



Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

2021 Summer Program

ART 101 History of Art: Prehistory to Medieval

Course Outline

Term: June 14 – July 09, 2021

Class Hours: 16:00-17:50 (Monday through Friday)

Course Code: ART 101

Instructor: Joseph Manca

Home Institution: Rice University, Houston, Texas

Office Hours: TBA

Email: manca@rice.edu

Credit: 4

Class Hours

This course will have 52 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, professor 8 office hours, 8-hour TA discussion sessions, 4-hour review sessions.

Course Description

This course will survey the history of Western art from the Paleolithic period to the end of the Medieval period.

Course Goals

This course will acquaint students with the key artistic moments, and key artworks, in the West from the Paleolithic to the Medieval era. Throughout, the lectures will link the art works to the historical context of their production. We will also learn the central concepts as well as skills of art interpretation.

Required Text



Gardner's Art Through the Ages: The Western Tradition. Note that I do NOT require the most recent edition, as the text does not change drastically from year to year. We will also supply you with a reader “R” that contains additional materials, both primary sources that inform our understanding of the artist or artwork, as well as critical essays that help us interpret it.

Course Requirements

Final Grade Percentages

- Class Participation 10%: regular attendance and participation.
- 2 Reaction Papers (20% each): you will be asked to write two reaction papers (4 pages) on key artistic movements. The papers will describe the artwork assigned, identify the central innovations and techniques used to create the work, and then consider the relation of that work to the period in which it was created – both as innovation as well as a reflection of aesthetic practice.
- Midterm 20%
- Final Exam 30%: overall evaluation at end of semester

A note on participation. This is a lecture course, and students are expected to follow the lectures closely and be prepared to answer occasional questions asked in class by the professor. Students will be expected to participate fully in the discussion sections led by the teaching assistant.

Grading System (1 ~ 100)

A : 94 - 100 A- : 90 - 93

B : 83 - 89 B- : 80 - 82

C : 73 - 79 C- : 70 - 72

D : 63 - 69 D- : 60 - 62

F : Fail

Course Schedule

Note: for each section, read the accompanying material in *Gardner's Art Through the Ages*, as well as the assigned essay and primary sources from the reader.

Week One:

Introduction: Introduction to the History of Art and its terminology, aesthetics and form, the nature of a formal reading, the practice of sketching.

Paleolithic Art Ancient Near Eastern Art Egyptian Art

Readings: the associated chapters from your edition of Gardner for each of the above categories.

Paleolithic Art: Christian Violati, “The Meaning of European Upper European



Paleolithic Rock Art” R

Ancient Near Eastern Art: Zaineb Bahrani, Art of Mesopotamia, pp. 1-15 R

Egyptian Art: from Metropolitan Museum, Egyptian Art pp. 22-34 R

First Paper: A formal analysis of an artwork not analyzed in lecture. Due the following class.

Week Two:

Greek Art

Greek Art II

Etruscan Art

Roman Art

Roman Art II

Readings: the associated chapters from your edition of Jansons for each of the above categories.

Greek Art: Robin Osborne, Greek Art pp. 12-24 R

Etruscan Art: Nigel Spivey, Etruscan Art, pp. 4-19 R

Roman Art: Mortimer Wheeler, Roman Art pp. 8-34 R

Week Three:

MONDAY: Midterm Exam

Part One: Art Identifications

Part Two: Essay

Jewish and Early Christian Art

Byzantine Art

Islamic Art

Comparative Lecture: Art from China and the Indian Subcontinent in relation to contemporaneous

Western artworks.

Readings: the associated chapters from your edition of Gardner for each of the above categories.

Early Christian Art: Robin Jensen, Understanding Early Christian Art pp.2-33 R

Byzantine Art: Robin Cormack, Byzantine Art, pp. 7-29 R

Islamic Art: Eric Broug, Islamic Geometric Design, pp. 22-34 R

Paper 2:

Comparative analysis of an object from Byzantine and Islamic Art.

Week Four:

Early Medieval Art

Romanesque Art

Gothic Art I

Gothic Art II

Early Renaissance (The Age of Giotto)

Readings: the associated chapters from your edition of Gardner for each of the above categories.



上海财经大学

Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

中国上海市国定路777号 邮编200433 777 Guoding Road, Shanghai, 200433, China

Early Medieval Art: Lawrence Nees, Early Medieval Art **R**

Romanesque Art: Eric Fernie, Romanesque Architecture, pp. 1-15 **R**

Gothic Art: from Erwin Panofsky, Gothic Art and Scholasticism, pp. 22-34 **R**

Early Renaissance Art: Steffi Roettgen, Italian Frescoes, pp. 2-31 **R**

Final Exam

Part One: Art Identifications from the ENTIRE COURSE

Part Two: Essays dealing with the ENTIRE COURSE