

**ARTH 321: Greek Art**  
**Spring 2017**  
**Classroom: Art and Design Building 2026**  
**Monday and Wednesday, 1:30-2:45 pm**  
**Dr. Jacquelyn Williamson**  
**jwilli98@gmu.edu**  
**Office Robinson B 348**  
**Office Hours: Monday 3-5 pm**

**Email policy: I will not reply to emails on the weekends. If you have a serious last minute problem on a Sunday with a project, I will not be able to help you until Monday. Be sure to plan ahead.**

**Office hours policy: If you are unable to come to office hours please ask for an appointment, I will do my best to accommodate your schedule.**

This class introduces students to the art and architecture of Ancient Greece; we will review painting, sculpture, and architecture in their social and historical contexts. Greek art will be viewed in light of this ancient culture's ideas concerning gender, sexuality, and patronage. The class will start circa 2500 BCE; we will review the influence of the Cyclades and the Mycenaean "age of heroes" on the earliest forms of Greek art. We will examine the impact Ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern art had on Greece in the Archaic and Orientalizing periods. The class will also review how the defeat of the Persian army in 480 BCE heralded a new type of idealized art in the Classical periods, laying the groundwork for the emotional drama of the art of the later Hellenistic period. A self-organized museum visit to the ancient Greek art galleries at the Walters Art Museum is required for this course.

**OBJECTIVES.** This course is designed to:

- Acquaint students with the history, cultural significance, and context of ancient Greek art.
- Introduce students to the collection of Greek art in the Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD.
- Examine the role of patronage on the development of Greek art.
- Examine the impact of gender, politics, war, and religion on Greek art.
- Develop visual analysis and other associated art historical skills
- Prepare students to engage in fact-based inquiry and original, critical thinking.

**TEXTBOOKS,** all available in the Johnson Center.

**Required:**

- Richard Neer, *Greek Art and Archaeology, 2500 – 150 BCE*. Thames and Hudson 2012
- Jeff Hurwit, *Art and Culture of Early Greece, 1100-480 BC*, Cornell University Press 1985

- Judith Barringer, *Art, Myth, and Ritual in Classical Greece*, Cambridge University Press 2008

Additional resources:

- Andy Stewart *Classical Greece and the Birth of Western Art* (CUP 2008)
- Andy Stewart *Art in the Hellenistic World: An Introduction* (CUP 2014)

**COURSEWORK/GRADE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Class attendance, participation, and critical thinking exercises.
- Assigned readings, including websites and documents on the Internet/Blackboard.
- One Treasure Hunt exercise on the GMU Fairfax campus.
- One World Heritage paper
- One final paper based on a **self-organized visit to the Walters Art Museum**
- One midterm and one 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. These can be found in the Johnson Center. Note that your home computer/printer malfunctioning is not a valid excuse for late work: there are many back-ups available to you. Plan ahead.

**SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES**

**Last day to add/last day to drop without tuition penalty January 30<sup>th</sup>**

**February 6: hand in your Treasure Hunt print outs.**

**First Paper (World Heritage Sites: Ancient Greece) Due February 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Midterm: March 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Second Paper (Exhibition paper) Due April 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Final Exam: May 10<sup>th</sup>, usual classroom, 1:30-4:15pm**

## TENTATIVE CLASS AND READING SCHEDULE

**Prepare the readings before the date listed** for class discussion. The readings are listed weekly. You must bring to class questions or observations about the content of the readings and be prepared to share them with the class.

**Readings: if the assignment is drawn from the textbooks mentioned above they are referred to by the author's last name. Other readings will be uploaded to Blackboard or handed out in class.**

### NOTE:

#### **'Neer' refers to:**

- Richard Neer, *Greek Art and Archaeology, 2500 – 150 BCE*. Thames and Hudson 2012

#### **'Hurwit' refers to:**

- Jeff Hurwit *Art and Culture of Early Greece, 1100-480 BC*, Cornell University Press 1985

#### **'Barringer' refers to:**

- Judith Barringer, *Art, Myth, and Ritual in Classical Greece*, Cambridge University Press 2008

### **WEEK 1, January 23/25 Introduction, Crete and the Cyclades to the Late Bronze Age**

Reading (finish by class on the 25<sup>th</sup>):

Neer: Introduction, Chronology, Chapter 1 pg. 9-41

### **WEEK 2, January 30/February 1st: class will not meet. I will be attending a conference in Barcelona.**

**Treasure Hunt:** Did you know that there are casts of ancient Greek art all over GMU's Fairfax Campus? The Metropolitan Museum of Art gave George Mason these wonderful gifts! Find as many examples as you can. Take selfies with your phone when you find one and, if it has an accompanying text (sometimes it will be on a wall nearby, be sure to look carefully), note down the information in a word document. Print out the images and your descriptions, **and bring them to class on the 6<sup>th</sup>**. All students will get credit for participation and effort, but the student who finds the most examples will earn an additional entire full half point extra credit that will be added to their final exam!

### **WEEK 3, February 6/8 Greece and the Mycenaean World to 1200 BCE**

**February 6: hand in your treasure hunt print outs.**

Reading:

Neer, Chapter 2, pg. 42-65

**WEEK 4, February 13/15 Geometric Greece, c. 1100-700 BCE**

Reading:

Neer: Chapter 3, pg. 66-91

Hurwit: Chapter 2 pg. 33-71, and one section of Chapter 3: pg. 93-106

**WEEK 5, February 20/22 The Orientalizing Period, c. 710-600 BCE**

Reading:

Neer: Chapter 4, pg. 92-117

Hurwit: Chapter 4, pg. 125-179

**WEEK 6, February 27/March 1<sup>st</sup> Archaic Architecture and Sculpture, Coinage and Luxuries**

**World Heritage Paper Due February 27<sup>th</sup>, print out only in class**

Reading:

Neer: Chapters 5 and 6 pg. 118- 171

**WEEK 7, March 6/8**

March 6: Midterm review

March 8: Midterm

**WEEK 8, March 13/15: no class, spring break**

**Week 9, March 20/22 Olympia and Delphi c. 900-480 BCE**

Reading:

Neer: Chapter 7, pg. 172-193

**WEEK 10, March 27/29 Late Archaic, c. 520-480 BCE**

Reading:

Neer: Chapter 8, pg. 194-217

Hurwit: Chapter 6, pg. 273-319

**WEEK 11, April 3/5 Early Classical c 480-440 BCE/ Olympia in the Classical era**

Reading:

Neer: Chapter 9, pg. 218-241

Barringer: Chapter 1, pg. 8-58

**WEEK 12, April 10/12 Athens and the Akropolis 480-404 BCE**

Reading:

Neer: Chapter 11 pg. 266-291

Barringer, Chapter 2, pg. 59-108

### **WEEK 13, April 17/19 High Classical, c. 440-400 BCE**

#### **Museum Exhibition Paper Due April 17<sup>th</sup> printout, in class only**

Reading:

Neer: Chapter 12, pg. 292-317

Barringer Chapter 3, pg. 109-143

### **WEEK 14, April 24/26 Late Classical c. 400-323 BCE, Delphi in the Classical Era**

Reading:

Neer, Chapter 13, pg. 318-347

Barringer, Chapter 4, pg. 144-170

### **Week 15, May 1/3 The Hellenistic World, c 323-100 BCE, Final exam review**

Reading:

Neer: Chapter 14, pg. 348-381

May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Review for final exam

### **Final Exam: May 10<sup>th</sup>, usual classroom, 1:30-4:15pm**

**ALL WRITING FOR THIS COURSE.** This is a 300-level college class, and I will expect all writing to reflect that. I assume you have all had English 101, two Art History 300-level classes, ENGL 302 and some experience with college writing. So:

- I expect all writing in my classes to be formal academic writing in good standard English, proofread carefully for correct grammar and spelling, and **properly cited**. If English is not your first language, or you feel you need help writing academic English, you must contact the writing center <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>. Make an appointment and they will help you. I must grade everyone the same, special consideration will not be given except under specific circumstances (differently-abled students need to alert me to any specific needs they might have.)
- **Formatting:** Times New Roman font, size 12, double spaced, using the default margins in Word. Pictures are nice, but not required or expected, and do not count toward final page counts.

- **Citing your sources** is a crucially important part of academic writing. You *must* cite any sources you use, and *cite them correctly*, or I will grade down the work. Cite museum labels and pamphlets too. **Please use MLA or Chicago style in any Art History course.** Check <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/resources/> if you need a refresher.
- **Failure to do these things will result in a lowered grade or worse.**

## **CLASS POLICIES:**

**Attendance** is necessary; much of the material will only be covered in our slide 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. One unexcused absence is allowed. More than one, and the “class participation” grade goes down.

**Classroom atmosphere.** Courtesy and common sense, please. 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 (University policy!).

**Electronic gizmos.** Use of a laptop or i-pad is fine during class for taking notes. Surfing the web or doing email are not OK. No use of computers or gizmos during class films—too distracting to all around you.

**Written work** is a major part of the course, and will count heavily towards your final grade. Papers must be written in good formal English, with full documentation in standard Chicago or MLA format. Please submit papers typed, double-spaced, and proofread. Spelling and grammar count, of course. Badly written work will be downgraded, returned for a rewrite, or flunked, as I see most appropriate. All students are expected to use word-processors with spell-checkers. For help with writing, please contact **The Writing Center** in Robinson I, Room A116. Call them at (703) 993-1200, or see their phenomenally good web page, at: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>.

**Late written work:** Papers are due in class on the day specified. Late papers will be lowered five points a day (not per class day; *every* day) during the 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. **By the final exam, all missing work becomes F work.** Make-up finals and elaborate medical excuses will require verification with a physician's or assistant dean's excuse. Sorry, but this is life.

**No email submissions of papers**, except in special cases with my prior permission. Papers received by email without prior permission will be marked down ten points. **Written work is due in hard copy in class on the due date.** Papers will not be considered “on time” unless I receive them in hard copy.

**Learning disabilities** will be accommodated as required according to University policies. Learning disabilities must be documented by the Disabilities Support Services. **It is the student's responsibility to get tested, present the documentation to me, and request accommodations in a timely way** (i.e. not on the day of the test; not after-the-fact). For more information, call the GMU **Disability Resource Center** at (703) 993-2474, or visit their website at <http://ds.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).

**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 good standard written English. You will want to work with The Writing Center. Call them at (703) 993-1200, or see their web page for English language help, at: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>. You may also want to work with the **English Language Institute (ELI)**. Call them at (703) 993-3664, or visit their website at <http://eli.gmu.edu>

**Academic honesty** is expected in all tests and writing. Please respect the Honor Code, our classroom standards, your fellow students, and yourself. The Honor Pledge will be required on all tests. Please report violations to the Honor Committee. See the explanation of plagiarism in the guidelines for writing.

## **GRADING POLICIES**

**Assignments** must be completed 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. **Grades will be calculated as follows:**

**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:

Test 1: 15%  
1<sup>st</sup> Paper, 25%  
2<sup>nd</sup> Paper 25%  
Final exam: 25%  
Participation: 10%

**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, comes to see me during office hours to ask for assistance and clarification)

**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

**Paper grades will be lowered** for lateness, sloppiness, lack of proofreading, bad English, lack of necessary documentation/supporting evidence/footnoting, faulty logic, plagiarism (automatic fail), or failure to follow directions for the assignment. Please study the directions for writing assignments, elsewhere in this syllabus.

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

**Late written work:** Papers are due on the day specified. Late papers will be lowered five points a day (not per class day; *every* day) during the 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. **By the final exam, all missing work becomes F work.**

**Class participation grades:** Habitual absence (three times or more) will be construed as a conspicuous lack of participation indeed. Disruptive or inappropriate classroom behavior will result in a lowering of this grade. You must contribute to the discussion at least once during each class meeting. **Your grade will dramatically suffer if it is clear that you are surfing the Web during class.**

**Borderline grades** may vary from strict numerical average if there is a pattern to grades over time (up or down) or if the final exam is flunked, or if major pieces of work are missing. You may fail the course if you flunk the final exam plus one other major piece of work; or if two or more major pieces of work (worth 10% each) are missing, regardless of average. **Put simply: You will not pass the course if you do not hand in any written work.**