

ARTH 200-002 Survey of Western Art Part 1
Syllabus, Spring 2017
Tuesday and Thursday 3:00-4:15 PM
Robinson Hall B 113
Professor Erik Gustafson

Contact information and Office Hours:

Email: egustafs@gmu.edu **Please use your GMU email address for school business.**

Art History Department Phone: 703-993-1250

Office: Robinson B: 348

Office hours: Tuesdays 4:45-6:45 pm, or by appointment

Find your Discussion Group on your Blackboard page for this course!

Your Discussion Group is:

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the art and architecture of the ancient and medieval Mediterranean and European world. Through slide lectures, reading, assigned exercises, and discussions we will examine key monuments and artists. We will explore the role of painting, sculpture, and architecture in the formation and communication of cultural identity. 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 archeology and primary texts to art history;
- Become familiar with some of the area's museums.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Class attendance and in-class discussion exercises with notes to be handed in.
- Assigned readings, including websites and documents on the Internet.
- One (or more) self-guided visit to an art museum.
- One short paper based on a museum visit, with a graded first draft outline to be revised.
- Two tests and a final exam.

1. CLASS MEETINGS AND PARTICIPATION

Class meets twice a week. Daily attendance and participation are essential and will contribute to your final grade. Each class will be structured as part discussion and part lecture, and I will depend on students to engage actively - respond to questions, challenge

assertions in the textbook, comment on what you see, and ASK QUESTIONS. In order for you to participate intelligently, it will be essential for you to have done the assigned reading before class.

2. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

You will write six **Response Papers** of 1-2 pages across the semester. The class will be divided into four groups, with the members of each group writing responses every four classes, as noted on the schedule of classes. These are not group assignments to be written together; each individual will write their own response, focusing on the Target Object of that class session. The point of the papers is for you to prepare for leading discussion at the start of class. These are not research papers; instead, they are reflections on the target object, based on your reading of the assigned text. What does the object look like? How does it compare to other, similar objects? How does it convey something significant about its original time period? You could describe the object, ask questions about it, write about why you think it is interesting. Think of your response paper on each Target Object as starting to ask the questions you want to talk about in class. **Response Papers must be handed in on the day they are due! Late Response Papers will be penalized following the Late Written Work policy as explained at the end of this syllabus, losing 5 points per day late.**

There will also be one **short paper (3-5 pages)** based on visiting an object in one of three area art museums. The Draft Outline is due **April 11** and the final paper is due **April 27**. The paper will be an analysis of how a written story is translated into a visual story. A detailed paper assignment will be posted on Blackboard. **The Outline and Paper will be not accepted as email attachments. You must bring a printed version of each to class on the due date.** Again, see the Late Written Work policy at the bottom of this syllabus.

3. EXAMS

There will be two exams (**February 21 and April 4**) and a final exam (**May 4, in class**), based on the images you have seen in class, class discussion, and the assigned reading. For each exam, you will be required to memorize 20-30 images. Two weeks before each exam I will give you a list of these images. Make-up exams will only be given in the event of a documented emergency.

Each exam consists of four components:

- 1) Identifications: Identify the name of the work, place of origin, date and artist (when known), plus 2-3 sentences that tell us something significant about the culture in which it was made.
- 2) Short answer comparisons: Identify the two images and briefly explain the theme or idea that connects them. Questions will build upon issues raised in lectures, class discussions and reading.
- 3) Unknown: Briefly explain what you think the subject matter, place, and approximate date might be of an object we have not looked at together in class.
- 4) Essay: Answer a thematic question synthesizing issues and material from various class lectures, discussion and reading.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra Credit will be given for each extra, non-required Response Paper handed in. Extra credit is also available for response papers written about your own museum visits, either on specific objects or entire galleries that you found interesting.

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.

Required TEXTBOOK: Marilyn Stokstad and Michael Cothren, *Art History, Part 1*

You can purchase the **5th 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—textbooks are expensive!** This textbook is also on reserve in the Gateway Library in the Johnson Center, where you can read or photocopy sections as you need.

PLEASE NOTE: Stokstad's *Art History* Part 2 is ***not*** appropriate for this course because it covers later periods. Stokstad & Cothren's *Art: A Brief History* is also ***not*** appropriate for this course. You need *Art History*, Part 1; or if you like, get the whole thing, Parts 1 & 2, in one big hardcover volume.

If you are not sure how to talk about or write about art, find and use Anne D'Alleva's *Look! The Fundamentals of Art History*, 3rd Ed, Prentice Hall 2010. She gives some great suggestions for **how to write about art**, and some other **great tips like how to study for art history exams**.

LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE
(Students will be notified of any changes in advance)

Assigned reading should be done before the lecture.

“Stokstad” is short for: **Marilyn Stokstad & Michael Cothren, *Art History*, 5th edition, Part 1.** (If you are using an older edition of Stokstad, *Art History*, find the appropriate chapters, which are numbered a differently.)

Week 1 1/24 and 1/26: Introduction and The Start

Tuesday, Jan 24 - Introduction: What is Art History?

Reading: Stokstad, Introduction, XXVI-XLI

Thursday, Jan 26 - The Ancient Near East to c. 1200 BCE

Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 2: “The Art of the Ancient Near East,” 26-38

Target Object: Carved Vessel from Uruk

Response Groups: A, B, C, D

Week 2: 1/31 and 2/2 No Class Meetings

Tuesday, January 31 - No Class

Thursday, February 2 - No Class

Monday, January 30th: Last day to add classes without tuition penalty.

Week 3: 2/7 and 2/9: The Ancient Ancient World

Tuesday, February 7 - The Ancient Near East after c. 1200 BCE

Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 2: “The Art of the Ancient Near East,” 38-47

Target Object: Guardian Figures at Citadel of Sargon II (Lamassus)

Response Group: A

Thursday, February 9 - Egypt and the Old & Middle Kingdom

Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 3: “Art of Ancient Egypt,” 48-65

Target Object: Menkaure and a Queen

Response Group: B

Week 4: 2/14 and 2/16: Finishing Egypt and Test Review

Tuesday, February 14 - Egypt, the New Kingdom and Beyond

Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 3: “Art of Ancient Egypt,” 65-79

Target Object: Hatshepsut Kneeling

Response Group: C

Thursday, February 16 - Review for test on material covered through 2/14

Monday, February 13th: Last add drop period with tuition penalty.

Week 5: 2/21 and 2/23: First Test and the Ancient Mediterranean World

Tuesday, February 21 - **Test 1**

Thursday, February 23 - The Aegean and Archaic Greece
Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 5: "Art of Ancient Greece," 101-120
Target Object: Anavysos Kouros
Response Group: D

Friday, February 24th: Final drop period with larger tuition penalty.

Week 6: 2/28 and 3/2: The Greco-Roman World

Tuesday, February 28 - Classical and Hellenistic Greek Culture
Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 5: "Art of Ancient Greece," 120-155
Target Object: Doryphoros (Spear Bearer)
Response Group: A
Thursday, March 2 - The Republic and Early Empire
Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 6: "Etruscan and Roman Art," 166-189
Target Object: Wall Painting of the "Ixion Room," House of the Vettii
Response Group: B

Week 7: 3/7 and 3/9: Rome, From Pagan to Christian Empire

Tuesday, March 7 - The Empire
Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 6: "Etruscan and Roman Art," 190-213
Target Object: Commodus as Hercules
Response Group: C
Thursday, March 9 - The Early Christian World
Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 7 "Jewish and Early Christian Art," 214-231
Target Object: Oratory of Galla Placidia
Response Group: D

Spring Break 3/13-3/19

Week 8: 3/21 and 3/23: Byzantium

Tuesday, March 21 - The Rise of Byzantium
Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 8 "Byzantine Art," 232-248
Target Object: The Transfiguration of Christ, Mount Sinai
Response Group: A
Thursday, March 23 - Middle and Late Byzantine
Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 8 "Byzantine Art," 248-263
Target Object: Anastasis Apse, Monastery of Christ in Chora
Response Group: B

Week 9: 3/28 and 3/30: The Islamic World

Tuesday, March 28 - The Islamic World until the Mongols
Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 9, "Islamic Art," 264-277
Target Object: Interior, Dome of the Rock
Response Group: C

Thursday, March 30 - The Islamic World after the Mongols
Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 9, "Islamic Art," 277-293
Target Object: Mamluk Glass Oil Lamp
Response Group: D

Week 10: 4/4 and 4/6: The Second Test and the European Barbarians

Tuesday, April 4 - **Test 2**

Thursday, April 6 - From Barbarian Hordes to Civilization
Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 15, "Early Medieval Art in Europe," 428-444
Target Object: Hinged Clasp from the Sutton Hoo Burial Ship
Response Group: A

Week 11: 4/11 and 4/13: The Beginnings of the Medieval World

Tuesday, April 11 - The Foundations of Europe
Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 15, "Early Medieval Art in Europe," 444-457
Target Object: Equestrian Portrait of Charles the Bald
Response Group: B

Draft of paper due 4/11 (see guidelines on Blackboard. Include your thesis statement and outline)

Thursday, April 13 - Pilgrimage and Christianity after the Millennium
Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 16, "Romanesque Art"
Target Object: Reliquary Statue of Sainte Foy
Response Group: C

Week 12: 4/18 and 4/20: From the "Romanesque" to the "Gothic" World

Tuesday, April 18 - Finishing Romanesque
Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 16, "Romanesque Art"
Target Object: Wiligelmo, Creation and Fall of Adam & Eve, Modena Cathedral
Response Group: D

Thursday, April 20 - French Cathedrals and Classic Gothic
Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 17, "Gothic Art of the 12th and 13th Centuries"
Target Object: Rose Window and Lancets, North Transept, Chartres Cathedral
Response Group: A

Week 13: 4/25 and 4/27: From "Gothic" to the Late "Gothic" World

Tuesday, April 25 - Finishing First Wave Gothic
Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 17, "Gothic Art of the 12th and 13th Centuries"
Target Object: St. Maurice, Magdeburg Cathedral
Response Group: B

Thursday, April 27 - Italian Art and the "Proto-Renaissance"
Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 18, "Fourteenth Century Art in Europe"
Target Object: Giotto, Virgin and Child Enthroned
Response Group: C

Final Paper due 4/27

Week 14: 5/2 and 5/4: The Late “Gothic” and the Final Exam

Tuesday, May 2 - Northern Europe and the late Gothic

Reading: Stokstad, Chapter 18, “Fourteenth Century Art in Europe”

Target Object: Virgin and Child from Saint-Denis

Response Group: D

Thursday, May 4 - **Final Exam In Class**

Dates to remember:

2/21 Test #1

3/13 - 3/19 Spring Break

4/4 Test #2

4/11 Draft of paper due (outline, first paragraph, list of story and object, ticket)

4/27 Final Paper due in class

5/4 Final Exam in Class

Extra credit may be handed in any time

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.** I will be making spot checks of attendance.

Classroom atmosphere. Courtesy and common sense, please. Talking during lectures, wandering in and out, cell phones, and eating food are all badly distracting to everyone else. **Disruptive individuals can be asked to leave, according to GMU 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 – but don't take the computer's word for it. Ex: "Throne" and "thrown" are not the same word.** Please submit papers typed, double-spaced, and PROOFREAD. **Badly written work will be downgraded, returned for a rewrite, or flunked** at my discretion.

No email submissions of papers, except in special cases with my prior permission. **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 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 unless special permission is obtained due to a specific disability (see below).**

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 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. 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. Website: <http://ods.gmu.edu>. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Religious holidays. This syllabus is arranged 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 they would like to participate more actively, that's fine with me *if (!!)* you are keeping up with the assigned class reading.

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://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/> 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 scheduled. Tests will be graded by percentage.

FINAL GRADES

Based on the average of your assignments, tests, and class participation grades:

Class Participation: 10%

Test 1: 10%

Test 2: 20%

Response Papers: 10%

Paper, first outline 10%

Paper, final version 15%

Final exam: 25%

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

Class participation improves/deteriorates

Reliability is stellar (always on time, always prepared, etc) or poor (bad attendance, never prepared)

Significant improvement over the semester (Student begins semester poorly but then does better)

Grades will be calculated as follows:

A = 100% to 93%, or 4.00

A- = 92% to 90%, or 3.67

B+ = 89% to 87%, or 3.33

B = 86% to 83 %, or 3.00

B- = 82% to 80 %, or 2.67
C+ = 79% to 77 %, or 2.33
C = 76% to 73 %, or 2.00
C- = 72% to 70 %, or 1.67
D = 60% to 66%, or 1.0
F = below 60% 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 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/supporting evidence/footnoting, 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 “A” work into “F” work after ten days. **If you need an extension, you must ask for it *before* the due date** if you want to avoid a penalty.

Class participation grade:

“A” Level: Great class participation—student demonstrates understanding of subject and the ability to think critically about it, makes connections with other students and encourages friendly and positive discussion, no “one-upping.”

“B” level: Normal class participation—student shows up on time, keeps up with classwork, participates in group activities, does not cause problems

“C” level: Student shows poor class attendance, does not pay attention, is not up to date with reading, is disruptive, etc.

“D-F” level: Student will get a D-F in class participation automatically if they use their personal technology devices in any way that is not connected to the classroom. IE no Facebook, Tinder, Snapchat, etc etc etc. You are allowed to monitor emergency campus alerts of course.

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 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.**

Outside of this classroom:

If you or anyone you know has been subjected to any form of harassment (due to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, etc), please consider a visit to GMU's Office of Compliance, Diversity, and Ethics. They will be supportive and discreet. GMU is proud of its diverse student body and committed to protecting the rights and the dignity of all students.

GMU Office of Compliance, Diversity, and Ethics Website: <http://diversity.gmu.edu>