

ARTH 601 Colloquium in Art History

Monday 4:30-7:10

Innovation Hall 330

Professor: Robert DeCaroli

Email: rdecarol@gmu.edu

Office: Horizon Hall 3139

Office Hours: Monday 1:00-2:00 or by appointment

Course description: This class is designed as a survey of global art history for graduate students in the MA Program in Art History. This team-taught course is led by an instructor of record, with input from the full Art History faculty. It will acquaint students with the range of art historical specializations taught in the department. It will expose students to fields outside their primary area of interest and help them prepare for the required comprehensive image exam. The purpose of the exam is to ensure that students have a broad knowledge of art historical periods and geographies and an understanding of how works of art respond to and shape their specific historical and cultural contexts. The knowledge gained in this course will provide a foundation for further study and professional development in the field of art history. May not be repeated for credit.

Course Format: This course is team-taught in a combined asynchronous/synchronous format. The bulk of the course materials will be delivered via asynchronous video lectures (available on Blackboard). Each instructor will hold one to two synchronous discussion/Q&A sessions on Mondays at 4:30 pm. These sessions provide opportunities to seek clarification on the module's materials, and each should last between one to two hours. This is not a drop-in/drop-out experience like office hours; rather, you should expect to stay for the full duration of the meeting whether online or in the classroom. Please see the schedule below for details.

Online class sessions will meet in Blackboard's Class Collaborate Ultra course room feature. In Blackboard go to Course tools. Click on Class Collaborate Ultra and the course number at the top left. Then click Join Session

This link should also work:

<https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/c1d2811a459a436eafe2a24bb0be065f>

Objectives:

- recognize and identify formal or stylistic characteristics of major cultures, historical periods, or artistic movements
- categorize objects and producers according to accurate historical contexts
- develop skills of written academic communication
- locate and analyze scholarly texts or theoretical works in a defined field of study
- prepare for the image exam required for the MA in Art History

Technology Requirements

- recent version of Chrome, Edge, Safari, or Firefox

- Blackboard for video lectures and Class Collaboration Ultra (for online sessions)
- Microsoft Office free download from GMU; See this page for instructions <https://its.gmu.edu/service/microsoft365apps/>
- Adobe Reader or Preview
- webcam for video participation in online synchronous sessions

Course Requirements:

- **Watch All Course Videos:** (5% of your grade) Students are expected to watch all course videos in full. Make sure that you watch the videos as scheduled so that you can participate fully in the synchronous discussion sessions and not fall behind.
- **Course Study Wiki Entries:** (30% of your grade) To prepare for the slide exam, students will work collaboratively to create a wiki study guide. Each week you should select three items from the ArtStor image group and add a description of them to the class wiki. Your descriptions of about 200 words (for each item) should cover what you consider the most important points about the objects. If someone has already written a wiki, please choose another object, but you can feel free to edit others' contributions. Wikis must be posted no later than **each Sunday night at 11:59 PM (before midnight)**.
- **Practical assignment:** (20% of your grade) This serves as preparation for the practicum component of your comprehensive exams, which you will take in your final year. Your choice will depend on your career goals. Options include a sample syllabus, exhibition proposal, grant application essay, video, docent tour script, or sample assignment handout with rubric. Please consult with me to determine the best fit for you. Due **Sunday March 24th**.
- **Annotated Bibliography:** (20% of your grade) Students will develop an annotated bibliography of 12-15 sources in one area of specialization. This serves as preparation for the research essay of your comprehensive exams, which you will take in your final year. For a list of fields, see: <https://historyarthistory.gmu.edu/graduate/ma-arthistory/comprehensive-exam> (scroll down to the bottom of the page). Due **Sunday April 14th**.
- **Image Exam:** (25% of your grade) A 25-question exam covering material from throughout the semester. For each image, students must provide relevant identifying information and write an essay that explains the historical context and significance of the work. Should you fail the exam, your score will be figured as 25% of the course grade, and it may still be possible to pass the class. However, you will have to arrange with the graduate director to retake the exam. **The Exam is held in-person at Innovation Hall 330 on Monday, May 6th from 4:30 to 7:10.** You cannot receive the MA in Art History unless you have passed the Image Exam. <https://historyarthistory.gmu.edu/graduate/ma-arthistory/comprehensive-exam>

Grading Scale

A+ (97-100) A (93-96.5) A- (90-92.5) Excellent performance
B+ (87-89.5) B (83-86.5) B- (80-82.5) Satisfactory to very good
C+ (77-79.5) C (73-76.5) C- (70-72.5) Unsatisfactory for graduate level
D (60-69.5) Unsatisfactory for graduate level
F (<60) Unacceptable

Policies:

Extensions on assignments will be given in cases of emergencies or illnesses with proper documentation (doctor's note etc.) In all other cases (family obligations, religious holidays, disabilities etc.), extensions may be granted if I am informed well before the deadline.

Papers are due on Blackboard on the day specified in the schedule. Late papers will be marked down five points (half a grade) for every day they are late.

Adherence to codes of academic honesty is expected on all assignments and in all testing and assignment situations. I take the Honor Code (as stipulated in the university undergraduate catalog) very seriously. This code is a simple expression of respect for the course, your classmates and yourself. Cheating and Plagiarism are forbidden (obviously).

Accommodation will be made for students with documented disabilities, in accordance with law and university policies. Students requiring accommodations must register with the University's Disability Resource Center and produce documentation <http://ds.gmu.edu/documentation/> . Please do this well before the first test or presentation in case alternate arrangements need to be made.

Other important resources:

- Diversity
 - Mason values diversity; through the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Education (ODIME), Mason seeks to create and sustain inclusive learning environments where all are welcomed, valued, and supported
- Religious holidays
 - University Life religious holiday calendar <http://ulife.gmu.edu/calendar/religious-holiday-calendar/> it is the obligation of students, within the first two weeks of the semester, to provide faculty members with the dates of major religious holidays on which they will be absent due to religious observances
- Student privacy
 - student privacy and student rights under FERPA <http://registrar.gmu.edu/ferpa/>
- Student services
 - Online Education Services, University Libraries <http://library.gmu.edu/for/online>
 - Writing Center <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

Required Readings:

1. Marilyn Stokstad and Michael W. Cothren, *Art History*, 6th ed. (Pearson, 2018). Either print or e-book would be fine. You may purchase an earlier edition but double-check chapter numbering before reading.
2. Diana L. Eck, *Darsan: Seeing the Divine Image in India*, 3rd ed. (Columbia, 1998).
3. Additional readings are available as PDFs on Blackboard.

Schedule of weekly topics and required reading assignments:

*You can work through the asynchronous course material at your own pace throughout the week. Hard deadlines are in bold.

Course wiki entries due by midnight on the Sunday before class

January 22

ANCIENT NEAR EAST AND ANCIENT EGYPT – Dr. DeCaroli - IN PERSON

Introduction to the course with Dr. DeCaroli at 4:30

Read/watch all materials for the unit “Ancient Near East and Intro to Egypt” and “Ancient Egypt”.

January 29

ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME – Dr. Williamson - IN PERSON

Read/watch all materials for the unit “Greek and Roman”

February 5

AFRICA- Dr. Berger - ONLINE

Read/watch all materials for the unit “Africa”.

February 12

LATE ANTIQUITY, BYZANTINE AND ISLAMIC – Dr. Gearhart – IN PERSON

Read/watch all materials for the unit “Late Antiquity, Byzantine, and Islamic”

February 19

WESTERN MEDIEVAL – Dr. Gearhart – IN PERSON

Read/watch all materials for the unit “Western Medieval”

February 26

SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA – Dr. DeCaroli – IN PERSON

Read/watch materials for the unit “South and Southeast Asia”

March 4 - **SPRING BREAK**

March 11

EAST ASIA– Dr. DeCaroli – IN PERSON

Read/watch materials for the unit “East Asia”

March 18

ITALIAN RENAISSANCE; NORTHERN RENAISSANCE (15TH CENTURY) – Dr. Ho - ONLINE

Read/watch all materials for the unit “Italian Renaissance” and “15th-Century Northern Europe”

March 25

NORTHERN RENAISSANCE (16TH CENTURY); 17TH-CENTURY EUROPE – Dr. Ho – IN PERSON

Read/watch all materials for the unit “Northern Renaissance and 17th Century Europe”

Sun. 3/24: Practicum due by 11:59 PM

April 1

LATIN AMERICAN ART – Dr. Greet – IN PERSON

Read/watch all materials for the unit “Latin American Art”

April 8

18TH- AND 19TH-CENTURY EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES – Dr. Schulman – IN PERSON

Read/watch all materials for the unit “18th and 19th Century Europe and the U.S.”

April 15

EUROPEAN MODERNISM, 1850 – 1950 Dr. Greet – IN PERSON

Read/watch all materials for the unit “European Modernism, 1850-1950”

Sun. 4/14: Annotated bibliography due at 11:59 PM

April 22

INTERWAR UNITED STATES AND ART SINCE 1950 – Dr. Schulman – IN PERSON

Read/watch all materials for the unit “Art since 1950”

April 29

TEST PREPARATION AND REVIEW – Dr. DeCaroli - IN PERSON

Mon. 5/1: Instructor Q&A at 4:30

Review and exam prep.

May 6

FINAL SLIDE EXAM - IN PERSON

Monday, 4:30 to 7:10