

ART 101-001: Introduction to Visual Arts

Fall 2018

Instructor: Theana N. Kastens
Days & Time: MW 10:30 am -11:45pm
Room: Robinson B 113
Office Hours: Robinson B 373A, Mondays 1:30-2:30pm
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

ART 101: Introduction to Visual Arts, surveys the techniques and development of the visual art and culture from the Prehistoric era up to the present. This course will introduce students to the materials, techniques, formal analysis, and critical thinking of the visual arts, and how art communicates within society. Students will learn how to analyze and interpret works of art, and how we can see it as a cultural product that shows something about the society that produced it. No prerequisite is needed for this course. This course satisfies the General Education requirements for Arts.

Please be aware that this course will also address mature themes such as gender roles, sexuality, nudity, religion, philosophy, ethics, politics and other topics in a responsible manner. This is so that we may better understand how art creates meaning and enhances our lives.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objective is for students to gain an appreciation and understanding of the importance of visual culture and its impact in this world. Students will learn how to identify and talk about the principles of design of any work of art. By the end of the semester, Students will have been exposed to many works of art and objects, variety of media, and also new vocabulary.

Upon the completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Discuss aesthetic qualities, basic materials, and techniques of works of art
- Discuss major artists and artistic movements in a cultural and historical context
- Identify a few important works of art by the significant artistic developments they represent

Students will know that interpretation of a work depends on the interpreter, and that they, too, are also an interpreter.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and Participation	10%
Exam #1	15%
Exam #2	25%
Museum Paper	25%
Final Exam	25%

Textbook: Debra J. DeWitte, *Gateways to Art, Understanding the Visual Arts*. Second edition (Thames & Hudson, 2015)

Attendance: Much of the material will be covered in our lectures. You are responsible for getting notes, and for all consequences of missed classes. If you do not understand something that I covered in class, there is no way I can explain that material better in an email. If you missed class, you will need to get notes from a classmate. Class participation and attendance will affect your grade.

Absences for religious observances or university activities: If you will be missing class for a religious holiday or a university-sponsored activity, you need to provide me, within the first two weeks of the semester, with the dates of the major religious holidays on which you will be absent, or the dates for which you are requesting an excused absence for participation in any university-sponsored activity.

Tech Requirements: I can only communicate with you via your Masonlive email account or Blackboard, so please activate and check your GMU email & Blackboard site regularly for any communication regarding the class.

Email Etiquette: Please remember that when you send an email to any professor, you are addressing a teacher, not your best friend. Thus, try to remember the following: (1) include a subject, (2) which class you are in, and (3) be specific.

Exams: All exams will test for terms. The first exam will test for design concepts with images you will not have seen before. The remaining two exams will have slide identification of those key works that we designate in class. If this is a work of art, you need to know not just the name of the object, the artist or architect, and the style or period to which it belongs, but also why it is important for the history of art. This involves knowing something about those larger issues and concepts that we will develop in class. **Unless arrangements have been made prior to the exam, NO make-up exams will be given.**

Museum Paper: For your term paper, I would like you to visit the National Gallery of Art (NGA) in Washington D.C. It will be metro-accessible and should take about an afternoon, especially if you stop for coffee along the way. You must find **ONE** piece of artwork from any time period that catches your attention from the West or East building. You may choose a painting, sculpture, architecture, photograph, print, or mixed media (really, any piece of artwork) at the NGA. You will need to hand in a **hard copy** with your typed answers on the **due date, Wednesday November 14.**

GRADING SCALE

- **A** (90-92 is an A-; 93-96 is an A; 97-100 is an A+)
- **B** (80-82 is a B-; 83-86 is a B; 87-89 is a B+)
- **C** (70-72 is a C-; 73-76 is a C; 77-79 is a C+)
- **D** (60-69)
- **F** (Below 60) Unacceptable as college-level work; see me immediately if you find yourself in this situation.

CLASSROOM ATMOSPHERE

Courtesy and common sense please. Always respect your peers and classmates. This means you should not talk over anyone when he or she is talking or when I am lecturing. Please keep your phones on silent or turned off. Please arrive on time and if you happen to be late or cannot make it to class, contact me as soon as you can. If you need to leave early for certain reasons, please notify me as well.

Laptops are allowed for note taking. However, if using laptops enables you to be disruptive or distracted, I will ask you to put them away instead. If it becomes a bad habit in which all students are using their laptops for other things not related to the class (social media, surfing the web, chatting), I will make a decision to ban laptops for the rest of the semester.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

These are grave offences. Your written work is to be the product of your own thinking (and even imagination). When writing your papers, please give credit where credit is due and this means you should always cite your sources. **Please use MLA or Chicago Style format** when writing your papers. If you cheat or plagiarize any of your writings (and on your exam), **you will have a zero for the assignment.** You may also be reported to the dean. Please visit <https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/full-honor-code-document/> for more information.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE: If English is not your first language please discuss any concerns you might have about the writing assignment with me. And don't forget about the Writing Center (<https://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>)

SUPPORT SERVICES:

If you have a learning disability, it must be properly documented by the Office for Disability Support Services. I am happy to assist and make the necessary accommodations. Please **provide me the proper documentations by the**

office in time BEFORE assignments and exams begin. Feel free to see me after class, office hours, or even contact me via email regarding this matter. (<https://ds.gmu.edu/>)

During your time at GMU, you may experience challenges including struggles with academics, finances, or your personal well-being. GMU has support resources available. Please visit <http://ssac.gmu.edu> if you are seeking resources and support or if you are worried about a friend or classmate.

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking: As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as the Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at (703) 380-1434, or Counseling and Psychology Services (CAPS) at (703) 993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX coordinator by calling (703) 993-8730 or emailing titelix@gmu.edu

Important Dates

Monday, September 3 - Labor Day recess. No Class.

Tuesday, September 4 - Last day to add classes

Sunday, September 9 - Last day to drop with a tuition refund

Monday, October 8 - Columbus Day recess. No Class. **Monday classes meet on Tuesday that week.**

Course Schedule and Assignments:

I reserve the right to alter the schedule when circumstances arise

Monday, August 27: Introduction

Introduction to the course & Syllabus

Wednesday, August 29: *What is art?*

Style; Forms and Content; Context.

Reading:

- DeWitte, Introduction, 26-43

Monday, September 3: **NO CLASS.** Labor Day

Wednesday, September 5: *Fundamentals/Visual Elements*

Line, Form, Mass, Texture, Volume Shape, Space, Value, Color, Time & Motion.

Part 1 of 3

Reading:

- DeWitte, 45-130

Monday, September 10: *Fundamentals/Visual Elements*

Line, Form, Mass, Texture, Volume, Shape, Space, Value, Color, Time & Motion.

Part 2 of 3

Reading:

- DeWitte, 45-130

Wednesday, September 12: *Fundamentals/Visual Elements:*

Line, Form, Mass, Texture, Volume, Shape, Space, Value, Color, Time & Motion.

Part 3 of 3

Reading:

- DeWitte, 45-130

Monday, September 17: *Fundamentals/ Principles of Design:*

Unity and Variety; Balance; Scale and Proportion; Emphasis and Focal Point; Contrast; Pattern; Rhythm. Part 1 of 2
Reading:

- DeWitte, 131-177

Wednesday, September 19: *Fundamentals/Principles of Design:*

Unity and Variety; Balance; Scale and Proportion; Emphasis and Focal Point; Contrast; Pattern; Rhythm. Part 2 of 2
Reading:

- DeWitte, 131-177

Monday, September 24: *Review Day*

Wednesday, September 26:

******EXAM #1: Visual Elements and Principles of Design******

Monday, October 1: *The Prehistoric and Ancient Mediterranean*

Prehistoric Europe, Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt. Part 1 of 2

Reading:

- DeWitte, 366-378
 - The First Paintings, 216
 - Three-Dimensions in Sculpture, 248-250
 - Man-Made Mountains, 565-568

Wednesday October 3: *The Prehistoric and Ancient Mediterranean*

Prehistoric Europe, Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt. Part 2 of 2

Reading:

- DeWitte, 366-378
 - Sacred Places, 582
 - Ideal Proportion, 660-663

Monday, October 8: NO CLASS. Columbus Day- Monday class meets on Tuesday of that week.

Tuesday, October 9: *The Prehistoric and Ancient Mediterranean*

Art of Ancient Greece

Reading:

- DeWitte, 379-384;
 - Carving, 251-253;
 - Modeling, 253-254;
 - Lost-wax casting, 254-255;
 - Ancient Construction, 269-271
 - Illusion in Three-Dimensions; 616-618

Wednesday, October 10: *The Prehistoric and Ancient Mediterranean*

Art of Ancient Rome

Reading:

- DeWitte, 384-389
 - Arches in Ancient Architecture, 272-273
 - Domes, 276

Monday, October 15: *Art of the Middle Ages*

Late Antiquity; Byzantine Art

Reading:

- DeWitte, 390-400
 - Icons, 579
 - Barrel vault, 273-276

Wednesday, October 17: *Art of the Middle Ages*

Pilgrimages, Romanesque, Gothic, Early Medieval Italy

Reading:

- DeWitte, 400-411
 - Stained Glass, 297-298
 - Dynamics of Gothic Architecture, 274-275

Monday, October 22: *Art of Renaissance*

Italian Renaissance. Part 1 of 2

Reading:

- DeWitte, 464-473
 - Painting, 215-224
- BLACKBOARD- Bonazzoli “Last Supper” and “Mona Lisa”

Wednesday, October 24: *Art of Renaissance*

Italian Renaissance. Part 2 of 2

Reading:

- DeWitte, 464-473
 - Painting, 215-224
- BLACKBOARD- Paoletti “David”

Monday, October 29: *Art of Renaissance*

Northern Renaissance.

Reading:

- DeWitte, 474- 479
 - Woodblock printmaking, 232-235
 - Engraving, 236
- BLACKBOARD- Alpers “Dutch Art”

Wednesday, October 31: *Review Day*

Monday, November 5:

******EXAM #2: Prehistoric to N. Renaissance******

Wednesday, November 7: *17th Century Art and Propaganda*

The Baroque

Reading:

- DeWitte, 484- 489
 - Etching, 237
 - Gentileschi, 680
 - Vermeer, 580-581; 593
- BLACKBOARD- Martin “The Baroque”

Monday, November 12: *18th Century Rococo and 19th Century Revolution*

Rococo, Neoclassicism, Romanticism

Reading:

- DeWitte, 490- 511

Wednesday, November 14: *The Modern Aesthetic*

Academies and Salons, Impressionism and Post-Impressionism,

Reading:

- DeWitte, 512- 522

- Photography, 319-323
- Lithography, 240-242

******MUSEUM PAPER DUE******

Monday, November 19: *The Modern Aesthetic*

Art Nouveau, Cubism, Expressionism, Fauvism

Reading:

- DeWitte, 523- 540
 - Collage, 135
 - Cubism, 620-623

Wednesday, November 21: NO CLASS, Thanksgiving Break

Monday, November 26: *The Modern Aesthetic*

Dada, Surrealism, Abstraction

Reading:

- DeWitte, 523- 540
 - Dada, 429-431
 - Ready-made, 260

Wednesday, November 28: *Art in a Postwar World*

Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, Minimalism, Conceptual Art

Reading:

- DeWitte, 541-547
 - Conceptual Art, 353-355

Monday, December 3: *Art in a Postwar World*

Performance & Body Art, Earthworks, Postmodernism and Identity

Reading:

- DeWitte, 548-559
 - Acrylic, 227-228
 - Silkscreen, 242-244
 - Earthworks, 256-257
 - Performance art, 666-668
 - Installations, 360-362

Wednesday, December 5: *Review Day*

Wednesday, December 12: 10:30 am – 1:15 pm

******FINAL EXAM: Baroque to Now******