

Modern World History Summer Assignments

Directions: Below are several assignments for you to complete before the first day of school in September. Please make a copy of this GoogleDoc and email your completed assignment to me. If you have any questions as you work on this assignment, you are welcome to email me - anneke.lujan@lca.edu.

Textbooks pages listed are from Holt McDougal's *World History: Patterns of Interaction* (2012).

I look forward to seeing you in September!

Ms. Lujan

Assignment 1 - Italy: The Birthplace of the Renaissance

Directions: Read pages 471-477 of your textbook. Use this reading to answer the questions below.

1. Why did the Renaissance happen in Italy?
2. In what ways did the importance of the individual grow during the Renaissance?
3. What is humanism? Why did it develop?
4. What does the word "secular" mean? To what extent was the Renaissance a secular era?
5. How was religious art in the Renaissance different from religious art in the medieval era?
6. What is "perspective" in painting?

7. What was the attitude of Church leaders and the wealthy toward the arts? Why?
8. How did study of the classics influence branches of learning such as history, literature, and philosophy?

Assignment 2 - The Northern Renaissance

Directions: Read pages 480-485 of your textbook. Use this reading to answer the questions below.

1. Describe the Christian humanist movement. What were its goals?
2. Discuss the origins of the printing press. What inventions preceded the printing press? Where did they come from?
3. Why was the invention of the printing press so important?
4. Why would an emphasis on the individual lead to the development of democratic ideals?

Assignment 3 - Renaissance Artwork and Themes

Much Renaissance artwork is seen as depicting the themes of **humanism**, **secularism**, **individualism**, and **naturalism**. These themes are not just important to understanding art, but are also indicative of broader historical trends over the last 600 years. These themes don't just shape art, but our modern world.

1. Humanism.

You read about humanism in your textbook. Humanism emphasizes returning to the classical works of Greece and Rome. The painting below is entitled *The School of Athens* by Raphael. Research the painting. How does it demonstrate the theme of humanism? Explain your answer in 3-4 complete sentences.



View the medieval and Renaissance paintings below.

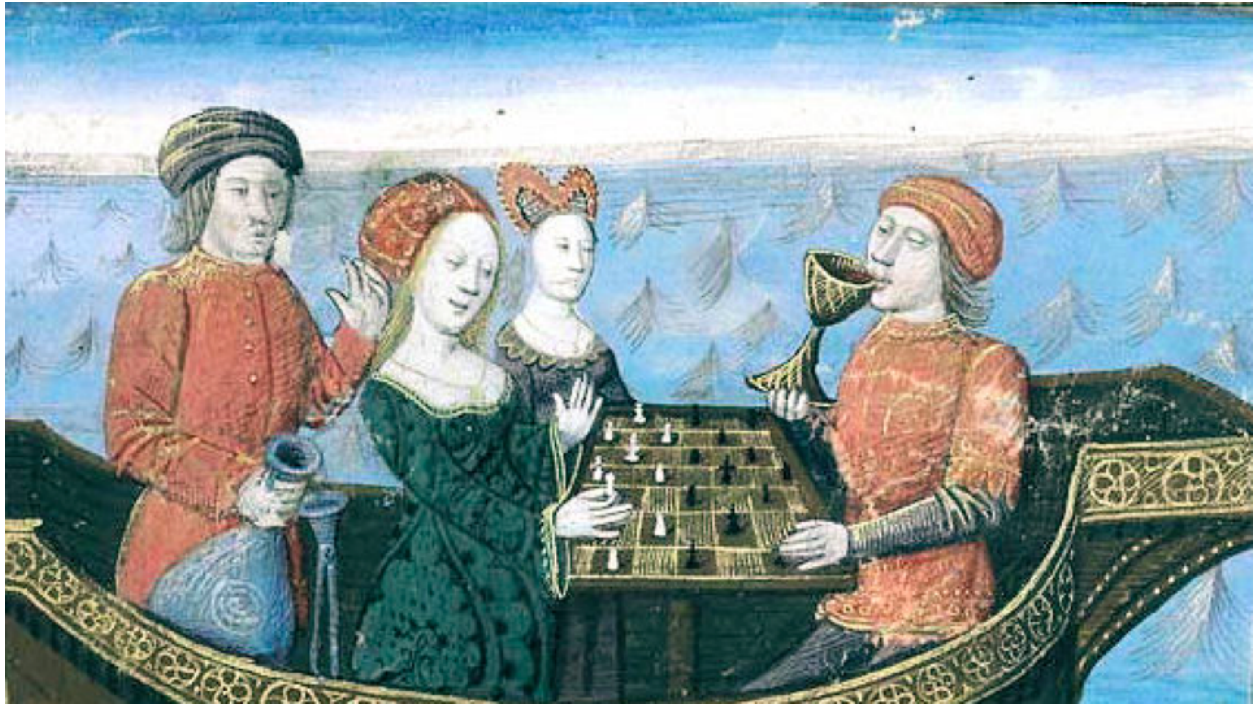
2. Naturalism.

Naturalism refers to attempts to imitate nature in art. During the Renaissance, paintings and sculptures became more realistic. Perspective is used, and depictions of human anatomy become more accurate.

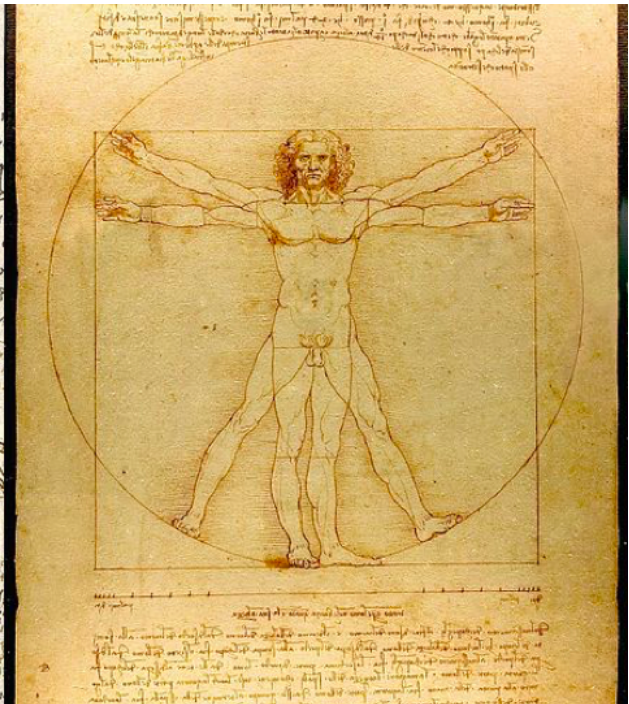
View the paintings from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance below. In what ways do you see the development of naturalism? Explain your answer in 4-8 sentences, be sure to discuss the differences between the paintings.

Medieval Art





Renaissance Art

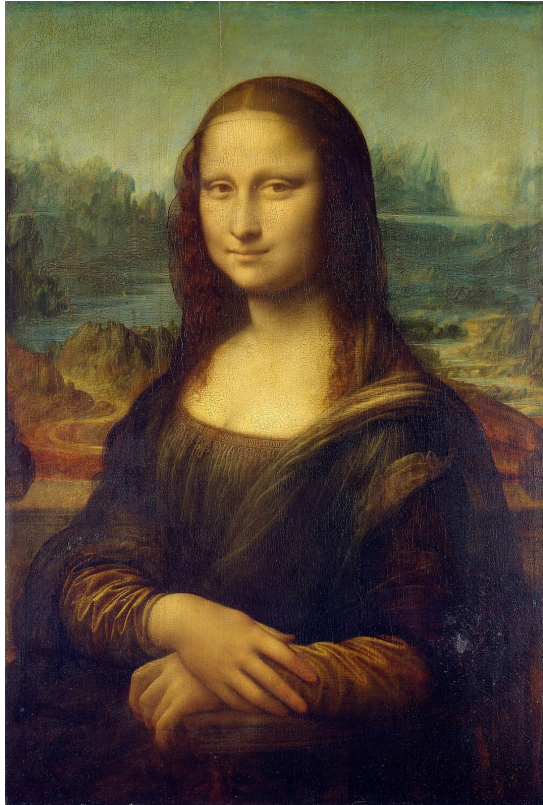




3. Individualism

Individualism is an outgrowth of humanism. It emphasizes human potential and achievement.

Individualism focuses on the ability of individual people, rather than social classes or other traditional social structures (monarchies, the Church).



How does the painting of the *Mona Lisa* and the portrait of Lorenzo de' Medici demonstrate the theme of individualism?

4. Secularism

Art during the Renaissance also became more secular. It became more focused on worldly things and less focused on Christian, religious subjects. It also became more sexual, with the development of poetry and art about love and lust. In general, art became more focused on the human world and less on religion. Despite this, most people were still devout Catholics and the Church still maintained power in society, but even the Church became more worldly.



How does this painting by Pieter Bruegal demonstrate the theme of secularism? (A larger version of this painting can be found on page 481 of your textbook).

5. *The Birth of Venus* by Botticelli



Evaluate the painting above using your knowledge of history and Renaissance themes. In a well-written paragraph, explain how this painting demonstrates Renaissance themes. (Venus is a goddess from Roman mythology)