

Art History Survey: ARTH 200

Instructor: Dr. Andrea Olsen Lam

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Date: Spring 2018

Class Time: TR 3:00-4:15pm

Location: Robinson B 113

Office: Robinson B 373A

Office Hours: by request, before or after class

Course description: This course introduces students to the arts of the ancient and medieval world, surveying visual arts from prehistory to the Renaissance. We will study historical objects, and major monuments, their cultural background and persistent themes in western art and architecture through slide lectures, discussions, written assignments and museum visits. This course has no prerequisites and presumes no prior knowledge of art history.

Learning Objectives

- Learn to analyze art and architecture and gain the art historical vocabulary used to conduct meaningful discussion about it.
- Gain the skill of looking closely at art to analyze its visual and formal features.
- Gain a broad understanding of the historical development of the visual arts from prehistory to the Renaissance. Discuss works of art and cultural artifacts in their relevant contexts: aesthetic, historical, archaeological, philosophical, social, economic, political, etc.
- Demonstrate an ability to critically analyze texts and assess their relationship to objects in order to complete class assignments.

Required Textbook:

Marilyn Stokstad & Michael W. Cothren, Art History, Vol. 1, 6th Edition (New York: Pearson/Prentice Hall), 2016. Find used copies of the textbook to minimize your costs. If you find the price of the 6th edition of Stokstad prohibitive, you may purchase an earlier edition, but it is your responsibility to make sure you find images of objects we discuss in class and familiarize yourself with them if your edition not contain them. Stokstad and Cothren's Volume 2 and *Art: A Brief History* are not useful for this course.

Additional readings and links to videos will be posted on Blackboard; these are usually fun and essential to participation in discussion. Make sure to check Blackboard regularly.

Course requirements:

- Attend all classes punctually (no phones in class, please; you may be asked to leave, in accordance with GMU policy). Attendance will be taken sporadically, and there will be two in-class assignments.
- Complete one museum paper (outline submitted in hard copy, final paper submitted online) and in-class writing assignments, two midterm exams and one final exam
- Complete all class readings and/or homework assignments

Grading & Make Up Policy:

I do not offer make up exams or alternative exam dates, and no course incompletes will be given. If you miss one of the exams or do not submit your paper to Turnitin.com you will be failed (F grade) for that exam/paper unless you have a medical note or another significant and provable emergency excuse.

Late papers will be marked down 1/3 of a letter grade for each day they are late (e.g., if an A-paper is three days late, it will be given a grade of B-). You can track your grade progress on Blackboard. Your final grade is final. If you have concerns about your grade during the semester, make an appointment to see me well in advance of the end of the semester and your final exam.

Mid-term exam 1: 15%

Mid-term exam 2: 15%

In-class assignments/ group work: 15%

Term paper: 15%

Participation: 10%

Final exam: 30%

Grades in this course fall roughly along the following scale:

A: Original and thoughtful work that is professionally executed; no typographical or grammatical errors; strong, clear, coherent, and compelling arguments; addresses or acknowledges obvious objections to the arguments; scrupulous attention to crediting sources of ideas and facts that are not the author's own

B: Well done work, but not particularly original or thoughtful; a few typographical or grammatical errors are present; work lacks some clarity or coherence; fails to address some seemingly obvious objections to the argumentation; some crediting of sources (or footnotes) missing; sources of facts are weak (e.g., cursory web searches)

C: Average work; several typographical and grammatical errors present; fails to address or ignores complexities of the questions and arguments; few sources credited or poorly done, particularly for factual claims when clearly needed

D: Careless work with no attention to detail and failure to follow assignment guidelines; few and or poorly done citations

F: Failure; plagiarism or other academic misconduct; minimal or no effort expended to address the questions and meet academic standards

Attendance:

I place great emphasis on students participating in class, so class attendance is important.

Attendance will be taken sporadically. If you are late twice, this will count as one absence. More than two absences will negatively affect your participation grade. If you miss more than four class meetings, you will be dropped from the course with a WU grade, which counts as an F. This is a fast-paced course and you cannot miss more than two classes and maintain a passing grade. If you would like to withdraw from the class with a W grade, please notify me, and then you must see the Registrar prior to the university's deadline in order to complete this process.

Class Notes:

Taking notes is an important skill that supports learning and exam preparation. I strongly discourage the use of laptops and other electronic devices in class. Experience and research

suggests that taking notes by hand helps students more. If you miss a class, please get notes from a fellow student. **After class today, please get contact information from at least two other students for this purpose.**

Blackboard:

The syllabus, class assignments, information for each class and any last minute changes will be posted on Blackboard. Please check Blackboard before each class. If a handout is posted for a particular lesson it is your responsibility to print it and bring it to the appropriate class.

Academic Integrity: It is expected that students adhere to the George Mason University Honor Code as it relates to integrity regarding coursework and grades. The Honor Code reads as follows: “To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the University Community have set forth this: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal and/or lie in matters related to academic work.” More information about the Honor Code, including definitions of cheating, lying, and plagiarism, can be found at the Office of Academic Integrity website at <https://oai.gmu.edu>

Make sure the work you submit is footnoted in accordance with **MLA (Modern Language Association) style**. Your written assignments must convey ideas and facts in your own words, and when you refer to other texts and authors you must make a complete and correct citation (footnote or endnote) and use quotation marks. If you do not understand how to do this or have questions, please make an appointment with the Writing Center.

**Weekly Assignments and Reading Schedule
(Students will be notified in advance of changes)**

“Stokstad” refers to the course textbook, *Art History*, vol. 1, 6th ed. (see above).

For each “target object”: come to class prepared to discuss it with relevance to the analytical framework described in the textbook introduction. These objects and monuments will be compared throughout the term with regard to these criteria, observing changes from prehistoric through Renaissance-era arts. **See GMU calendar for add/drop fees and dates.**

Week 1: Introduction and Prehistoric Art

1/23: Welcome and introduction: What is art history?

1/25: Paleolithic and Neolithic art in Europe (Stokstad, ch. 1)

Target object: Woman from Willendorf (1-7)

Week 2: Ancient Near East and Early Dynastic Egypt (Stokstad, ch. 2, 3)

1/30: Mesopotamia, Sumerians, writing

Target object: Votive statue of Gudea (2-12)

2/01: Early Egypt: pyramids and funerary art

Target object: Funerary mask of Tutankhamun (3-1)

Week 3: Ancient Egypt

2/06: Egyptian art: painting, sculpture

Target object: Menkawre and a Queen (3-10)

2/08: Hatshepsut and gender; Amarna period; late Egyptian art

Target object: Hatshepsut kneeling (3-22)

Week 4: Exam 1

2/13: Catch-up and review for exam 1

2/15: Exam 1

Week 5: Ancient Aegean and Ancient Greek Art (Stokstad, chs. 4, 5)

2/20: Cycladic, Minoan and Mycenaean art and architecture (ch. 4)

Target object: Cycladic sculpture of a woman (4-2)

2/22: Greek Geometric and Archaic art; Greek vases and sculpture (ch. 5)

Target object: Funerary krater (5-2) and Frolicking satyrs psykter (vase) (5-31)

Week 6: Greek art (cont'd.): Athens, the Parthenon and the Acropolis, Hellenistic art

2/27: Greek temple architecture; classical orders (p. 111)

Target object: Three statues of women (5-66, 5-67, 5-68)

3/01: Etruscan art (Stokstad, ch. 6, part 1)

Target object: Dancers and diners in an Etruscan tomb (6-6)

Week 7: Roman Art: portraiture, imperial monuments (Stokstad, ch. 6)

3/06: Roman imperial art

Target object: Imperial procession from the Ara Pacis (6-21)

3/08: Roman architecture, funerary portraiture

Target object: The Pantheon (6-48)

*Find review sheet on Blackboard for Exam 2

Week 8: Spring break

3/13, 3/15

Week 9: Roman art, review (Stokstad, ch. 6) **and Exam 2**

3/20: Catch-up and review for Exam 2

3/22: Exam 2

Week 10: Jewish and Early Christian Art (Stokstad, ch. 7)

3/27: Jewish and Early Christian art in the Roman Empire: and catacombs

Target object: Dura Europas synagogue (7-4)

3/29: Early Christian Art

Target object: Christ Good Shepherd in the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia (7-21)

Week 11: Byzantine art (Stokstad, ch. 8); **outline due (see next page)**

4/03: Constantinople as the new Rome, Hagia Sophia, icons

Target object: Mosaics of Justinian and Theodora in the church of San Vitale (8-8, 8-9)

4/05: Middle and late Byzantine churches, mosaics; **turn in a hard copy of your outline for the museum paper (follow provided instructions)**

Target object: Christ Pantokrator at Daphni (8-21)

Week 12: Islamic art and architecture (Stokstad, ch. 9)

4/10: Early Islamic art, mosque architecture; no target object

4/12: Ornament and the written word; Muslim empires

Target object: Mamluk glass oil lamp (9-18)

Week 13: Early Medieval Art in Europe (Stokstad, ch. 15); **museum paper due**

4/17: **Museum response paper due** on Blackboard before midnight; no hard copy papers accepted; Celts and Vikings

Target object: Gospel book of Durrow Evangelist Matthew page (15-5)

4/19: Carolingian and Ottonian Empires: manuscripts and metalwork

Target object: Ebbo Gospels St. Mathew page (15-21)

Week 14: Romanesque art and architecture (Stokstad, ch. 16)

4/24: Monasteries, manuscripts, churches

Target Object: Virgin and Child statue (16-27)

4/26: Bayeux Tapestry, et al.

Target Object: Reliquary Statue of Saint Foy (16-6)

Week 15: Gothic art and architecture (Stokstad, chs. 17, 18)

5/01: Gothic cathedrals: sculpture, stained glass

Target Object: Drawings with geometric figures (17-17)

5/03: Final paper due before midnight via Blackboard/ Turnitin

Perspective and depth; the body and religious devotion

Target object: Vesperbild Pieta (18-24)

Final Exam (according to the GMU calendar): Thursday 5/10, 1:30-4:15 p.m.

It is your responsibility to read the areas of the textbook and/or the readings on Blackboard that correspond to the week's themes and subject areas in order to reinforce what you see and discuss in class.

There is a lot of material to cover, set aside a dedicated time to read for this class each week. Stokstad is useful for exam review, and for her glossary of art history terms in the back of the textbook.