“To Be or Not to be, that is the question,” And, my question to you is what does that mean? And who said it, and why have I heard that before, and is it important?

Hamlet said it in William Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, a play, some scholars say, is the greatest play ever written. In this class, we are going “to be.” Hello, my name is Susan Ardern, and I am the developer of the course, although I may not be your instructor. I think this is going to be the most important class you ever take at Saint Leo University, but then I am biased.

Have you ever heard of any of these people: Michelangelo, DaVinci, Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Sophocles, Shakespeare? These men are some of the giants of the arts, titans whose masterpieces excel all others of their times they create in and even artists today, and within this class you’re going to find out why they are so great.

We are also going to look at the art’s greatest work in: sculpture, painting, music, and theatre. Then, we’re going to take the proverbial mirror and hold it up to the societies that these giants created in and analyze what the art says about them. And finally, we’re going to turn that mirror back around to ourselves and analyze us. What art do we like? Why do we like what we like?

I hope this class opens you up to new interests, new worlds, and new loves in the arts. I trust you will discover a great deal about some of the world’s greatest art masters, their masterpieces, the worlds they created in, and most importantly, yourself.