

## **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 5<sup>th</sup> edition, Part 1, in paperback, Kindle or loose-leaf. It's for sale in the GMU bookstore in all three formats. 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](mailto: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: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:45 to 2:45, or by appointment.
- Office: **Robinson B340**, deep inside the History and Art History Department.

## TENTATIVE LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

**Section 001 meets Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:00 to 1:15, in Innovation 105**

**Section 002 meets Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:00 to 4:15, in Art and Design 2003.**

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*, 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### 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. 1. No class, Labor Day:**

Early Mesopotamia: Sumerians and writing.

Later Mesopotamian empires

**Tuesday, Sept. 2<sup>th</sup>: 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

Monday, Sept. 15: Catch-up and review.

Wednesday, Sept. 17: Test 1, on earliest Western art.

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### 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, 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE  
The Parthenon and Acropolis of Athens  
Hellenistic art of the 3<sup>rd</sup> cent. BCE

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

**WEEK 8: No class on Monday, October 13 or Wednesday, October 15.**

Classes cancelled for Columbus Day and a professional obligation.

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

**WEEK 9: THE ROMAN EMPIRE**

Etruscan and Roman portraiture  
Roman architecture and engineering

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

**WEEK 10: TEST, AND A NEW BEGINNING**

Monday, October 27: Catch-up and review.

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

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**PART III: THE MEDIEVAL WORLD****WEEK 11: JEWISH, EARLY CHRISTIAN AND BYZANTINE ART**

Jewish and Early Christian architecture and arts in late antiquity  
Byzantine churches, mosaics and icons

**Reading:** Stokstad, Chapter 7, “Jewish and Early Christian Art”  
and 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 Wednesday, November 26: Thanksgiving break**

**Reading:** Stokstad, Chapter 16: "Romanesque Art"

#### **WEEK 15: GOTHIC ART AND ARCHITECTURE**

The Gothic cathedral

Gothic sculpture and decorative arts

**Reading:** Stokstad, Chapter 17: "Gothic Art of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries" and Chapter 18, "Fourteenth Century Art in Europe."

**OPTIONAL REVIEW SESSIONS: Monday, December 8, usual places and times.**

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

Section 1: Monday, December 15, 10:30-1:15

Section 2: Monday, December 15, 1:30 to 4:15

#### **SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES**

Last day to add classes: Monday, September 1.

Last day to drop classes without a tuition penalty: Monday, September 1.

**First test: Wednesday, September 17.**

Last day to drop classes: Friday, September 26.

Selective withdrawal period, September 29-October 24.

No class on Monday, October 13 or Wednesday, October 15: Columbus Day break.

**Second test: Wednesday, October 29.**

No class on Wednesday, November 26: Thanksgiving recess.

Optional review sessions on the first reading day, Monday, December 8.

#### **FINAL EXAMS:**

Section 1: Monday, December 15, 10:30-1:15

Section 2: Monday, December 15, 1:30 to 4:15

#### **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.

## 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 weekday 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              | 15% |
| Test 2:     | 20%  | 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.**