

## SUNY Orange Observation Form – Summary

Instructor: Martin Dominguez

Date: October 2, 2025

Course: History of Art 2  
ART 128 M

Observer: Candice O'Connor

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### OBSERVATION

On Thursday, October 2, 2025 I had the opportunity to observe Martin Dominguez's History of Art 2 class in HA 111. The class started promptly at 12:30pm as he took attendance and reminded the group about the forthcoming trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art on November 15. He also announced that the test results from their recent exam were posted on Brightspace and would be discussed during their next class meeting.

The subject for this class was the High Renaissance, specifically focusing on the work of Leonardo da Vinci. A gifted painter, sculptor, architect, and inventor, Leonardo has been described as the archetype of the true "Renaissance" man. He was educated in the studio of the renowned Florentine painter Verrocchio, and much of his early work was spent in the service of the Duke of Milan. Mr. Dominguez explained that among the qualities that make Leonardo's work unique were his innovative painting techniques for chiaroscuro (the use of strong contrasts between light and dark) and sfumato (the smoky blending of colors and tones). These techniques are evident in his most celebrated works, *The Virgin of the Rocks*, *The Mona Lisa*, and *The Last Supper*.

*The Virgin of the Rocks* is the name of two paintings by Leonardo of the same subject but with subtle compositional differences. First created in 1485, another version of the work was re-created around 1508. Using PowerPoint slides, Mr. Dominguez displayed the two paintings and discussed the similarities and differences between the two works. *The Mona Lisa* (1503-15), although small in size, is probably Leonardo's most recognizable painting and primarily famous for being famous. Also a prolific draftsman, among Leonardo's many drawings is the cartoon of *The Virgin and Child with Saint Anne and the Infant St. John* created between 1505 and 1507. *The Last Supper* (1495-1498) is among the most well-known paintings in the world and Mr. Dominguez encouraged the students to note the composition of the scene, the arrangement of the figures, and the contrast in attitudes of the twelve apostles.

As the class meeting drew near to its conclusion, Mr. Dominguez instructed the students to continue reading the textbook chapter on the High Renaissance and at 1:45pm he dismissed the class.


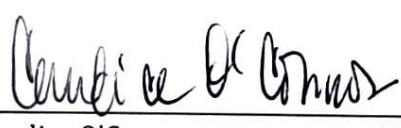
COMMENTS

This class session was well-organized and professionally conducted. It was apparent that the instructor was in command of the subject, and demonstrated clear mastery of the course material which was delivered in a coherent and logical manner. He was well prepared for class having set up the PowerPoint presentation despite the network access disruption due to the IT incident of the previous day.

Mr. Dominguez demonstrated excellent rapport with his students, frequently calling on them by name, and created a relaxed learning environment. The students felt free to ask questions and appeared to be engaged throughout the 75-minute class session.

Overall, this was a positive classroom experience for me. Mr. Dominguez presented the subject of Leonardo da Vinci clearly and concisely. He moves through his lecture with ease and a sense of humor. The students were obtaining significant value from both the material presented and the presentation method.

Mr. Dominguez has been an excellent addition to our faculty. He works extremely hard to maintain high standards in his classroom and as a result has earned the respect of his students and his colleagues as well. He clearly exhibits the qualities in an instructor that we value at SUNY Orange.

 10-22-25 (Date)  10/22/2025 (Date)

Martin Dominguez (Date) Candice O'Connor (Date)