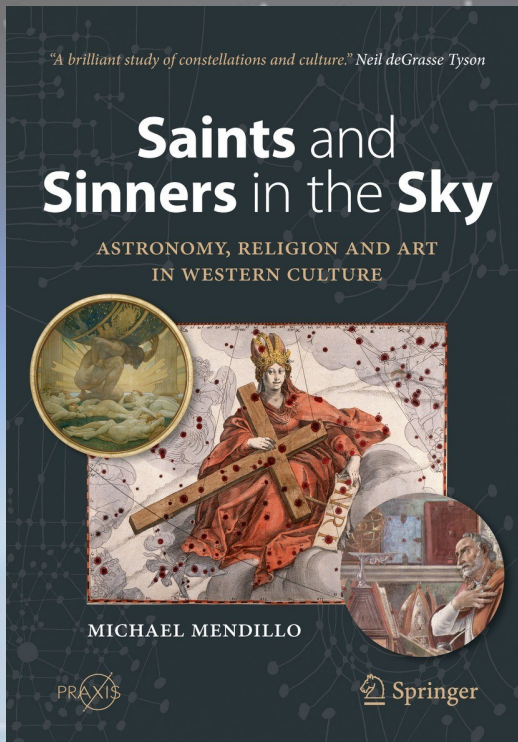


Saints and Sinners in the Sky: Exploring Connections between Science, Art, and Religion



Visualizations of the Natural World date to Paleolithic times (~20,000 years ago). If the impetus for including constellations in “Cave Art” came from a clan’s shaman, we have the first merging of science, art and religion as a corner stone of modern society. Since those earliest of human activities, all art forms --- fresco, painting, sculpture, mosaic, ceramics, tapestries and architecture --- offer historical examples of celestial and religious connections. Indeed, one major initiative in the 17th Century was to replace all of the classical constellation names and images with those of biblical heroes. In post-Renaissance centuries, astronomical imagery is more frequently found in secular works of

art, e.g., in a recently discovered painting by Rubens. Many of the giants of modern art (Van Gogh, Sargent, O’Keeffe, Picasso) had a surprising interest in celestial content. This seminar will explore such interwoven themes to trace the relationships between Astronomy, Art and Religion in Western culture from antiquity to our current times.



Thursday, September 15th

4:00-5:00 p.m.

CAS 502

Michael Mendillo

Boston University