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Description automatically generatedafter:hours Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication

**Course Descriptor**

**Course Title:** Fine and Decorative Arts in the V&A

**Type of Course:** Adult Education

**Credit:** Not credit bearing

**Weekly Session Titles and Descriptions**

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| Week | Session Title |
| 1 | The Classical World |
| 2 | The Not-So-Dark Ages |
| 3 | Early Medieval and Romanesque |
| 4 | High Culture of the International Gothic |
| 5 | The Renaissance I: Culture, Theory and Form |
| 6 | The Renaissance II: Blossoming Virtuosity |
| 7 | Baroque Splendour and the Joy of Rococo |
| 8 | Neoclassicism and Historicism |
| 9 | Victorian Revivalism |
| 10 | Arts and Crafts and Into the Modern |
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| Course Overview There is nothing as enjoyable as studying the history of art and design using actual objects, rather than photographs or video reproductions, and so for this course we invite you to join [**Viv Lawes**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NovfgeMtTCI), lecturer in art and design history at Sotheby's Institute, on a ten-week exploration of the art and design at the Victoria and Albert Museum.  Whether you are interested in the fine and decorative arts out of personal curiosity, or you have a professional or study interest in the objects and the way they are displayed, the insights you will gain into what is sometimes called 'material culture' will be rewarding and enlighhtening.  For each session we will join Viv at the V&A museum in London where we will focus on a different area of art and design history with the aim of learning some of the key defining features of different periods and styles in art and design history, the work of particular artists and craftsmen and women, and some of the ideas that underpin key works of art and design in the museum.  This will range from the medieval obsession with filling in space, to the way Michelangelo's great sculpture *David* is the embodiment of the Renaissance obsession with the philosophy of Plato, to the reaction against the industrialisation that inspired the founder of the modern studio-pottery movement, Bernard Leach.  The course is designed to be open, informal and friendly, and Viv's teaching style is interactive and enthusiastic. There is no doubt we will soon find ourselves looking at objects in new ways, thinking about them deeply, and discussing them with Viv and the rest of the group. Required Previous Experience (if any) None Required Reading Material or Special Equipment Needed (if any)  * None specified  Learning Outcomes At the end of this course you should be able to   1. Recognise and identify the stylistic qualities of a number of artistic styles and movements in the Western fine and decorative arts tradition 2. Identify the names and key works of fine and decorative arts by some of the most significant makes from the Western art tradition 3. Be able to think about and/or discuss fine and decorative arts in relation to its formal qualities, symbolism and social context, and their display in a museum setting.   **Possible Further Study**  Further courses on the after:hours programme might be useful to you. Additional information This course descriptor may be subject to change during the delivery of the course, depending on the specific direction and nature of the learner cohort, and is intended to be responsive to the group dynamics as they emerge during the delivery of the course. |