Hellenistic Art seen in Neoclassical Light
MLART 6392, Spring 2015
Independent Study MLA

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COURSE DESCRIPTION
During the Renaissance, artists assumed that the highest forms of sculpture were developed during the course of the ancient Roman Empire due to medieval notions of the classical “Golden Age.” These ideas began to be challenged during the eighteenth century when enlightenment scholars began to earnestly trace the influence of Greek Hellenistic Art on Roman Imperial sculpture, which would eventually lead to the formation of Art History as a discipline. Contributing to this process were contemporary artists who not only purchased and sold ancient antiquities, but restored many with new parts while crafting new “classical” pieces. Neoclassical artists both influenced how scholars viewed the past and cultivated the taste for neoclassicism as rooted in particular narratives regarding how antiquity unfolded. By examining relevant readings, constructing a presentation, and writing a research paper, students in this course will think through these issues and provide a thorough analysis of the ways antiquities would influence later artistic style and iconography.

COURSE GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS
a. To base one’s interpretation on factual information in primary sources (artist writings, sale catalogs, etc.)
b. To effectively write formal analyses of artworks in one research paper
c. To clearly present an oral presentation of one’s research using Powerpoint
d. To communicate the interplay between classical art and later periods (Renaissance to Neoclassicism).
e. To research artworks for the purpose of narrating the flow of history

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. Be capable and self-disciplined to conduct independent research.
2. Meet with the professor at the scheduled times.
3. To finish essay questions by the deadlines.
4. Turn in a polished research paper that exhibits an original approach and persuasive arguments.
5. Present an effective lecture regarding the research

GRADES
I. There are 350 total points, earned according to this breakdown:
   Meeting 1  8%  December 19th  25 points
   Draft  8%  February 13th  25 points
   Presentation 8%  March 6th  100 points
   Research Paper 68%  May 1st  200 points

READINGS
The appended bibliography serves as the assigned readings list. These will not be provided; so students will have to put forth the effort to procure the readings through the libraries in Houston or interlibrary loan. Please notify the professor if readings cannot be attained.
MEETINGS
Student will bring their questions and insights when they meet the professor at three scheduled appointments. The student must be prepared to discuss their research and the weekly readings. The professor will use these times to assess the student’s understanding and effort as an independent student. The point break down will be: reading comprehension (10), communication (10), questions (2), and participation (3).

LECTURE
Students will present their research to the professor on Friday, February 23, 2015. They will be assessed on organization, clarity, and communication effectiveness.

RESEARCH PAPER
The student has agreed to research the relationship between Classicism Neoclassicism and formulate an argument regarding its iconography and reception. Specific images that will be studied are the Belvedere Torso, the Apollo Belvedere and the Laocoön. Student must familiarize themselves with primary source material—not only ancient mythology and literature, but with neoclassical (or enlightenment) theories of art (i.e. Vasari, J. J. Winckelmann, Edmund Burke, Earl of Shaftesbury, von Schelling, etc.) It is expected that the student will turn-in a clear, organized work, with relevant footnotes and citations. The bibliography must demonstrate a thorough analysis of pertinent scholarly literature. As a whole, the paper should represent original research and thought.

Make sure your paper must also address these aspects:

1. **Formal Analysis.** Discussing size, function, composition, color, texture, program, form, shape, etc. Include a discussion regarding if the images are chiefly decorative, illustrative, narrative, iconic, or some other scheme. How does the text relate to the image?

2. **Historical Context.** Place the object in the time period when was made. You can refer to the reign of the respective politicians and religious leaders, major events of that period.

Format: Paper must be typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins. Grammar and Spelling: There is an automatic 10 point deduction for grammatical or spelling errors over 10; 20 points for 20 errors or more. Provide all your references as footnotes, using Chicago MLA-style formatting. Bibliography must also be included and should be two page (minimum) (it will be assessed regarding the breadth and scope of your research, 10% of your total grade). Illustrations should be provided regarding artworks you mention, unless they are common knowledge or incidental. Length: 15 (minimum) to 20 (max) (this does not include the bibliography or illustrations). Points: 200. Due: Monday, February 23, 2015.

SCHEDULE OF MEETING TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READINGS

*The attached Bibliography contains the books that the student agrees to read throughout this semester. It is expected that other books and articles will be read by the student during their research. The reading “assignments” below are only a guide.

WEEK 1
Friday, December 19: 1. Introduction to the Course. Meet with professor regarding research paper assignment.

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4
Friday, February 13: Meet with Professor. Discuss Research. Draft is Due.

WEEK 5
Obtain and select images for your presentation. Make sure to use only high-resolution images.

WEEK 6
Read: March 6th Paper Presentation

WEEK 7
******************* Spring Break*******************************

WEEK 8
Friday, April 10: Independent Research and Write your Paper.

WEEK 9
Obtain and select images for your presentation. Make sure to use only high-resolution images.

WEEK 10
Friday, April 10: Meet with Professor. Discuss Research.

WEEK 11
Independent Research and Write your Paper.

WEEK 12
Independent Research and Write your Paper.

WEEK 13
Independent Research and Write your Paper.
WEEK 14
Independent Research and Write your Paper.

WEEK 15
Friday, May 1: **Research Paper Due.**

MLART 6392, Spring 2015
Independent Study, Research **Grading Rubric**

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Reading List


