

### **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.

**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
- One self-guided visit to Baltimore or D.C. museums or monuments.
- 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:** Marilyn Stokstad, *Art History: A View of the West*, Volume 1, (based on Stokstad 3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Prentice Hall, 2008. ISBN 0131566105. A CD is available but *not* required. Please note that any earlier edition of Stokstad, *Art History*, Volume 1 is probably fine to use too.

On-line readings primary source readings are required as well. URLs to be announced in class.

**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, 1:30 to 3:00, or by appointment.
- Office: **Robinson B340**, deep inside the History and Art History Department.

## TENTATIVE LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

Section 001 meets MWF at 3:30-4:20 PM in Innovation Hall 132

Section 002 meets MWF from 12:30 to-1:20 PM in Innovation Hall 204

Reading should be done just before or just after the lecture; by the test, at the latest. “Stokstad” refers to Marilyn Stokstad’s *Art History: View from the West*, Volume 1, a shorter version of her *Art History*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. . If you are using an older edition of Stokstad, Art History, that’s fine. Just please find the appropriate chapters—it shouldn’t be hard to do. **Addresses for assigned on-line documents and websites will be announced in class or linked on Blackboard. Please expect current news items to be added to the assigned readings throughout the course.**

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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.

#### 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 in Europe”

News links, on Blackboard class website: TBA

**First map assignment handed out.**

#### WEEK 2: MESOPOTAMIAN EMPIRES

Monday, Sept. 5. **No class, Labor Day:**

Early Mesopotamia: Sumerians and writing.

Later Mesopotamian empires

Ancient Persia.

**Tuesday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>: Last day to add classes.**

**Wednesday, Sept 7: First map assignment due in class**

**Reading:** Stokstad, Chapter 2: “Art of the Ancient Near East”

On-line sources: *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, prologue and tablet 1; hymns to Inanna. The Code of Hammurabi.

#### WEEK 3: EGYPT

Old Kingdom Egypt: Pyramids and all that.

New Kingdom Egypt.

**Reading:** Stokstad, Chapter 3: “Art of Ancient Egypt”

On-line sources: The Pyramid Texts; Hymn to the Nile, Hymn to the Aten.

#### WEEK 4: SUMMARY AND NEW BEGINNING

Mon. Sept. 20: Amarna Period, King Akhnaten and King Tutankhamun

Weds. Sept. 22: Catch-up and review.

**Friday, Sept. 23: Test 1**

## PART II: CIVILIZATIONS OF GREECE AND ROME

### WEEK 5: BRONZE-AGE AEGEAN

Aegean art  
Minoan Crete  
Mycenae and the Trojan War.

**Reading:** Stokstad Chapter 4: “Aegean Art”

Homer, *The Iliad*, Book I, and TBA.

On-line: the Minotaur myth; Thucydides on the origins, and current archeology, TBA.

### WEEK 6 ARCHAIC AND CLASSICAL GREECE

Geometric and Archaic Greek art. Vases and sculpture.  
Greek temple architecture; Delphi and Olympia.  
Classical Greek art and architecture, 5<sup>th</sup> cent.BCE. The Parthenon

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

On-line sources: 2<sup>nd</sup> Delphic Hymn; Sappho. Funeral oration of Pericles, and news on the new Acropolis Museum in Athens.

### WEEK 7 THE HELLENISTIC WORLD

No class, Columbus Day: Monday, October 10.

Make-up class, Tuesday, October 11.

The Ionic order  
Alexander the Great  
The great Hellenistic cities of Asia Minor

**Reading:** Stokstad, Chapter 5: “Art of Ancient Greece,” on Hellenistic art

On-line sources: Speech of Alexander the Great,

### WEEK 8 THE ROMAN WORLD

Etruscan art  
Roman art & architecture  
Pompeii

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

On-line sources: letters by Roman authors; “Trimalchio’s Feast,” from *Satyicon* of Petronius, and current archeology, TBA.

### WEEK 9: THE CLASSICAL WORLD: SUMMARY

Late Rome: Diocletian & Constantine  
Wednesday, Oct. 24: Catch-up and review  
Friday, Oct. 28: Test 2, on Greek and Roman art.

### **PART III: THE MEDIEVAL MEDITERRANEAN WORLD**

The second map exercise will be assigned in this part of the course. The list of on-line primary sources may be revised at some point.

#### **WEEK 10: THE WORLD OF LATE ANTIQUITY**

Jewish and Early Christian art: Catacombs and Dura Europos  
Constantinople and Early Byzantine Art  
Mosaics and Manuscripts

**Reading:** Stokstad, Chapter 7: "Early Christian, Jewish and Byzantine Art," to page 254.  
On-line sources: Selections from the Bible

#### **WEEK 11: BYZANTIUM AND ISLAM**

Byzantine icons  
Byzantium and Europe  
Intro to Islam and Islamic arts

**Reading:** Stokstad, Chapter 8: "Islamic Art"  
On-line sources: Selections from the Qur'an, and from medieval geographers.

#### **WEEK 12: ARTS OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD.**

Mosque and palace.  
Luxury arts in the Islamic world.  
Celtic and Germanic arts of Northern Europe

**Reading:** Stokstad, Chapter 9: "Early Medieval Art in Europe"  
On-line sources: Short selections from *Beowulf*

#### **WEEK 13: EARLY MEDIEVAL WEST**

Sutton Hoo ship burial

**NO CLASS ON WEDS. NOV. 24 OR FRI NOV. 26: THANKSGIVING.**

#### **WEEK 14: ROMANESQUE ART AND ARCHITECTURE**

Charlemagne, monasteries and manuscripts  
Romanesque art and architecture

**Film:** *Glories of Medieval Art: The Cloisters.*

**Reading:** Stokstad, Chapter 10: "Romanesque Art"  
On-line sources: Selections from Einhard's *Life of Charlemagne* and *The Song of Roland*

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

The Gothic cathedral  
Gothic sculpture and decorative arts  
The Fourteenth Century in Europe

**Reading:** Stokstad, Chapter 11: "Gothic Art of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries" and Chapter 12, "Fourteenth Century Art in Europe."

#### **FINAL EXAMS:**

Section 001: Monday, December 19, 1:30 to 4:15  
Section 002: Monday, December 19, 10:30 to 1:15

## 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.** 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 Harbrace. **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 I hard copy.

**Laptop computers** are fine for taking notes in class. **No computers or telephones may be used during tests,** however. Phones will be turned off at all times, of course, as a courtesy to all.

**Late work will be graded down five points per day 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** in Robinson I, Room A116. Call them at (703) 993-1200, or see their web page for English language help, at: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>.

**Learning disabilities.** If you are a student with disabilities, and you need academic accommodations, please see me *and* contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) or 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. visit their website: [www.gmu.edu/student/drc/](http://www.gmu.edu/student/drc/).

**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. 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

**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 draft	10%
Test 2:	25%	Final paper	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 PIECE OF WORK, YOU WILL RECEIVE A FAILING GRADE FOR THE WHOLE COURSE.** To pass this course you must demonstrate *some* mastery of the material from all parts of the course.

## DIRECTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR ALL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

There will be one short paper required for this class. Specific directions will be handed out when the papers are assigned. I expect papers in my classes to be formal academic writing, using correct standard English and essay organization. They should be presented as finished products, unless otherwise specified. In general, all written work for me, or for Art History in general, must observe the following rules:

**Organization:** College-level essays are to be carefully constructed and presented as finished products. They are not just journal entries or stream-of-consciousness. This means they must have a thesis of some sort, and present reasoned arguments through the examination of evidence. There should be an introductory thesis statement and a conclusion. Paragraphs should be used as a way to structure the argument so a reader can follow your thinking. An interesting or informative title is necessary. A funny title is fine. “Art Paper #1” is not.

**Mechanics:** All papers must be typed and double-spaced, using a standard font in 10 or 11-point size. Please stick to plain old white paper and standard fonts. Handwriting is *not* OK. Quadruple-spacing is *not* OK. Writing the whole darned thing in italics or Olde English is *not* OK. (Why not? Because italics are to be used for specific reasons: emphasis and foreign terms. Because Olde English on perfumed blue paper is too-too high school). Pictures are nice, but strictly optional. Pictures cannot be a substitute for writing. Nice presentation is always welcome, but please be clear that adding pictures will not affect your grade unless they are explicitly part of the assignment.

**Spelling and grammar** are expected to be excruciatingly correct. Use the spell-checker. I will mark down work for sloppy spelling and grammar. If the writing is really awful—ungrammatical, no evidence of proofreading, horrible spelling, or laughably short—I will not read it. I’ll return it as unacceptable, with an F. Early in the semester, I’ll allow a rewrite (for a maximum of C, which is the average of F and A). Late in the semester there will be no time for a rewrite.

**Page limits** should be observed, and should be your guide to the depth of writing: a one-to-two page paper is pretty much a quick observation, with thesis and conclusion. Three-to-five pages means there is time to develop a thesis and argue it through several paragraphs, considering several different questions, angles or pieces of evidence. An eight-to-ten page paper usually includes research (this will be made clear in the assignment), and anything over ten pages is probably expected to include a great deal of research.

**Citations.** Any time you use a source of information you should consider citing it, to avoid the appearance of plagiarism. Generally-known facts are not normally cited. Anything else is, including a long recitation of facts from one source that you are paraphrasing, a single opinion stated by another author, and any direct quote.

Example 1: “George Washington lived at Mount Vernon.” We know that. No citation needed. Even if you didn’t happen to know that, it is the sort of information that is so widely available that no specific citation is expected.

Example 2: “The cathedral was begun in the 1890’s, and not completed until the 1950’s after several design changes.” This is specialized information, and it must have come from somewhere unless you just made it up. So please cite your source of information! If you are paraphrasing a large amount of information, put a citation at the end of the paragraph. Give a separate citation to each separate source.

Example 3: “The cathedral looks as if it was begun in the 1890’s and not completed until the 1950’s with some design changes along the way.” Clearly your own opinion (we hope) based on your own observations (we hope). If this is the case, then no citation is necessary. However, if you only say it because you read it somewhere, please cite the source. This is the honor system.

Example 4: “This is the finest example of Romanesque-revival style in the country.” Oh, says who? If this is your opinion, please back it up by explaining your assertion. If you are just quoting from someone else, you need to cite the information.

Example 5: “According to Encarta, this is the finest example of Romanesque-revival style in the country.” That’s nice—but you still need to add a footnote or parenthetical reference giving the details, in a standard citation format.

**Citation style:** There are several acceptable citation styles in academic writing, and you probably have been taught several here and there. Please use the one you know best, or the one most appropriate to your major. In history and art-history, we usually use the **Chicago style**, which uses footnotes. In English and other language humanities, **MLA style** is the standard, with short parenthetical references to authors and page numbers, and a list of works cited at the end. The social sciences use the similar **APA style**. In any case, use one style correctly and consistently throughout your essay. Take the necessary time to learn the standard rules, and follow them carefully. The rules are easily found in any writing manual. **Don't remember the rules? Go to the GMU Writing Center web site, find "resources," and click on their "on-line style guides."** It's just that simple. Here's the URL:  
<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/resources/> .

**Submission.** All papers are to be submitted in **hard copy** in class on the due date. **I cannot accept email submissions**—sorry, but they cause too many problems. Papers will not be considered “on time” unless I receive them in hard copy.

**Plagiarism** is a serious academic offense. Here is how the **GMU Honor Code** defines it:

B. Plagiarism encompasses the following:

1. Presenting as one's own the works, the work, or the opinions of someone else without proper acknowledgement.
2. Borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgement.

That means **you must acknowledge your source, even if it is an anonymous museum pamphlet or long museum label**. Those, too, are reasoned writing. I get very unhappy when I read something that sounds like it was copied from a museum website, even if a word is changed here or there. So, I copied the above from the Honor Code listed in the Faculty/Staff Handbook on-line, along with judicial procedures, at <http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook/aD.html>

**The good news: Plagiarism is easily avoided.** Just acknowledge all your sources, using footnotes or other acceptable form of reference. That's really all there is to it. **The bad news: Plagiarism on tests and papers is CHEATING and will be reported to the Honor Committee!**

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## SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES

**No class: Labor Day:** Monday, September 5

**First map assignment due:** Friday, September 9

**Last day to add classes:** Tuesday, September 6.

**Last day to drop classes without financial penalty:** Tuesday, Sept. 6.

**TEST I:** Friday, September 23.

**Last day to drop classes:** Friday, Sept. 30.

**No class, Columbus Day:** Monday, October 10.

**Make-up class,** Tuesday, October 11.

**TEST 2:** Friday, October 28

**THANKSGIVING:** No class Weds. Nov. 23 or Fri. Nov. 25.

**FINAL EXAM DATES, with a review before the test:**

Section 001: Monday, December 19, 1:30 to 4:15

Section 002: Monday, December 29, 10:30 to 1:15