tempera, oil, watercolour and pastel.

YEAR TWO (2025/26) lectures will examine developments in European painting from the 16th century onwards, to the principal developments and artists of the Baroque, the Rococo, the Age of Reason, Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Realism, Impressionism and Post-Impressionism. The Tuesday lectures provide the fundamental chronological survey and this survey is enriched with a thematic series of lectures on Wednesdays covering such topics as, 'Collecting and Patronage: princes & prestige', 'The portrait: likeness, the ideal, image and posterity', 'Women and the art world', 'Great Masters of the Baroque' and 'The 19th century and the modern'.

Tutorials [diploma students only]

TUESDAYS [or WEDNESDAYS, depending on numbers]: 5:30pm – 6:30pm

The tutorials are an additional weekly class taken by the diploma students and they serve as a small-class adjunct to the lecture modules. The tutorials concentrate on material related to that covered in the lectures. It is intended that they reinforce and expand upon lecture topics in order to facilitate a deeper understanding of the history of European painting. Student participation and class discussion is very much a feature of the tutorials.

Assessment [diploma students only]

Diploma students are examined on the basis on continual assessment throughout the two-year cycle. The forms of assessment are varied and can incorporate the following:

- Slide tests – these visual tests are intended to test and develop the visual memory, acuity and analytical skills.
- Take-home tests – these typically comprise a series of short factual questions based on the lecture material and are designed to reinforce art historical factual accuracy.
- Written assignments – the topics will relate to material covered in lectures, and to artworks in the National Gallery of Ireland and Dublin City Gallery – the Hugh Lane.

Students will be advised at the start of each year of the specific requirements and deadlines for the assessments. Guidance regarding the assessments, for example how to approach an essay or a slide test, will be given in the course of the tutorial classes. In addition, students will receive feedback on their graded assessments regularly during the course of the two-year cycle.

APPLICATIONS [diploma & audit students]

ONLINE: please see <http://www.ucd.ie/arthistory/study/diplomapurser-griffithlectures/>

Application queries:

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Course queries:

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