Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

2019 Summer Program

ART 101 Introduction to Art History from Prehistoric to Medieval

Course Outline

Term: June 3 – June 28, 2019

Class Hours: 10:00-11:50 (Monday through Friday)

Course Code: ART 101

Instructor: Professor Ross Hamilton

Home Institution: Barnard College, Columbia University, New York

Office Hours: TBA

Email: rhamilto@barnard.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. Lectures and discussion will be supplemented by accompanied by sketching practice, serving both as an aid to memorization and giving an awareness of artistic form and technique.

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 moment of their production.   We will also learn the central concepts as well as skills of art interpretation.   Finally, exercises in sketching artwork will allow us to consider the acts of creation for the artworks under consideration.

Required Text

Janson's Basic History of Western Art (Pearson Publications).

We will also supply you with a reader 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. As well as the assigned textbook reading, you should expect one reading from source material and one critical reading per two-hour lecture.

Course Requirements

 Final Grade Percentages

◇   Class Participation 10%: regular attendance and participation is requested.

◇   2 Reaction Papers (20% each): you will be asked to write two reaction papers (4 pages) on key artistic movements. Reaction 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, but 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 Policy

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4.0
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3.0
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2.0
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1.0
≤59	F (Failure)	0

Course Schedule

Note: for each section, read the accompanying material in Jansons, as well as the assigned essay and primary source from the reader

Part 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

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

Part Two:
Greek Art
Greek Art II
Etruscan Art
Roman Art
Roman Art II

Part Three:
MONDAY: Midterm Exam
Part One: Art Identifications
Part Two: Essay
Part Three: Sketch

Jewish and Early Christian Art
Byzantine Art
Islamic Art
Comparative Lecture: Art from China and the Indian Subcontinent in relation to contemporaneous Western artworks.

Paper 2:
Comparative analysis of an object from Byzantine and Islamic Art.

Part Four:

Early Medieval Art
Romaneque Art

Gothic Art I   Gothic Art II

Final Exam

Part One: Art Identifications from the ENTIRE COURSE

Part Two: Essay dealing with the ENTIRE COURSE

Part Three: Two sketches from the ENTIRE COURSE