Fa15 ARTH-2710-601

Jump to Today

ARTH 2710: Survey of Western Art - Prehistory to Medieval
Fall 2015 | T,TH 3:00-4:15 | DE013 | 3 Credits

Contact Information

Instructor: Aubrey Hawks
Email: aubreyvickers@hotmail.com
Office Hours: Tues. 1:45-2:45 or by appointment

Course Description

This class will serve as an introduction to the art and architectural practices of early Mediterranean civilizations and Medieval Europe as well as to the foundational art historical skills of critical reading, writing and looking. It will familiarize students with various academic theories and methods for looking at art and with the advantages and disadvantages of each approach. Students will be encouraged to consider both the value and the conflicts that arise from attempting to understand past civilizations through visual and material culture and gain a better understanding of how art objects communicate, while learning to recognize the pitfalls of viewing historic objects through a present day perspective.

Course Objectives

1. Build knowledge of art historical material, vocabulary, and methods
2. Develop written and oral communication skills through both individual and collaborative work
3. Develop critical thinking in regards to the analysis of both visual evidence and textual sources dealing with art

These correlate to the following desired outcomes in the IDEA course evaluation system:

1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
2. Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual-cultural activity
3. Developing skills in expressing oneself orally or in writing

Required Text

All readings for this class will be posted as .pdf files or digital links on Canvas.

Teaching Methods

While this class is primarily structured as a lecture, active discussion is encouraged and expected. Informed participation will be part of your grade. This class will have a strong online component to encourage preparation before class, which will allow for more lively discussion in the classroom.
Classroom Etiquette

Laptops, cellphones and tablets are not permitted in class. Use of personal technology during class time will be noted and reflect negatively on your participation grade.

While sometimes tardiness is unavoidable, frequently showing up late to class is disruptive and unacceptable. Repeated tardiness will have an impact on your participation grade. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If you do show up late, it is your responsibility to make sure you are not marked as absent.

Some of the artworks covered in this class might address sensitive or controversial topics. A respectful classroom environment is essential to productive and open discussion. As such, inconsiderate or discriminatory comments, whether directed towards the art being discussed or another student, WILL NOT be tolerated and may adversely affect your final grade.

Evaluation Methods and Criteria

All written assignments will be turned in on Canvas and should be submitted in .docx format. Written Assignments should be double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font. Late Assignments will be docked 10% per day late. Assignments turned in more than 5 days late will not be accepted.

Grade Breakdown

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily Reading Checks</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Class Assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Discussions</td>
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<td>Writing Assignments</td>
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<td>• Formal Analysis Worksheet</td>
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<td>• Formal Analysis Essay</td>
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<td>• Contextual Analysis Essay</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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Participation

This encompasses your attendance as well as your informed, respectful participation in class discussion.

Daily Reading Checks

You will have short readings before each lecture that are essential to your success in the class. After each reading or group of readings, you will be asked to take a short quiz on the material. You will have two attempts at the quiz and it is highly recommended that you take the time to review the material you missed before re-taking the quiz as reading check questions are likely to end up on in-class quizzes and possibly on exams. Reading checks will be due at 2:59 p.m. the day we are discussing the material in class. They will be locked at 3:01 p.m. This means there will be no late assignments accepted.

Online Discussions
At least once a week you will be asked to participate in an online discussion with your classmates regarding important themes in the class. To receive full credit for each discussion, you must post at least two comments, either posing a question/personal concern or responding to the posts of your classmates.

In-Class Assignments

Expect frequent worksheets, short essays and group assignments during class as well as occasional pop-quizzes to check for retention of info learned in class and from reading materials.

Written Assignments

This is essentially a single, three-step assignment in which you will look extensively at a single art object (chosen from a list of approved works), using the analytical skills we are working to develop in class to write a well-supported argument about the object.

The first part is a visual analysis worksheet. After choosing your object, you will answer a series of questions about the formal qualities of the work. Your answers should be in complete sentences and should be as complete as possible. I will give you feedback on your answers, which you will use to complete the second step of the assignment: a visual analysis essay. In this essay, you will use only the formal qualities you can observe by looking to write 750-1000 words, making an argument for an interpretation of the object. The final step will be to expand the essay by 500-750 words, incorporating contextual analysis into your argument.

Midterm (due Oct. 20 in class) & Final Exam (due Dec. 10 in class)

The midterm and final will both be in-class mixed-format exams. You will be asked appropriately attribute artworks, give definitions of key terms and write short essays. The final is cumulative and will also include a short at-home essay portion.

Extra credit may be allowed on a case by case basis.

Academic Dishonesty

The assignments given in this class should not require the use of outside sources, however, if you do use someone else’s words or ideas, you should cite the source properly using MLA or Chicago style formatting. Any use of another person’s ideas without proper citation, whether by intention or neglect, is plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism on any assignment will result in a failing grade on that assignment and can result in a failing grade in the class.

Accommodations Policy

Students with ADA-documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, (435)797-2444. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print, digital, or audio) are available with advance notice.

Class Schedule
• Week 1 (Aug. 31- Sept. 4): Foundations- Syllabus & Intro to Analysis
• Week 2 (Sept. 7-11): Analysis and Methods, cont.
• Week 3 (Sept. 14-18): Prehistory- Paleolithic & Neolithic
• Week 4 (Sept. 21-25): Ancient Mesopotamia
• Visual Analysis Worksheet due: Friday, Sept. 25 @ 11:59 p.m.
• Week 5 (Sept. 28- Oct. 2): Ancient Aegean
• Week 6 (Oct. 5-9): Ancient Egypt
• Week 7 (Oct. 11-16): Fall Break
• Week 8 (Oct. 19-23): Midterm Exam, Etruscan and Ancient Greece
• Visual Analysis Essay due: Friday, Oct. 23 @ 11:59 p.m.
• Week 9 (Oct. 26-30): Ancient Greece, cont.- Classical & Hellenistic
• Week 10 (Nov. 2-6): Rome- Republican & Early Imperial
• Week 11 (Nov. 9-13): Late Rome & Early Christian
• Week 12 (Nov. 16-20): Byzantium, Anglo Saxon & Carolingian
• Contextual Analysis Essay due: Friday, Nov. 20 @ 11:59 p.m.
• Week 13 (Nov.23-27): Ottonian & Manuscripts
• No Class Thursday, Nov. 26- Thanksgiving Holiday
• Week 14 (Nov. 30- Dec. 4): Romanesque & Gothic
• Week 15 (Dec. 7-11): Gothic & Final Exam