

Introduction to the History of Western Art I

AH 100

Winter 2017 CRN 10517



Portrait of a Married Couple. Wall painting from Pompeii. Mid-1st century CE.

4 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: none

Lectures: M/W/F 9:20-10:27pm, 124 Wilson Hall

Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Bieberly

Email: bieberly@oakland.edu

Office/hours: Monday and Friday 1:30-2:30pm 321 Wilson Hall & by appointment

Course Description (University catalog)

History and analysis of the visual arts of western Europe from prehistoric times through the Medieval period.

Class description:

This survey course introduces students to the artistic traditions of Western European cultures from the Stone Age to the Gothic period. Through analysis of fundamental works of art in a diversity of media (sculpture, painting, metalworks, etc.) and architecture students will be asked to think critically about the functions and meanings of these works within their original cultural contexts. Though investigating the relationship between art and society, students will be challenged to consider the political, economic, institutional, and technological roles these objects and sites have played. Further, students will examine the role modern history and ideas have played in shaping our understanding of these works and art histories.

General Course Information

This course satisfies the University General Education requirement in the arts knowledge exploration area.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes (GESLO)



- A. Knowledge of cultural or historic artistic traditions in the visual arts.
- B. Knowledge of the role of art as critical commentary on society and as an aesthetic expression of experience.

Cross-cutting capacities



- A. Social Awareness
- B. Critical thinking
- C. Effective communication

Course goals/objectives

GESLO C-C capacities

Develop visual analysis skills: to critically describe (oral/written) and interpret a work of art, architecture, or any other aspect of the visual world.	A & B	A, B, & C
Develop cultural competency: In learning to identify key forms/styles of architecture, sculpture, and painting and the historical/social conditions that gave meaning to those forms/styles, one expands her/his awareness of the producing cultures and histories.	A & B	A & B
Provide a foundation for future more detailed studies of any or all of the cultures covered in this class in 300 or 400 level courses.		

Textbooks

Required: Marilyn Stokstad et. al., *Art History Vol. 1*, 5th ed. (Upper Saddle, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc., 2014), 9780205873487.

There are several different formats for this: hard copy, loose leaf (Books a la Carte), and eTextbook. To see the various options: <http://www.mypearsonstore.com/bookstore/art-history-volume-1-plus-new-myartslab-access-card-0205949460>

The hardcopy (new and used) and My Arts Lab access (see below) can be purchased at the bookstore and from various on-line retailers.

There are several copies of this textbook in the Visual Resources Library in Wilson Hall 311. They are only for in-library consultation (can't be checked out.)

Recommended (with great hesitation): Marilyn Stokstad, *My Arts Lab W/Elec, Vol. 1*, 2014, 9780205948376

This allows you access to the Publisher's website with additional materials. I will **NOT** be posting class materials to the Publisher's site, only to our Moodle site. The course ID # is: bieberly23047; class name: AH 100.

Additional readings are posted on Moodle (Oakland University's learning management system) as specified in the course schedule.

Assignments/Exams

In-class assignments: Throughout the semester there will be 8 in-class short assignments, which may include short essay questions, group assignments, practice quizzes, or visual analysis exercises. These may take place at the beginning or the end of a class session. They will be graded as good (15 points), acceptable (10.5 points), and 0 for fail.

Purposes:

- 1) To develop critical thinking skills by considering the class material, ideas, and imagery through your own words.
- 2) To identify areas of class material that you find unclear or confusing
- 3) To develop skills of collaboration as you formulate responses to questions or consider imagery/ideas in discussion with your peers.
- 4) To prepare for the exams.

Exams: There are four exams for this class, which correlate to the four parts of the course.

Content: Each exam will consist of 40 multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, or matching questions.

Format: All of the exams will be online through Moodle, which will allow you 1 hour to complete the exam after it has been opened. You are **not** allowed to open it twice. The possible questions for each individual exam are shuffled allowing that no 2 exams are identical. In other words, the exams are not group activities!

Purpose: The questions will examine your competence with information on specific artworks/architecture (dates, titles, artists, material, technique, culture), with key ideas discussed in class, the cultural and/or social context of production, and with art historical terminology.

Grading: Each exam will be worth 40 points.

Museum visit paper: This paper entails visiting a local or regional art museum once during the semester and writing an analysis of a specific object and your response to the museum context. You will **not** need to do any outside research (in fact, this will be a detriment to the paper), but you will be required to spend a significant amount of time thoughtfully looking and thinking about an object, its context, and your experience of the museum.

The assignment description, its requirements, grading rubric, and other resources will be posted to Moodle and will be discussed in class.

Purpose: This assignment is designed to help you develop visual analysis skills, the appropriate vocabulary to concisely and accurately describe what you see, and to think critically about the viewing context and experience.

Requirements and grading: Length is between 500-750 words (1.5-2.5 pages). As this is an academic essay, grammar, spelling, etc will be taken into account. The paper will be worth 60 points or the equivalent of one exam.

Due Date: Monday March 27th. No late papers will be accepted.

Exam dates and times

Please review this list carefully and clear your calendar for these times and dates. Students who for **absolutely unavoidable** reasons miss an exam **must** present an official document, such as a statement from a doctor, **within one week of the missed exam** before an alternative will be considered.

Exam 1 (Prehistoric, Ancient Near East, and Egypt): exam must be completed between **8am Sat. Feb. 4th and 5pm Sun. Feb. 5th**.

Exam 2 (Ancient Aegean, Ancient Greece, Etruscan and Roman): exam must be completed between **8am Sat. Mar. 4th and 5pm Sun. Mar. 5th**.

Exam 3 (Jewish and Early Christian, Byzantine, and Islamic arts): exam must be completed between **8am Sat. Mar. 25th and 5pm Sun. Mar. 26th**.

Exam 4 (Early Medieval, Romanesque, and Gothic arts): Accessible between **8am and midnight Weds. April 26th**.

Missing an assignment: If you miss an assignment or exam for an unavoidable reason (emergency, student participation in an athletic or academic event, etc), you will need to contact the professor and **provide documentation within 1 week of the missed assignment** in order to receive an alternate assignment.

Course evaluation (aka final grade) _____

Your course grade will be determined by the cumulative number of points for the exams, in-class assignments, and the Museum Visit paper.

4 exams 40 points each = 160 pts (47% of grade)

8 in-class assignments 15 points each = 120 pts (35% of grade)

Museum Visit paper: 60 points (18% of grade)

Total points = 340

Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade
340-333	4.0 A+ (100-98%)	271-269	2.9 C+ (79%)	237-235	1.9 D+ (69%)
332-326	3.9 A (97-96%)	268-265	2.8 C+ (78%)	234-231	1.8 D+ (68%)
325-320	3.8 A (94-95%)	264-262	2.7 C+ (77%)	230-228	1.7 D+ (67%)
319-313	3.7 A (93-92%)	261-258	2.6 C (76%)	227-224	1.6 D (66%)
312-306	3.6 A- (91-90%)	257-255	2.5 C (75%)	223-221	1.5 D (65%)
		254-252	2.4 C (74%)	220-218	1.4 D (64%)
305-299	3.5 B+ (89-88%)	251-248	2.3 C (73%)	217-214	1.3 D (63%)
298-292	3.4 B+ (87-86%)	247-245	2.2 C- (72%)	213-211	1.2 D- (62%)
291-286	3.3 B+ (85-84%)	244-241	2.1 C- (71%)	210-207	1.1 D- (61%)
285-279	3.2 B (83-82%)	240-238	2.0 C- (70%)	206-204	1.0 D- (60%)
278-275	3.1 B- (81%)			less than 203	0.0 no credit
274-272	3.0 B- (80%)				

Attendance _____

Punctuality and full-session attendance are **mandatory**.

The lectures contain critical information, key concepts and ideas, and discussion that will show up on the exams and be useful with the Museum Visit paper. In addition, missing lecture also means missing the in-class assignments. Attending lecture is the only way to be successful in this class.

You can miss 3 class periods without it affecting your grade. **For every unexcused absence after that 5 points will be deducted from your final grade.**

The instructor reserves the right to award additional points for students whose attendance and class participation are exemplary.

Cellphone/laptop policy (digital-etiquette) _____

Cellphones/smartphones: These devices must be **turned off** or set to silent mode once class has begun. Text messaging will not be tolerated in class; any student found to be sending or checking text messages during class will be invited to make a choice either to cease the texting or leave the classroom.

Laptops: You are more than welcome to use your laptop for taking notes, accessing resources we're discussing, and the like. You are **not** welcome to do social networking, check email, or otherwise perform non-class-related activities. Should you engage in these activities and it becomes a disturbance to either your classmates or myself you will be asked to choose to either cease the activity or leave.

Important dates

Add/drop The University add/drop policy will be explicitly followed.

4pm Jan. 18th: last day for “no grade” drop, 100% tuition refund, or to declare you are auditing the class.

Mar. 15th: last day to officially withdraw from the course

Mid-term notice of progress As per University policy, students who are making unsatisfactory academic progress by the eighth week of class will be formally notified via the Banner grading system.

Winter break: 10pm Feb. 18th through 7:30am Feb. 27th

Last day of classes: April 18th

Finals: April 20th through 10pm April 26th

Special Needs

In compliance with University policy and equal access laws, those of us with documented disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations.

Request for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, so arrangements can be made in a timely manner.

Students are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Support Services (<http://www.oakland.edu/dss>) located in 103A, North Foundation Hall.

Course Schedule

(The instructor reserves the right to adjust this schedule in light of unforeseen circumstances.)

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan. 4th Weds.	Introduction to the class	No readings
Jan. 6th Fri.	Introduction to the “art” and “history” of Art History I	textbook: Starter Kit: xxii-xxv AND Introduction: xxvi-xli
Jan. 9th Mon.	Introduction to the “art” and “history” of Art History II	finish readings from previous session

Part 1

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan. 11th Weds.	Prehistoric Art I	textbook: Chapter 1, pp. xlii-25
Jan. 13th Fri.	Prehistoric Art II	continue reading from previous session
Jan. 16th Mon.	Martin Luther King day no class	
Jan. 18th Weds.	Prehistoric Art III	finish reading from previous session
Jan. 20th Fri.	The Unstable Object: Art, “Seeing,” and the Museum Context	Elkins, "From the Object Stares Back: On the Nature of Seeing" (pdf on Moodle)
Jan. 23rd Mon.	Arts of the Ancient Near East I	textbook: Chapter 2: pp. 26-47
Jan. 25th Weds.	Arts of the Ancient Near East II	continue reading from previous session

Jan. 27th Fri.	Arts of the Ancient Near East III	finish reading from previous session
Jan. 30th Mon.	Arts of Ancient Egypt I	textbook: Chapter 3, pp. 48-79
Feb. 1st Weds.	Arts of Ancient Egypt II	continue reading from previous session
Feb. 3rd Fri.	Arts of Ancient Egypt III	finish reading from previous session

Part 1: Exam online
Accessible between 8am Sat. Feb. 4th and 5pm Sun. Feb. 5th

Part 2

Date	Topic	Readings
Feb. 6th Mon.	Arts of the Aegean I	textbook: Chapter 4, pp. 80-99
Feb. 8th Weds.	Arts of the Aegean II	finish reading from previous session
Feb. 10th Fri.	Arts of Ancient Greece I	textbook: Chapter 5, pp. 100-120 (up to “The Early Classical period, c. 480-450 BCE”)
Feb. 13th Mon.	Arts of Ancient Greece II	textbook: Chapter 5, pp. 120-141 (up to “The Late Classical Period, c. 400-323 BCE”)
Feb. 15th Weds.	Arts of Ancient Greece III	textbook: pp. 141-155
Feb. 17th Fri.	Etruscan Arts	textbook: Chapter 6, pp. 156-165
Feb. 27th Mon.	Roman Arts I	textbook: pp. 166-213

Mar. 1st Weds.	Roman Arts II	continue reading from previous session
Mar. 3rd Fri.	Roman Arts III	finish reading from previous session

Part 2: Exam online: accessible between 8am Sat. Mar. 4th and 5pm Sun. Mar. 5th.

Part 3

Date	Topic	Readings
Mar. 6th Mon.	Jewish and Early Christian Arts I	textbook: Chapter 7, pp. 214-231
Mar. 8th Weds.	Jewish and Early Christian Arts II	finish reading from previous session
Mar. 10th Fri.	Byzantine Arts I	textbook: Chapter 8, pp. 232-263
Mar. 13th Mon.	Byzantine Arts II	continue reading from previous session
Mar. 15th Weds.	Byzantine Arts III	continue reading from previous session
Mar. 17th Fri.	Byzantine Arts IV	finish reading from previous session
Mar. 20th Mon.	Islamic arts I	textbook: Chapter 9, pp. 264-293
Mar. 22nd Weds.	Islamic arts II	continue reading from previous session

Mar. 24th Fri.	Islamic arts III	finish reading from previous session
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Part 3: Exam online
Accessible between 8am Sat. Mar. 25th and 5pm Sun. Mar. 26th

Part 4

Date	Topic	Readings
Mar. 27th Mon.	Early Medieval Art in Europe I Museum Visit paper due. No late papers accepted.	textbook: Chapter 15, pp. 428-457
Mar. 29th Weds.	Early Medieval Art in Europe II	continue reading from previous session
Mar. 31st Fri.	Early Medieval Art in Europe III	finish reading from previous session
April 3rd Mon.	Romanesque Art I	textbook: Chapter 16, pp. 458-493
April 5th Weds.	Romanesque Art II	continue reading from previous session
April 7th Fri.	Romanesque Art III	finish reading from previous session
April 10th Mon.	Gothic Art of the 12 th and 13 th Centuries I	textbook: Chapter 17, pp. 494-529
April 12th Weds.	Gothic Art of the 12 th and 13 th Centuries II	continue reading from previous session
April 14th Fri.	Gothic Art of the 12 th and 13 th Centuries III	finish reading from previous session

April 17th Mon.	Final class	no readings
April 26th Weds.	Final exam: accessible on Moodle between 8am-midnight	

Electronic Texts

Pdfs of all supplemental essays (as listed in the Course Schedule) are located in the "supplemental essays" folder on the Moodle homepage for this course.

Elkins, James. "From the Object Stares Back: On the Nature of Seeing." In *Religion, Art, and Visual Culture: A Cross-Cultural Reader*, edited by S. Brent Plate, 40-45. New York: Palgrave, 2002.