Survey of Art I: Ancient through Medieval Art & Architecture

ARHS 2351/3351, Fall 2015
Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:10-1:25 PM
Cullen Hall Room 204

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Office hours: Monday to Thursday, 2:00 - 3:00 pm, or by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
A selection of significant monuments are examined, dating from around the time of the invention of writing around (3500 B.C. in Mesopotamia and Egypt) to the end of the Middle Ages in western Europe (around 1400 after Christ). By studying architecture, sculpture, paintings and other media, students learn to place styles and monuments in their historical context, connecting them to specific civilizations and cultures. We focus on artworks that are considered masterpieces and the best representative of the highest quality craftsmanship of each civilization (Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greek, Roman, Jewish, Islamic, Medieval). These are the main goals:

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

COURSE GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS
1. To learn the meaning of art historical terms, the basic chronology of the civilizations and principal “sub-periods,” the style of each era, and select facts and ideas regarding artists and architects;
2. To develop critical thinking and oral skills when dealing with ancient and medieval art;
3. To learn some methodological approaches of archaeologists and art historians dealing with the monuments examined in this course, including formal analysis, iconography, and historiography.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. Attend the lectures and participate in discussions.
2. Read assigned materials before the corresponding lectures.
3. Take 3 examinations and complete two assignments. To pass this course all requirements must be met.

GRADES
I. There are 500* course points, earned according to this breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>Aug. 31</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>Oct 5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>October 7</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Nov 4</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 3</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>Nov 23</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>All lectures</td>
<td>20 total points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>All lectures</td>
<td>20 total points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>During lectures</td>
<td>75 total points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>Dec 16</td>
<td>100</td>
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*Students enrolled in ARHS 3351 will be graded on a 600 point scale, with the same breakdown as above, but with an additional paper due, worth 100 points.
II. Grading on each examination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A/A+</td>
<td>92-100 %</td>
<td>460 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-91 %</td>
<td>450-459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89 %</td>
<td>440-449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82-87 %</td>
<td>410-439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-81 %</td>
<td>400-409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79 %</td>
<td>390-399</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72-77 %</td>
<td>360-389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-71 %</td>
<td>350-359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-69 %</td>
<td>340-349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>62-67 %</td>
<td>310-339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-61 %</td>
<td>300-309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60 %</td>
<td>Below 300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Note: No “Incomplete” grades will be assigned in this course. NO extra credit assignments will be given.

TYPES OF QUESTIONS ON THE EXAMINATIONS

1. Definitions of art historical terms and techniques.
2. Short answer questions on significant monuments or historical events (multiple choice).
3. Slide identification: art historical period OR name of artist/architect (if known); name or title of art work; art historical period. With or without discussion of the art work.

BLACKBOARD

Course material, such has lecture handouts and assignments, will be posted on Blackboard weekly. The instructor cannot guarantee that the materials, including images, on Blackboard will be updated on a weekly basis—therefore students should rely on their class attendance and textbooks. Study guides (Review Sheets) for the exams will be posted on Blackboard about one week before each exam.

Make-up examinations and quizzes: NOT GIVEN, unless the student provides a valid detailed written medical excuse signed by an M.D. (not a receptionist from the Student Health Service) or a doctor’s office (with the phone number listed). Attending a family function such as a birthday party, wedding, or anniversary or going abroad is an invalid excuse for missing an examination. The student with a valid medical excuse is required to notify the instructor within 24 hours after the regularly scheduled examination (by email). Under NO circumstances can students reschedule midterm or final examinations—these dates are set and cannot be altered. Students must take exams in their sections.

Note: Approximately 25% of the Final Exam will concern material covered prior to the Midterm Exam.

HANDOUTS

In order to have a more ecologically-friendly class, and save a few trees, I will only have 24 handouts for each class. If you loose your handouts, you can retrieve them from Blackboard.

RESTRICTIONS

The use of Laptops, Cell-Phones, and Foreign Dictionaries are strictly prohibited in lecture and can be confiscated by the instructor if they distract students in the classroom. Looking at other student’s exams, or any talking during quizzes and exams will result in automatic failure for that day.
Schedule of Lecture Topics & Assigned Readings

Note: All Readings are in Gardner's Art through the Ages: Western Perspective, Vol. I (14th Edition, 2013), and are to be read prior to that day's lecture, so that students can discuss issues in class. Participation in class is mandatory.

THE ANCIENT WORLD

WEEK 1
Mon. Aug. 24: Lecture 1. Introduction to course, Prehistoric Art; Read Garner, pp. 1-29; A. Discussion: What is art? What is history? What is art history? Assignment 1 given.


WEEK 2

Wed. Sep. 2: Lecture 4. Old Kingdom Egypt (2575 - 2134 B.C.); Read Gardner, pp. 54-68.

WEEK 3
Mon. Sep. 7: Labor Day ************** No Class ****************** Hooray!

Wed. Sep. 9: 5. New Kingdom Egypt (1550 - 1070 B.C.); Read Gardner, pp. 69-83; Quiz 1. Writing Assignment 2 is given (Museum Visit).

WEEK 4

Wed. Sep. 16: 7. The Athenian Acropolis and the Parthenon (Greek High Classical, 450 - 400 B.C.); Read Gardner, pp. 124-144.

WEEK 5


WEEK 6
Mon. Sep. 28: NO CLASS ***** Work on Assignment 2 *************** No class.******

WEEK 7

Mon. Oct. 5:  **11.** Roman Early Imperial Art (27 B.C.-96 A.D.) Read Gardner, pp. 197-207  **C: Test 1 Review!**  
 **Assignment 2 is due.**

Wed. Oct. 7:  **TEST 1**

LATE ANTIQUITY & MEDIEVAL EAST

WEEK 8

Mon. Oct. 12:  **Fall Break**  
**No Class**  
**Fall Break**

Wed. Oct. 14:  Lecture  **12.** Roman High Imperial Art (96-192 A.D.); Read Gardner, pp. 207-218.

WEEK 9

Mon. Oct. 19:  **13.** Roman Late Imperial Art (192-337 A.D.); Read Gardner, pp. 219-231.


WEEK 10

Mon. Oct. 26:  Lecture  **15.** Byzantine Art (527-843); Read Gardner, pp. 254-270.

Wed. Oct. 28:  **16.** Byzantine Art (843-1453); Read Gardner, pp. 270-281. **Assignment 3 given:**  
“Scavenger Hunt at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts and the Menil Collection”.

WEEK 11

Mon. Nov. 2:  Lecture  **17a.** Islamic Art (661-present day); Read Gardner, pp. 283-305.

Wed. Nov. 4:  Lecture  **17b.** Islamic Art (continued).  **D. Test 2 Review!**

MEDIEVAL WEST

WEEK 12

Mon. Nov. 9:  **TEST 2**

Wed. Nov. 11:  **18.** Early Medieval Art in Western Europe (476-768) I: “Migration Period”: (Merovingian, Hiberno-Saxon, and Viking); Read Gardner, pp. 306-316.

WEEK 13

Mon. Nov. 16:  Lecture  **19.** Carolingian Art & Ottonian Art, Read Gardner, pp. 317-331.

Wed. Nov. 18:  **20.** Romanesque Art I: Architecture and Sculpture (1050-1200); Read Gardner, pp. 332-363.
WEEK 14

Wed. Nov. 25:  No Class  +++++++++++ Happy Thanksgiving!  +++++++++++++++++++

WEEK 15
Mon. Nov. 30:  Lecture 22. French Gothic Cathedrals (1140-1194); Read Gardner, pp. 364-373.


WEEK 16
Lecture 25. Concluding Lecture: Legacy of Gothic Art and Modernism

E. Discussion: Semester Summary and Final Exam Review

WEEK 17

FINAL EXAMINATION  |  Wednesday, 16 December, 11:00-12:30 pm, Cullen Hall Room 204

Assignments

1. **Introduction.** Write a one page essay answering these questions: Why did you take this course? Have you been to an art museum? How long ago? Where at? What is your favorite work of art and why? [Be sure to describe all the aspects of the work, such as material, color, size, shape, subject matter, date, location, purpose, artist/architect (if known). Attach an image or drawing if possible. Explain why you chose this work and why it is meaningful to you. When did you first see it? Why should other people value the work?]  
   **Format:** All papers must be typed, single-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.  
   **Length:** Answers must fill four-fifths of the page.  
   **Points:** 50. **Due: August 31. Must be turned-in as a hardcopy in class!**

2. **Formal Analysis and Iconography.** Visit the Houston Museum of Natural Science’s exhibit on Ancient Egyptian Art. It is free on Thursdays 3 pm - 6 pm. Describe the layout and ambience of the exhibit. Why did the museum designers choose the lighting and color for the walls? Next, choose one artwork. Write an analysis. It should have three complete parts: 1. Description, 2. Historical Context when the artwork was made, 3. Iconography. All papers must be typed, doubled-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins. 2 to 3 pages. This will be worth 20 points and appended as your essay to Test 1. **Due: October 5.**

3. **Museum Assignment.** You will visit the Houston Museum of Fine Arts (HMFA) and the Menil Collection. Keep in mind that the HMFA is free on Thursdays, while the Menil is closed on Monday and Tuesdays. Further details will be provided later. **Due: November 23.**