

COURSE SYLLABUS

This course will introduce students to the arts of the ancient and medieval Mediterranean world. We will study the great monuments, the cultural background, and persistent themes of western art, through slide lectures, reading, and assigned exercises and discussion. We will also discuss how archeologists and art museums work, and the ways they teach us to understand the past. This course has no prerequisites and presumes no prior knowledge of Art History.

This course fulfills the University General Education requirement in the Arts.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES. In this course, students will:

- **Learn to analyze and discuss art and architecture.**
- Learn the standard **major periods** of ancient and medieval western art.
- Learn to recognize **major monuments** from each period.
- Study the relationship between the **history and visual culture** of each period.
- Apply **historical geography, archeology and primary texts** to art history;
- Become familiar with some of the **Washington DC area's museums**.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Class attendance, with occasional in-class exercises.
- Assigned readings, including websites and documents on the Internet.
- Two required map exercises, done in class and due in class.
- One self-guided visit to a major Baltimore or Washington, D.C. art museum.
- One short (5pp.) paper based on museum visits, with a graded first draft to be revised.
- Two midterm tests and a final exam.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:

- **GMU email accounts**—only GMU accounts will get announcements and grading access.
- Ability to find and print on-line text documents from the Internet and Blackboard.
- Computerized word-processing with spell-checkers and decent printers for all written work.

TEXTBOOK: I *require* the use of Marilyn Stokstad and Michael Cothren, *Art History*, Part 1 for this course. I *recommend* you purchase the 5th edition, part 1, in paperback (ISBN 978-0205873487). It's for sale in the GMU bookstore. But please feel free to use any older edition of Stokstad's *Art History* you can find—I know textbooks are expensive. Please note that Stokstad's *Art History* Part 2 is *not* appropriate for this course. It covers later periods. Stokstad & Cothren's *Art: A Brief History* is *not* appropriate for this course either. You need *Art History*, Part 1; or if you like, get the whole darned thing, Parts 1 & 2, in one big hardcover volume.

Additional on-line readings primary source readings may be required as well. URLs will be announced in class and linked to the course Blackboard site.

HOW TO REACH ME:

- Email: lbutler@gmu.edu. No more private office phone, sorry. Budget cuts.
- To leave a voicemail message: History and Art History Department office at **(703) 993-1250**.
- Office hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 1:45-2:45, or by appointment.
- Office: **Robinson B340**, deep inside the History and Art History Department.

TENTATIVE LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

Section 001 meets Tuesdays and Thursdays in Robinson B113, 12:00 to 1:15

Section 002 meets Tuesdays and Thursdays in Robinson B113, 3:00 to 4:15

Reading should be done just before or just after the lecture; by the test, at the latest. “Stokstad” refers to Marilyn Stokstad & Michael Cothren, *Art History*, 5th edition, Part 1. If you are using an older edition of Stokstad, *Art History*, that’s fine. Just find the appropriate chapters, which are numbered a little differently. Also be sure to study for tests from my on-line review powerpoints.

PART I: SOURCES OF WESTERN ART

The museum paper and first map exercise will be assigned during this part of the course. Additional on-line primary sources may be assigned.

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION; PREHISTORIC ART

Introduction: what is Art History?

Paleolithic and Neolithic art in Europe: Cave art and Stonehenge.

Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 1: “Prehistoric Art”

First map assignment handed out.

WEEK 2: MESOPOTAMIA

Monday, Sept. 3. **No class, Labor Day:**

Early Mesopotamia: Sumerians and writing.

Later Mesopotamian empires

Tuesday, Sept. 4th: Last day to add classes.

Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 2: “Art of the Ancient Near East”

WEEK 3: EGYPT

Old Kingdom Egypt: Pyramids and all that.

New Kingdom Egypt & its archeology

Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 3: “Art of Ancient Egypt”

WEEK 4: SUMMARY AND TEST

Tuesday, Sept. 17: Catch-up and review.

Thursday, Sept. 19: Test 1, on earliest Western art.

PART II: CIVILIZATIONS OF ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME

WEEK 5: BRONZE-AGE AEGEAN

Earliest Aegean art of the Cyclades islands

Minoan Crete

Mycenae and the Trojan War.

Reading: Stokstad Chapter 4: “Art of the Ancient Aegean”

WEEK 6: GREEK ART 1

Geometric and Archaic Greek art. Vases and sculpture.
Greek temple architecture; the classical orders

Reading: begin Stokstad, Chapter 5: “Art of Ancient Greece”

WEEK 7: GREEK ART 2

Classical Greek art, 5th century BCE
The Parthenon and Acropolis of Athens
Hellenistic art of the 3rd cent. BCE

Reading: finish Stokstad, Chapter 5: “Art of Ancient Greece”

WEEK 8: ANCIENT ITALY

No class, Tuesday, October 15: Columbus day reshuffle

Thursday, October 17: Intro to Ancient Italy

Etruscan art

Early Roman art and portraiture

Reading: begin Stokstad, Chapter 6: “Etruscan and Roman Art”

WEEK 9 THE ROMAN EMPIRE

Roman architecture and engineering

Catch-up and review: Thursday, October 24

Reading: finish Stokstad, Chapter 6: “Etruscan and Roman Art”

WEEK 10: TEST, AND A NEW BEGINNING

Tuesday, October 29: **Test on Aegean, Greek, and Roman art**

PART III: THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

Thursday, October 31: **JEWISH AND EARLY CHRISTIAN ART**

Jewish art in the Roman Empire

Origins of Christian art: the catacombs and Dura Europos

Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 7, “Jewish and Early Christian Art”

WEEK 11: BYZANTINE ART

Constantinople, the new capital of the Roman Empire

Byzantine churches, mosaics and icons

Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 8, “Byzantine art”

WEEK 12: ARTS OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD.

Arts of Islam: calligraphy, decoration and mosques

Luxury arts and trade in the medieval Islamic world.

Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 9: “Islamic Art”

WEEK 13: EARLY MEDIEVAL WEST

Celtic and Germanic arts of Northern Europe

Sutton Hoo ship burial

Charlemagne, monasteries and manuscripts

Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 15: “Early Medieval Art in Europe”

WEEK 14: ROMANESQUE ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Romanesque churches on the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela

No class on Thursday, November 28: Thanksgiving

Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 16: “Romanesque Art”

WEEK 15: GOTHIC ART AND ARCHITECTURE

The Gothic cathedral

Gothic sculpture and decorative arts

The Fourteenth Century in Europe

Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 17: “Gothic Art of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries” and Chapter 17, “Fourteenth Century Art in Europe.”

OPTIONAL REVIEW SESSIONS: Tuesday, December 10, usual place and times.

FINAL EXAMS. Usual location, but please note the earlier times!

Section 1: Thursday, December 12, 10:30-1:15

Section 2: Thursday, December 12, 1:30 to 4:15

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES

Last day to add classes: Tuesday, September 3.

Last day to drop classes without a tuition penalty: Tuesday, September 3.

First test: Thursday, September 19

Last day to drop classes: Friday, September 27.

Selective withdrawal period, September 30-October 25.

No class on Tuesday, October 15—it’s GMU’s Columbus Day Monday rescheduling date.

Second test: Tuesday, October 29.

No class on Thursday, November 28: Thanksgiving recess.

Please note:

Two map exercises will be done and due in class, on days of my choosing. If you miss class, you’ll still need to hand in the completed map.

Museum paper due dates will be assigned in class. I will make special arrangements for students going to New York on the Arts Bus so they can do their research at the Metropolitan Museum.

FINAL EXAMS:

Section 1: Thursday, December 12, 10:30-1:15

Section 2: Thursday, December 12, 1:30 to 4:15

CLASS POLICIES

Attendance is necessary; much of the material will only be covered in our lectures. You are responsible for getting notes, and for all consequences of missed classes. **Class participation will affect your grade, if it is conspicuously good, conspicuously lacking, or continually disruptive.** I will be making spot checks of attendance—they're not perfect, but they help us both recognize a pattern.

Classroom atmosphere. Courtesy and common sense, please. We're all adults; sometimes emergencies come up. However, talking to friends during lectures, wandering in and out, cell phones, and eating food are all badly distracting to everyone else. **Chronic chatterers and latecomers are disruptive, and will be asked to leave the classroom** (Oh yes I can do that—University policy.).

Written work is a major part of the course, and will count heavily towards your final grade. Please study the explanation of my writing standards, attached to this syllabus. In short: **Papers must be written in good formal English, with full documentation** in a standard format such as MLA or Chicago. **All students are expected to use word-processors with spell-checkers. Spelling and grammar count.** Please submit papers typed, double-spaced, and PROOFREAD. **Badly written work will be downgraded, returned for a rewrite, or flunked,** as I see most appropriate.

No email submissions of papers, except in special cases with my prior permission. Sorry—I've tried—it causes too many problems. **Written work is due in hard copy in class on the due date.** Papers will not be considered "on time" unless and until I receive them in hard copy.

Laptop computers are fine for taking notes in class. No Facebook, Solitaire, etc. **Phones** will be turned off at all times, of course, as a courtesy to all. **No computers or telephones may be used during tests.**

Late work will be graded down five points per day and ten points over a weekend. Plan ahead--last-minute hard-disk and printer failures are your problem, and do not constitute legitimate excuses. **By the final exam, all missing work becomes F work.** Make-up tests and elaborate medical excuses will require verification with a physician's or associate dean's excuse. There will be no make-up final exams.

English as a Second Language: If English is not your first language, I will be happy to help you do your best in the writing assignments--by previewing papers, offering extra help, that sort of thing. But the final result must be written in good standard English. Please work with **The Writing Center**. See their web page for English language help, at: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/> . Look for the ESL (English as Second Language) tab.

Learning disabilities. If you are a student with disabilities, and you need academic accommodations, please see me *and* contact the Office of Disabilities Resources (ODS) or 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Visit their website: <http://ods.gmu.edu>.

Religious holidays. I have planned this course according to the George Mason University calendar. If you observe a religious holiday that the University does not, please let me know and I will make necessary accommodations for you (but not for the whole class).

Auditors are welcome to sit and listen, if there is room. If you would like to participate more actively, that's fine with me *if (!!)* you are keeping up with the assigned class reading. Otherwise, please be quiet.

Academic honesty is expected in all tests and writing, according to the GMU Honor Code. "Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work," according to the official website, <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/> Please respect the Honor Code, our classroom standards, your fellow students, and yourself. Please report violations to the Honor Committee, using the procedures explained in the website. See the explanation of plagiarism, and how to avoid it, in the guidelines for writing.

GRADING POLICIES

TESTS must be taken on the scheduled date. If there has been an emergency, it must be documented by a note from the dean's office or your doctor. In those cases, there will be one make-up test given, probably during the subsequent class. Tests will be graded by percentage. **Grades will be calculated as follows:**

A	= 100% to 93%, or 4.00	B-	= 82% to 80 %, or 2.67	D	= 60% to 66%, or
A-	= 92% to 90%, or 3.67	C+	= 79% to 77 %, or 2.33		1.0
B+	= 89% to 87%, or 3.33	C	= 76% to 73 %, or 2.00	F	= below 60% and
B	= 86% to 83 %, or 3.00	C-	= 72% to 70 %, or 1.67		receives no credit

I may award a final A+ in rare instances: 4.0 average *plus* unusually good writing and class participation.

WRITTEN WORK may be graded by points, or by the following criteria, as appropriate:

A = Startlingly good, exceeding our expectations, and well-written. Must be imaginative; NOT given for simply following directions.

B = Good effort with a good result.

C = Perfunctory; or, tried but missed the point; or, did something well but it wasn't the assignment;
or, good idea but careless or sloppy.

D = Warning: accepted under protest.

F = Unacceptable as college-level work.

Paper grades will be lowered for lateness, sloppiness, lack of proofreading, bad English, lack of necessary documentation, faulty logic, or failure to follow directions for the assignment. Please study the directions for writing assignments, elsewhere in this syllabus.

Late written work: Papers are **due in class in hard copy** on the day specified. After that, late papers will be lowered five points a day, or half a grade, during the work week (Mon-Fri) and lowered ten points over a weekend. Note that this makes even the best work "F" work after about ten days. **If you need an extension, you must ask for it before the due date, not on or after**, if you want to avoid a penalty.

Ungraded work: Maps and other ungraded exercises will be given checks, pluses or minuses only; when figuring up your final grade, these will help us determine borderline grades. **Missing maps will result in a lowering of your final grade by 5 points per item.**

Class participation grade: Normal class participation—showing up on time, keeping up with classwork, participating in group activities, not causing problems--will be figured as "B" level. Great class participation will be graded "A". Problematic will be graded "C" or lower, heaven forbid.

FINAL GRADES will be based on the average of your paper, test and class grades. Each assignment will be weighted thus:

Test 1:	10 %	Paper, first draft	10%
Test 2:	25%	Paper, final draft	20%
Final exam:	25%	Participation (map, attendance)	10%

Final grades may be raised or lowered from strict average in the following circumstances:

- A pattern of pluses or minuses on ungraded assignments;
- I may raise or lower your grade in recognition of significant change over the course of the semester.
- **THE MUSEUM PAPER MUST BE TURNED IN TO PASS THE CLASS.** If no draft of the paper is received by the final exam, then don't even bother to show up at the final exam. Course failed.
- **TWO PIECES OF GRADED WORK MISSING AT THE END OF THE COURSE WILL BE GROUNDS FOR FAILING THE COURSE REGARDLESS OF YOUR PRECISE AVERAGE.**
- **IF YOU FLUNK THE FINAL EXAM, WITH AN F ON ANOTHER MAJOR (20%) PIECE OF WORK, YOU WILL RECEIVE A FAILING GRADE FOR THE WHOLE COURSE.** To pass this course **you must demonstrate mastery of the material from all parts of the course.**

DIRECTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR ALL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

There will be one short paper required for this class, with a final rewrite required. Specific directions will be handed out when the papers are assigned. In general, all written work for me, or for Art History in general, should be finished, professional-looking, and must observe the following rules:

Organization: College-level essays are to be carefully constructed and presented as finished products. They are not just journal entries or stream-of-consciousness. This means they must have a thesis of some sort, and present reasoned arguments through the examination of evidence. There should be an introductory thesis statement and a conclusion. Paragraphs should be used as a way to structure the argument so a reader can follow your thinking. An interesting or informative title is expected.

Mechanics: All papers must be typed and double-spaced, using a standard font in 10 or 11-point size. Please stick to plain old white paper and standard fonts. Handwriting is *not* OK. Single-spacing is *not* OK. Triple-spacing is *not* OK. Writing the whole darned thing in *italics* or some cute font you like is *not* OK. Pictures are nice, but strictly optional. Pictures cannot be a substitute for writing. Nice presentation is always welcome, but please be clear that adding pictures will not affect your grade unless they are explicitly part of the assignment.

Spelling and grammar are expected to be excruciatingly correct. Use the spell-checker. I will mark down work for sloppy spelling and grammar. If the writing is really awful—ungrammatical, no evidence of proofreading, horrible spelling, or laughably short—I will not read it. I'll return it as unacceptable, with an F. I may allow rewrites, depending on the class, but the highest grade for a rewritten F paper is C.

Page limits should be observed, and should be your guide to the depth of writing: a one-to-two page paper is pretty much a quick observation, with thesis and conclusion. Three-to-five pages means there is time to develop a thesis and argue it through several paragraphs, considering several different questions, angles or pieces of evidence. An eight-to-ten page paper usually includes research, as will be made clear.

Citations. All papers, whatever length, must include the complete and correct citation of any sources of information to avoid the appearance of plagiarism. Generally-known facts are not normally cited. Anything else is, including a long summary of facts from one source, a single opinion stated by another author, and any direct quote. If you are using information from museum labels or pamphlets, cite that too.

When you do citations, please use one of these two standard forms, as you have learned here in college:

- **MLA style**, using parenthetical page references and list of works cited at the end of the paper.
- **Chicago style**, using correctly-done footnotes and a bibliography.

Both of these are explained in detail in the Infoguides available on the University Libraries website:

<http://infoguides.gmu.edu/humcites>

Do citations carefully and correctly! Points will be deducted for missing citations of information, missing page numbers, missing list of “works cited” at the end, or just messed up mechanics.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Here is how the **GMU Honor Code** defines it, as quoted from the University Catalog, <http://www.gmu.edu/academics/catalog/0203/apolicies/honor.html>:

B. Plagiarism encompasses the following:

1. Presenting as one's own the works, the work, or the opinions of someone else without proper acknowledgement.
2. Borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgement.

That means **you must acknowledge your source of information**. Museum labels, anonymous pamphlets, and websites all count as sources, and must be acknowledged—even if you are summarizing them with word changes. **Plagiarism is cheating, and will be reported to the Honor Committee for action.** For more on the procedures, see <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>.