

ARTH 101-K01 – INTRODUCTION TO VISUAL ARTS– FALL 2021

Instructor: Amy Zhang (Xinyi Zhang)

Class meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30am-11:45am, Room G106

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00pm-2:00pm; Fridays 11:00am-12:00pm, or by appointment

Email: xzhang16@gmu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the visual arts. Through considering material products of human creativity from prehistory to the present, we will learn to analyze and interpret the visual evidence of history. In our first unit on art theory, we will study varied historical perspectives on what constitutes art to better understand what art means today. In our second unit, we survey objects that commonly populate dominant narratives of art history, emphasizing what their material and form communicate about the societies that produced, circulated, and preserved them. Our third unit considers unsettled issues in the visual arts, including the provincialism of art history, the necessity of the canon, and the social role of the arts and art museums. Our class meetings will involve lectures, discussion, and a great deal of inquisitive looking at objects. We will complement our classroom learning with experiential learning by visiting two art museums: The National Museum of Korea and the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course meets the Mason Core Arts requirement. Our learning objectives include:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between artistic process, and a work's underlying concept, and where appropriate, contexts associated with the work.
- Identify and analyze the formal elements of a particular art form using vocabulary and critique appropriate to that form.
- Analyze cultural productions using standards appropriate to the form, as well as the works cultural significance and context.
- Analyze and interpret the content of material or performance culture through its social, historical, and personal contexts.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All reading assignments are available on Blackboard under the “Course Texts” tab including the sections from *Gateways to Art. Understanding the Visual Arts* (DeWitte et. al. 2015) that we will be reading.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Course schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in writing.

WEEK 1	
Monday 08/23	<p>What is Art? What is Art History? I</p> <p>Read: Claire Farago and Donald Preziosi, “Introduction: Art and/as Manifesto” in <i>Art is Not What You Think It Is</i>, pp.1-10, 14-16, 2012.</p> <p>Read: Tiernan Morgan & Lauren Purje, “An Illustrated Guide to Arthur Danto’s ‘The End of Art’” 2015.</p>

	Recommended: Arthur Danto, "The Artworld," pp. 571-584, 1964.
Wednesday 08/25	What is Art? What is Art History? II Read: DeWitte et. al., "Introduction" pp. 20-35. Read: "Introduction" in <i>Art = Exploring Infinite Connections at the Metropolitan Museum of Art</i> , p. 1, 2020. Recommended: James Elkins, "The Conditions Under Which Global Art History Is Studied" in <i>The End of Diversity in Art Historical Writing</i> , 2021. - Download a PDF reader that can highlight and annotate on your device (ex. Adobe Acrobat) - Whitelist donotreply@blackboard.com in your email.
WEEK 2	
Monday 08/30	Describing Art: Style, Form, and Content Read: DeWitte et. al., pp.170-189.
Wednesday 09/01	Elements of Art: Line, Shape, and the Principle of Contrast Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 42-60.
WEEK 3	
Monday 09/06	Elements of Art: Form, Volume, Mass, and Texture Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 61-76.
Wednesday 09/08	Elements of Art: Implied Depth: Value and Space Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 77-89.
WEEK 4	
Monday 09/13	Elements of Art: Color Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 95-112.
Wednesday 09/14	Elements of Art: Motion and Time Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 113-124.
WEEK 5	
Monday 09/20	Harvest Moon Festival (No Classes)
Wednesday 09/22	Harvest Moon Festival (No Classes)

WEEK 6	
Monday 09/27	Principles of Design: Unity, Variety and Balance; Scale and Proportion Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 125-147.
Wednesday 09/29	Principles of Design: Focal Point and Emphasis; Pattern and Rhythm Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 147-169.
WEEK 7	
Monday 10/04	National Foundation Day - Alternative Holiday (No Classes)
Wednesday 10/06	In-Class Quiz #1 on Elements of Art and Principles of Design
WEEK 8	
Monday 10/11	Hangul Proclamation Day - Alternative Holiday (No Classes)
Wednesday 10/13	Visit the National Museum of Korea Read: Carol Duncan, "The Art Museum as Ritual" in <i>Civilizing Rituals</i> , pp. 7-20, 1995.
WEEK 9	
Monday 10/18	Art History: Prehistory and Ancient Mediterranean I Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 367-378.
Wednesday 10/20	Art History: Prehistory and Ancient Mediterranean II Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 379-389.
WEEK 10	
Monday 10/25	Art History: The Middle Ages Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 391-409.
Wednesday 10/27	Art History: Renaissance and Baroque Europe I Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 461-481. Recommended: Daniel Savoy, "Introduction" in <i>The Globalization of Renaissance Art: A Critical Review</i> , 2017.
WEEK 11	
Monday 11/01	Art History: Renaissance and Baroque Europe II

	Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 461-481.
Wednesday 11/03	Art History: Europe and America (1700-1865): Rococo to Romanticism Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 487-500.
WEEK 12	
Monday 11/08	Art History: The Modern Aesthetic: Realism to Expressionism I Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 501-513.
Wednesday 11/10	Art History: The Modern Aesthetic: Realism to Expressionism II Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 514-523.
WEEK 13	
Monday 11/15	Art History: Late modern and Early Contemporary Art in the Twentieth Century I Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 524-535.
Wednesday 11/17	Art History: Late modern and Early Contemporary Art in the Twentieth Century I Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 536-545.
WEEK 14	
Monday 11/22	Art History: The Late Twentieth Century and Art of the Present Day I Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 546-554.
Wednesday 11/24	Art History: The Late Twentieth Century and Art of the Present Day I Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 555-561.
WEEK 15	
Monday 11/29	In-Class Quiz #2 on Art History
Wednesday 12/01	Visit National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art
WEEK 16	
Monday 12/06	What Is the Canon? What is a Museum? Read: Andrew McClellan, "Introduction" in The Art Museum from Boulée to Bilbao, pp.1-12, 2008. Recommended: Marlite Halbertsma, "The Call of the Canon: Why Art History Cannot Do Without," in pp. 16-28, 2007.

Tuesday 12/07	<p>Can Art History be Global?</p> <p>Read: Monica Juneja, "Global Art History and the 'Burden of Representation,'" in <i>Global Studies: Mapping Contemporary Art and Culture</i>, pp. 274-293, 2011.</p> <p>Recommended: Aruna D'Souza, "Introduction," in <i>Art History in the Wake of the Global Turn</i>, pp. vii-xxii, 2014.</p>
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GRADING AND REQUIREMENTS

Class Participation	20%
In-Class Quiz #1	20%
Museum Activity #1	20%
In-Class Quiz #1	20%
Museum Activity #2	20%
Reflective Essay (Extra Credit +2%)	
TOTAL	100%

A+	97+
A	93 to <97
A-	90 to <93
B+	87 to <90
B	83 to <87
B-	80 to <83
C+	77 to <80
C	73 to <77
C-	70 to <73
D	60 to <70
F	<60

CLASS PARTICIPATION

It is essential that you come to class on time and prepared to engage in with the material, ask pertinent questions, and participate in classroom discussions and activities. Regular attendance is required to successfully complete this class. Participation requires honoring the electronics policy.

IN-CLASS QUIZ #1 ON ELEMENTS OF ART AND PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

This quiz consists of multiple choice and short answer questions and will reflect the material from Chapter 1 of the De Witte et. al. textbook. It is an open-note and open-book quiz.

MUSEUM ACTIVITY #1

In week 8, we will visit the National Museum of Korea. You will complete this activity during our museum visit.

IN-CLASS QUIZ #2 ON ART HISTORY FROM PREHISTORY TO THE PRESENT DAY

This quiz consists of multiple choice and short answer questions and will reflect the material from Chapter 3 of the De Witte et. al. textbook. It is an open-note and open-book quiz.

MUSEUM ACTIVITY #2

In week 15, we will visit the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art. You will complete this activity during our museum visit.

REFLECTIVE ESSAY (EXTRA CREDIT)

This extra credit assignment asks you to write a short reflective essay in response to one of three prompts.

COURSE POLICIES

PREPARING FOR CLASS

Before each class, check the syllabus to see what the assigned texts are. Read the items marked “read” and bring the text to each class, either in hard copy, or on your laptop. If you are using an electronic device to access our class texts, make sure you are using a PDF reader that can highlight and annotate—all of our class texts are OCR scanned so you can easily highlight, underline, and take notes on these documents.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

We will conduct discussions with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. It is expected for us to disagree with one another, and we should feel free to debate. We do so in the spirit of dialogue: to keep the conversation as open and informative for everyone as possible. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask me for guidance and clarification and if you feel our classroom is not meeting your needs in these regards, please let me know.

ELECTRONICS

Cell phone use is not allowed in the classroom. You are welcome to bring a laptop to class and use it for class-related purposes only.

EMAIL

GMU faculty and students are required to use GMU email accounts to communicate. You must regularly check your GMU email address, as important updates will be sent that way. Emails that I send to our class will also be posted as Blackboard announcements which you can view on the “Home Page” of our course Blackboard. I will respond to emails within 24 hours on weekdays. After that period, you are encouraged to send me a “following up” message.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

George Mason University has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Please see <http://honorcode.gmu.edu/> to ensure that you abide by it. If you are uncertain about citation rules or assignment guidelines, ask me for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct. If you feel unusual pressure or anxiety about your grade in this or any other course, please let me know and also seek help from University resources.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

The Academic Resource Center offers tutoring and workshops to support your academic progress. To discuss academic support resource available to you, please contact Eunmee Lee, Ph.D., Director of the Academic Resource Center at elee45@gmu.edu. (<https://masonkorea.gmu.edu/resources-and-services/academic-resource-center>)

COUNSELING AND WELLNESS

Counseling and Wellness aims to provide comprehensive support services that promote the personal, social, and academic success of George Mason University Korea students.
(<https://masonkorea.gmu.edu/resources-and-services/counseling-and-wellness>)

DISABILITY SERVICES:

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please visit the Disability Services office (<https://masonkorea.gmu.edu/resources-and-services/disability-services>)

