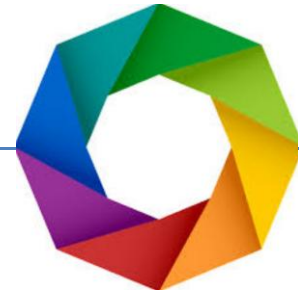


ARTH 101:

Introduction to the Arts



Instructor: Laura McCloskey

Term: Fall 2018

Email: lmcclosk@gmu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30-11:30am, ROB B 373A or by appointment

Description and Goals

This course provides an overview of the content and principles of the visual arts. The central goal of this course is to provide you with the terminology and background to be able to effectively analyze, critique, and appreciate visual art from the prehistoric period to the present day. The course begins with an introduction to artistic media, principles of graphic design, and stylistic techniques employed across the spectrum of artistic periods. The first month of the course provides the foundation for formal analysis and is critical to understanding the terminology used in the study of art. Next we will explore the applications of artistic techniques as they are representative of places, people, and periods through the scope of history. Our understanding of the past and the development of civilizations is fundamentally linked to the images and objects left behind: what can these art pieces tell us about the history of a people or area? How does artistic media influence our perception of the past? How are art movements defined and why? Finally, the course concludes with an in-depth discussion of the applications of art: how is art used to evoke social change, define cultures and movements, memorialize important people and events, and symbolize personal beliefs?

This course meets the General Education Fine Arts requirement.

Texts and Readings

There is one required textbook package (text and journal) for this course. The textbook publisher provides a wealth of additional optional online learning tools available for use with the text.

REQUIRED:

- 1) DeWitte, Debra, Ralph Larmann, and M. Kathryn Shields. *Gateways to Art: Understanding the Visual Arts*. Second Edition. New York: Thames & Hudson, 2015. ISBN 978-0-500-98157-3
- 2) DeWitte, Debra, Ralph Larmann, and M. Kathryn Shields. *Gateways to Art: Journal*. Second Edition. New York: Thames & Hudson, 2015. ISBN 978-0-500-29216-7

Assignments

The following assignments will be due throughout the course. The reflections and discussions constitute your attendance and class participation grades: these assignments allow you to interact with your fellow classmates and make deep connections with the course content. I will provide detailed personalized feedback to your quizzes, journals, and papers.

Here is how your grade will be calculated:

Quizzes- 20% (2 quizzes x 10% each)

Final exam- 20%

In-class reflections- 10% (5 posts x 2% each)

Museum paper - 20%

In-class discussions- 10% (5 discussions x 2% each)

Online Introduction post- 5%

Optional extra credit assignment- 5%

Gateways to Art Journal - 15%

Introductory Post

For your introductory post, post a paragraph about yourself in the appropriate forum on our discussion board. You may want to include information such as your year at Mason (freshman, sophomore, etc.), major, future goals, and why you are interested in our course.

Gateways to Art Journal

Provided alongside the text, this journal is an excellent way to apply the concepts discussed in each unit to actual artistic works.

For full points in this assignment you need to complete the following exercises, scan them, and upload them on our course Blackboard page:

- Unity and Balance: pgs. 15, 17
- Media: pgs. 22, 23
- Graphic Design: pgs. 24-27
- Modes of Analysis: pgs. 29-32
- Understanding What Museums Do: complete this when you visit the museum for your Museum Paper. Using your chosen museum, complete one of the pages from 34-44. Scan and upload your chosen selection along with your Museum Paper on Blackboard.

If you complete the entire journal and turn it in on our last class meeting, December 6, I will award you up to 5 extra points toward your final grade.

Museum paper

This essay is designed to help you "bring it altogether" so-to-speak and is due at the end of the semester. In this paper you will visit a local museum and choose three artworks that best exemplify key terms or concepts that we have studied in this course. You could, for example, choose three paintings that have a strong use of perspective, three sculptures that are representative of one artistic genre, three works of various media that all have a similar theme, etc. Using terminology from class, your course textbook, and at least one other scholarly peer-reviewed resource, you will need to articulate and explain your rationale for choosing these artworks. Your paper should contain an introduction with a thesis statement, a supporting paragraph for each art piece, and a conclusion. Total length should be between 3-5 pages, 12 point font, double-spaced. Upload this assignment on our Blackboard page.

Quizzes

There will be two quizzes: one quiz midway through the class and one before the final exam to make sure you are following the chronology, terms, and themes of the course. Quizzes will consist of ten multiple choice questions and two short answer responses. I often also include a vocabulary matching section or map.

Final Exam

The exam will be a combination of multiple choice questions, term matching, and essays. You **may not** consult notes, books, classmates, the Internet, etc.

In-Class Reflection Assignments

Prompts for individual comments related to the previous or current week's lecture, readings, or course progress will be provided in class each week listed on the syllabus. You must complete all 5 reflections to receive full grade points for this category. Reflections should be at least one paragraph in length (5-7 well-planned, cohesive sentences) and clearly demonstrate to me that you are actively engaging with course lectures, themes, and readings.

Discussion Participation

Prompts for discussions will be provided each week listed in the syllabus. The topics in our course build on each other; taking content week-by-week helps you break it into manageable chunks. There is a good deal of complicated vocabulary in the course – engaging with others while practicing the terms is a great way to build fluency. (It also ensures that you're on target for what will be tested on the quizzes and final.)

Late Work

- The Gateways to Art Journal can be completed for full points any time until Thursday, November 29. After that date, you will not receive credit for this assignment.
- Discussions and Reflections must be completed in class. You will not earn points if you are absent.
- Quizzes can only be completed on the dates assigned. If you will be absent from a quiz please let me know beforehand so that we can reschedule a time for you to complete the assessment.
- Your museum paper can be submitted for full points any time until midnight on Saturday, December 8. No papers will be accepted after that date.

- The final exam will take place according to the University calendar. Extensions will only be granted if you have a legitimate and documentable excuse (doctor note, note from an employer, etc.).

Grading

I use a 100 total point system for the entire semester.

Gentle warning: It is easy to let things slip. I strongly urge you to make a solid plan for each week and follow it to the best of your ability.

Grading Scale

A+ = 101 and above	C+ = 77-80	IN = incomplete (You must request an IN no later than two weeks before the end of the semester and be passing the course at the time of your request; deadlines for IN work follow the Registrar's calendar.)
A = 95-100	C = 73-76	
A- = 91-94	C- = 69-72	
B+ = 87-90	D = 65-68	
B = 84-86	F = 64 and below	
B- = 81-83		

Extra Credit

We are very fortunate to be so close to a wealth of art museums in Washington D.C. and the surrounding areas. You can earn up to five additional points of extra credit by critiquing a museum exhibit (not the same exhibit you used in your museum paper). Focus on your personal experience of the exhibit: how did the curator guide you through the exhibit - did the objects flow from one to the next? How? What was particularly effective about the exhibit?

Alternately, you may attend an on-campus Learning Services Workshop at any point during the semester.

This review is due by the last day of class and should be 1-2 pages in length.

What I need in your synopsis:

- What did you do/see and when was it?
- How was it related to images, ideas, or themes we have discussed? OR, if you attended a campus event, what was your impression of the event?
- What are your "take-aways" from the event - how has it impacted you?

Class Policies

Participation/Attendance- I have built in numerous participation checkpoints for you in the curriculum: it shows me that you are following the course themes and truly comprehending material. The Mason online catalog states: "Students are expected to attend class periods of the courses for which they register. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but also the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of nonparticipation." Patterns of non-participation in self-reflection or group work will be noted and points deducted accordingly. If you are ill for two weeks or more (consecutively) or you have other personal matters that will require you to frequently miss participation deadlines, you should let me know immediately and provide a doctor note or other acceptable documentation.

Disability Assistance- Mason has a wonderful Office of Disability Services on the main floor of SUB I; if you have a documentable learning disability, I urge you to pay the ODS a visit early in the semester. I am happy to work with you to accommodate your needs, but I will need written documentation from the ODS. <http://ods.gmu.edu/>

Writing Center- If you need some assistance in writing your paper or would like to attend study skills workshops, please do not hesitate to take advantage of the resources on campus. The Writing Center is in Robinson Hall B room 213. <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

Academic Workshops - Academic Workshop schedules can be found in Learning Services within Counseling and Psychological Services on the 3rd floor of SUB I. <http://caps.gmu.edu/>

Office Hours - I will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30-11:30. If that time does not work for you, I am flexible – just let me know a day ahead of time when you would like to chat via back-and-forth email. If you have a request for an incomplete or an assignment extension, I will only address those matters via Mason email.

Email and Course Communication - It is critical that you have a reliable way to obtain course information. Please be sure that you check your GMU email account regularly or have your GMU email messages forwarded to your preferred email account. If I need to send a message to you individually, I will send it to your GMU email account. Please note that if you have trouble with your GMU email, you can also use the messaging feature in Blackboard if necessary.

Honor Code

Abiding by the Mason Honor Code is essential if you plan on passing this course:

“Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.”

Academic Integrity: <http://oai.gmu.edu/>

FAQ regarding the Honor Code: <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>

<u>Important Mason Dates</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Last day to add classes: 9/4. <i>Check PatriotWeb to be sure that you are registered for this class.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Last day to drop classes: 9/30.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Selective withdrawal period (undergraduates): 10/1-10/28.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Labor Day break: 9/3.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Columbus break: 10/8.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving break: 11/21-11/25.

<u>Class Schedule and Readings</u>	
Units will be incrementally released to help you pace yourself. Each quiz and the final exam have comprehensive study guides: plan ahead to do your best.	
UNIT 1: FORMAL ANALYSIS AND THE STUDY OF ART	
WEEK 1: August 27 - September 2	
Introduction to the Course and the Study of Art	
Readings: 1. Syllabus 2. Gateways pgs. 26-45	Assignments: Individual Reflection 1 Introductory Post (online)
WEEK 2: September 4 - September 9 (September 3 is Labor Day break)	
Understanding the Fundamentals of Art and Design	
Readings: 1. Gateways pgs. 46-85; 131-145	Assignments: Discussion 1 Journal: Unity & Balance: pgs. 15, 17
WEEK 3: September 10 - September 16	
Interpretation and Impact: The Psychology of Art	
Readings: 1. Gateways: pgs. 101-118; 128; 167-177	Assignments: Individual Reflection 2
WEEK 4: September 17 - September 23	
Formal Analysis: Discussing, Critiquing, and Appreciating Art	
Readings: 1. Gateways: pgs. 146-166; 178-195	Assignments: Discussion 2

UNIT 2: ART HISTORY - TECHNIQUES AND STYLISTIC MOVEMENTS	
WEEK 5: September 24 - September 30 An Introduction to Artistic Media	
<i>Readings:</i> 1. Gateways: pgs. 198-201; 216; 228; 229; 232; 248-255; 266-288; 294-300; 307; 320; 346; 352	<i>Assignments:</i> QUIZ 1 (Tuesday, September 25) Journal: Media: pgs. 22, 23
WEEK 6: October 1 - October 7 Early Art History: Prehistory, the Ancient Mediterranean, and the Middle Ages	
<i>Readings:</i> 1. Gateways: pgs. 367-396	<i>Assignments:</i> Discussion 3
WEEK 7: October 9 - October 14 (October 8 is the Columbus Day break; our class meets Thursday ONLY) Art of India, China, Japan, and Southeast Asia	
<i>Readings:</i> 1. Gateways: pgs. 414-432	<i>Assignments:</i> Individual Reflection 3
WEEK 8: October 15 - October 21 Art of the Americas, Africa, and the Pacific Islands	
<i>Readings:</i> 1. Gateways: pgs. 433-464	<i>Assignments:</i> Discussion 4
WEEK 9: October 22 - October 28 The Renaissance	
<i>Readings:</i> 1. Gateways: pgs. 465-489	<i>Assignment:</i> This is a lighter week - use this time to catch up your Journal or visit a museum.
UNIT 3: ARTISTIC APPLICATIONS AND MODERN USES OF ART	
WEEK 10: October 29 - November 4 Art of Europe and America: Rococo to Realism	
<i>Readings:</i> 1. Gateways: pgs. 490-512	<i>Assignment:</i> QUIZ 2 (Tuesday, October 30)
WEEK 11: November 5 - November 11 The Modern Aesthetic	
<i>Readings:</i> 1. Gateways: pgs. 513-541	<i>Assignment:</i> Individual Reflection 4 Journal: Graphic Design: pgs. 24-27
WEEK 12: November 12 - November 18 Late Modern and Contemporary Art	
<i>Readings:</i> 1. Gateways: pgs. 542-559; 649-655;	<i>Assignment:</i> Individual Reflection 5 Journal: Modes of Analysis: pgs. 29-32
WEEK 13: November 21 - 25 NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING BREAK	
WEEK 14: November 26 - December 2 Understanding Spirituality, Identity, and Social Politics through Art	
<i>Readings:</i> 1. Gateways: pgs. 562-574; 588-598; 675-678; 659-674	<i>Assignment:</i> Discussion 5 GATEWAYS TO ART JOURNAL DUE (attach the last assignment to your museum paper)

WEEK 15: December 3 - December 8	
Course Conclusions and Final Exam Review	
<p><i>Readings:</i> Catch up on past readings, re-read chapters as needed to help you complete the study guide for the final exam.</p>	<p><i>Assignments DUE by Dec. 6:</i> MUSEUM PAPER DUE (attach last Journal assignment) EXTRA CREDIT DUE Complete the course evaluation.</p>
WEEK 16: Final Exam	
<p><u>THE FINAL EXAM WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18 FROM 1:30-4:15 IN OUR USUAL CLASSROOM.</u> *No extensions will be allowed unless you have a legitimate, documentable emergency that precludes you from taking the exam during the scheduled time period.</p>	

Useful links:

- **GMU Registrar Semester Calendar:** <https://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/fall-2018/>
- **Gateways to Art: Student Resources:** <http://books.wwnorton.com/books/students/>