

# ARTH 200: Survey of Western Art I

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Instructor: Laura McCloskey Wolfe

Term: Spring 2022

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Online, Asynchronous

Office Hours: Online(email or Zoom) Tuesdays 11am-12pm, or by appointment



Mosaic of Empress Theodora, San Vitale

## Description and Goals

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This course provides a detailed survey of the major artistic periods in art historical study from the prehistoric to the early Renaissance. Throughout the class, our goals will be to: build a vocabulary through which we can appreciate, analyze, and understand the major developments of art history; describe the relationship between history and the creation of art objects from cultural, religious, social, and individual perspectives; and differentiate the artistic achievements that define the regional and chronological study of western civilization. The course begins with the ancient cultures of Mesopotamia and the Near East, followed by the rich architectural heritage of the Aegean, Greece, and Rome. Next we will explore the development of major religions of the west and their consequent effects on medieval art. Finally, we will investigate the foundations of the Renaissance in Europe via shifts in philosophical, intellectual, and theological discourse. While the primary focus of this class is in European art historical tradition, at the end of the course we will examine the legacy of eastern art and its influence on the western world via economic, religious, and military contact.

This course meets the General Education Fine Arts requirement and is part of the Mason Core curriculum.

## Texts and Readings

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There is one required textbook for this course. The textbook publisher provides a wealth of additional optional online learning tools available for use with the text - a link is provided on page 4 of this syllabus. The 2018 edition is listed, but any edition is fine.

\*The hardcopy version of the text is expensive: unless you plan on taking additional art history courses I would recommend that you rent the electronic version of this text.\*

### REQUIRED:

- 1) Stokstad, Marilyn, and Michael Cothren. *Art History: Volume I*. Sixth Edition. London: Pearson, 2018. ISBN 978-0-13-447927-9

## Assignments

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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, projects, and papers.

### Here is how your grade will be calculated:

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

Final exam- 20%

Individual reflections- 10% (5 posts x 2% each)

Museum paper - 20%

Discussions- 10% (5 discussions x 2% each)

Online Introduction post- 5%

Optional extra credit assignment- 5%

Art "Poster" Project - 15% (+2% if you present it to the class)

### **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.

### **Art Poster Project**

For this assignment you will be creating either a powerpoint slide that explores the art of South or Southeast Asia, the Americas, Africa, Korea, Japan, or China (Stokstad chapters 10-14).

- Choose one chapter only; you may either focus on a particular art movement or region within that chapter or provide a survey of the entire chapter.
- On one single powerpoint slide create a collage of art pieces that best represent your chosen chapter. Include a caption with the title, artist (if known), location, and date for the artwork.
- In captions for each art piece, the notes section of your powerpoint slide, or a short (one page) essay, explain the following points:
  - What are the major defining characteristics of the art and culture of your chosen geographic area?
  - How is the art of this area similar and different to other regions and time periods that we have studied in our course?
    - Has cross-cultural contact with the west influenced the art of this area or vice-versa?
    - Are there formal qualities to your chosen art pieces that mirror techniques or styles also found in Europe or other western regions? Briefly explain.

*Optional presentation:* You students have the option to present via narrating your powerpoint (no more than five minutes) and uploading it to our project discussion board. If you choose to present your work, I will award you up to 2 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 or major online collection and choose three artworks that best exemplify an aspect of the study of art history through the early Renaissance. You may choose three artworks from the same time period, three with similar subject matter, three from differing time periods that illustrate the advancement of a certain technique, concept, or 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. The quizzes are open note/book.

### **Final Exam**

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

### **Individual Reflection Assignments**

Prompts for individual comments related to the previous or current week's lecture, readings, or course progress will be provided 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.)

Your initial post is due the Wednesday of the requisite week and your response to at least one other student is due by that Sunday. Both your own post and your response to someone else need to be well-planned and comprehensive. Include 7-8 sentences (a full paragraph). In your post, address the prompt; in your reply to someone else, reference their post and thoughtfully discuss their content: do you have any questions, did they make a particularly good argument, etc. DO NOT just say something like "what a good post, I agree!" - you will not earn points unless there is substance in your reply.

### **Late Work**

- Discussions and Reflections must be completed by the end of the week listed in the syllabus. You will not earn points if you are absent from class. Reflections can be turned in until the last day of the semester and still earn credit, but discussions can only be done the weeks they are listed.
- Quizzes can only be completed on the dates assigned. If you will be absent from a quiz please make time to take the quiz online or let me know beforehand so that we can reschedule a time for you to complete the assessment.
- Your Art Poster Project is due on the date listed in the schedule. Late assignments will incur a 10% penalty for each day they are late.
- Your museum paper can be submitted for full points any time until midnight on the last day of classes for the semester. 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***

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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  
A = 95-100  
A- = 91-94  
B+ = 87-90  
B = 84-86  
B- = 81-83

C+ = 77-80  
C = 73-76  
C- = 69-72  
D = 65-68  
F = 64 and below

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.)

### **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

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**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. <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 from 11am-12pm. 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 on email or Zoom. If you have a request for an incomplete or an assignment extension, I will only address those matters via your Mason email account or over Zoom.

**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://oi.gmu.edu/>

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

### Important Mason Dates

- ☑ Last day to add classes: 1/31.
- ☑ Check PatriotWeb to be sure that you are registered for this class.
- ☑ Last day to drop classes (full refund): 2/7.
- ☑ Selective withdrawal period: 3/2 – 4/11.
- ☑ Midterm grading period: 2/21 – 3/25.
- ☑ Spring break: 3/14 – 3/20.

### Useful links:

- **GMU Registrar Semester Calendar:** [https://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/spring\\_2022-1/](https://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/spring_2022-1/)
- **Pearson Student Resources:** <https://www.pearson.com/us/higher-education/program/Stokstad-Revel-for-Art-History-Volume-1-Access-Card-6th-Edition/PGM2539585.html>
  - Revel access provides 3D animations, pans/zooms or images, quizzes, e-text highlighting and notetaking, and expert video presentations.

## Class Schedule and Readings

Units will be incrementally released to help you pace yourself online.  
 Narrated versions of each powerpoint lecture will be available each week.  
 Each quiz and the final exam have comprehensive study guides: plan ahead to do your best.

### UNIT 1: Foundations of Art History and Western Civilization

**WEEK 1: January 24 - January 30**

**Introduction to the Course and the Study of Art**

<b>Readings:</b> 1. Syllabus 2. Stokstad: "Starter Kit"	<b>Assignments:</b> <a href="#">Individual Reflection 1</a> <a href="#">Introductory Post (online)</a>
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**WEEK 2: January 31 - February 6**

**Prehistoric Art in the Mediterranean and Europe**

<b>Readings:</b> 1. Stokstad: Chapter 1, "Prehistoric Art"	<b>Assignments:</b> <a href="#">Discussion 1</a>
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**WEEK 3: February 7 - February 13**

**Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East**

<b>Readings:</b> 1. Stokstad: Chapter 2, "Art of the Ancient Near East"	<b>Assignments:</b> <a href="#">Individual Reflection 2</a>
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**WEEK 4: February 14 - February 20**

**Art of Ancient Egypt**

<b>Readings:</b> 1. Stokstad: Chapter 3, "Art of Ancient Egypt"	<b>Assignments:</b> <a href="#">Discussion 2</a>
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### UNIT 2: Greece, Rome, and the Rise of the Medieval

**WEEK 5: February 21 - February 27**

**Review of Unit 1; Quiz 1**

<b>Readings:</b> 1. Review the study guide and prepare for the quiz.	<b>Assignments:</b> <a href="#">QUIZ 1 due by 11:59pm 2/27.</a>
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**WEEK 6: February 28 - March 6**

**Art of the Aegean; Greece and the Hellenistic Legacy**

<b>Readings:</b> 1. Stokstad: Chapter 4, "Art of the Ancient Aegean" and Chapter 5, "Ancient Greece"	<b>Assignments:</b> <a href="#">Discussion 3</a>
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**WEEK 7: March 7 - March 13**

**Roman Art and Architecture**

<b>Readings:</b> 2. Stokstad: Chapter 6, "Etruscan and Roman Art"	<b>Assignments:</b> <a href="#">Individual Reflection 3</a>
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**WEEK 9: March 14 - 20**

**Jewish and Early Christian Art**

<b>Readings:</b> 1. Stokstad: Chapter 7, "Jewish and Early Christian Art"	<b>Assignments:</b> <a href="#">Discussion 4</a>
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**WEEK 10: March 28- April 3**

**Byzantine and Islamic Art**

<b>Readings:</b> 1. Stokstad: Chapter 8, "Byzantine Art" and Chapter 9, "Islamic Art"	<b>Assignment:</b> <a href="#">Individual Reflection 4</a>
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### UNIT 3: Medieval Art and the Early Renaissance

**WEEK 11: April 4 - April 10**

**Review of Unit 2, Quiz 2**

<b>Readings:</b> 1. Review the study guide and prepare for the quiz.	<b>Assignment:</b> <a href="#">QUIZ 2 due by 11:59pm 4/10.</a>
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<b>WEEK 12: April 11 - April 17</b> <b>Early Medieval Art in Europe; Romanesque Architecture</b>	
<b>Readings:</b> 1. Stokstad: Chapter 15, "Early Medieval Art in Europe" and Chapter 16, "Romanesque Art"	<b>Assignment:</b> <b>Individual Reflection 5</b>
<b>WEEK 13: April 18 - April 24</b> <b>Gothic Art and Architecture</b>	
<b>Readings:</b> 1. Stokstad: Chapter 17, "Gothic Art of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries"	<b>Assignment:</b> <b>Discussion 5</b>
<b>WEEK 14: April 25 - May 1</b> <b>Fourteenth Century Art in Europe and the Beginning of the Renaissance</b>	
<b>Readings:</b> 1. Stokstad: Chapter 18, "Fourteenth Century Art in Europe"	<b>Assignment:</b> <b>Art Poster Project Due online by 11:59pm on May 1.</b>
<b>WEEK 15: May 2 – May 7</b> <b>East Meets West; Course Conclusions and Final Exam Review</b>  May 7 is the official last day of classes for the spring term: all assignments (late or not) must be completed and turned in by this date. I cannot accept work after May 7.	
<b>Readings:</b> 1. Chapter of your choosing - Stokstad Chapters 10 - 14 for the Art Poster Project optional presentation. 2. Catch up on past readings, re-read chapters as needed to help you complete the study guide for the final exam.	<b>Assignment:</b> <b>MUSEUM PAPER DUE</b> <b>EXTRA CREDIT DUE</b> <b>Complete the course evaluation.</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	
<p><b><u>*THE FINAL EXAM WILL BE AVAILABLE THE ENTIRE WEEK OF MAY 11 – MAY 18, ONLINE.</u></b></p> <p>*No extensions will be allowed unless you have a legitimate, documentable emergency that precludes you from taking the exam during the entire scheduled time period.</p>	