

OSTS Lecture, Fall 2025, 2nd Term
November 3rd to December 1st

Course F ***Cultural Hermeneutics with Reformation Artists (Zoom Class)***

Lecturer Pastor Andy Brubacher-Kaethler

Descriptor

Great painters are not simply masters of mediums, technique, and color, but are also keen observers of cultural, political, and religious contexts. This course explores works of four Reformation Era artists who painted during a period of dramatic cultural change, political unrest, and religious fervor and who can help us understand the world we live in centuries later.

Outline

- Week 1: *The Garden of Earthly Delights* by Hieronymus Bosch (c1450-1516) – Dutch/Netherlandish
- Week 2: *The Ambassadors* by Hans Holbein the Younger (1497-1543) - German-Swiss, working in the court of Henry VIII
- Week 3: *The Tower of Babel* by Peter Bruegel (1525-1569) - Dutch/Netherlandish
- Week 4: *Procession to Calvary* by Peter Bruegel (1525-1569) - Dutch/Netherlandish
- Week 5: Artemisia Gentileschi (1593-1653) - Italian, female, Baroque

Bibliography/Videography

I do not have a required book. They are typically very expensive. However, I have a few videos and books to recommend that persons with Ottawa Public Library accounts can access:

- Week 1: “Bosch, The Garden of Earthly Delights.” Khan Academy. (website)
<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/renaissance-reformation/northern/hieronymus-bosch/a/bosch-the-garden-of-earthly-delights>
- Week 2: “Holbein's extraordinary 'Ambassadors.'” National Gallery.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=paA8hqqQ-w> (video)

Week 3: *As Above, So Below: A Novel of Peter Bruegel* by Rudy Rucker. Forge Books: 2003. (Book)

Bruegel: Great artists (series 1). Films Media Group, 2002. Access Video On Demand, <https://avod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=107811&xtid=59661>. (Video)

Week 4: *The Mill and the Cross*. Director Lech Majewski Originally produced by Kino Lorber Edu in 2011. (Video)

Week 5: *Disobedient*. Elizabeth Fremantle. [London]: Michael Joseph, 2023. (Book)

Bio

Andy Brubacher is a Pastor at Ottawa Mennonite Church. He taught Christian Formation at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Indiana for 20 years before returning to the pastorate in Ontario. In both pastoral ministry and teaching ministry Andy is fascinated by the interplay between faith and culture.