

ART HISTORY 200: SURVEY OF WESTERN ART.

Session A: Summer 2012
Monday-Thursday: 2-4:15
Robinson B Room 113

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Office Hours: 12:30-1:30

Course Information:

This course examines major works of Western art and architecture from prehistoric cave painting to the beginning of the Italian Renaissance. Students will be introduced to these important works through the study of art and architecture within their historical, cultural, and geographical context. Visiting local museums will provide the opportunity to examine similar works of art as a primary source of information for a required paper.

Students are expected to attend class and to be fully prepared to participate and learn. Class preparation requires reading the assigned chapters in the textbook *Stokstad's Art History of the Western World: Volume I*. It is available at the GMU bookstore. Students will need to learn identifying information from lectures and reading assignments, including definitions, dates, names, places and works of art. There will be the usual tests, in class assignments, and a museum paper.

Due to the shortened format of a summer course, attendance is critical in order to keep up with class material. If you miss a test you must notify me in advance for a make up or provide a written excuse. College level writing is expected for this course. If you are unsure of your writing ability, please see me or visit the campus Writing Center @<http://writing.center.gmu.edu/>. Please contact me if you have any special requirements.

Course Requirements and Grade Points:

In Class Assignments and Map:	10%
Thursday May 24: Map Due	
Thursday May 31: TEST ONE	20%
Monday June 11 Test TWO	20%
Thursday June 14 Museum Paper Due	30%
Thursday June 21 Final Exam:	20%

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Monday May 21 Introduction to ARTH 200.

Tuesday May 22: Chapter One: Prehistoric Art

Wednesday May 23: Chapter Two: Art of the Ancient Near East

Thursday May 24: Chapter Three: Art of Ancient Egypt & **Map Due**

Monday, May 28: Memorial Day, No Class

Tuesday May 29: Chapter Four: Art of the Ancient Aegean

Wednesday May 30: Comparison Exercise and Review for Test One

Thursday, May 31: **Test One**

Monday June 4: Chapter Five: Art of Ancient Greece

Tuesday June 5: Chapter Six: Etruscan and Roman Art

Wednesday, June 6: Chapter Seven: Jewish, Early Christian, & Byzantine Art

Thursday, June 7: Chapter Eight: Islamic Art

Monday, June, 11: **Test Two**

Tuesday June 12: Chapter Fourteen: Early Medieval Art in Europe

Wednesday June 13: Chapter Fifteen: Romanesque Art

Thursday June 14: Chapter Sixteen: Gothic Art
Museum Paper due

Monday June 18: Art and Ownership Lecture

Tuesday, June 19: Chapter Seventeen: 14th Century Art in Europe

Wednesday June 20: Review for Exam

Thursday, June 21: FINAL EXAM

TESTS:

Tests will be based on lectures, readings, and works of art in the textbook and shown during class lectures. You will be responsible for general themes and ideas linked to the images shown. Important works of art and definitions will be written on the board.

Tests will include:

1. Definitions of terms. You will be responsible for art history terms discussed in class. You should be able to define the term and provide an example.
2. You will need to identify objects by their title, artist, time period, geographical location and medium. You will also need to describe the significance of each work of art.
3. Comparison Exercise: You will compare and contrast works of art and/or architecture.

PAPER ASSIGNMENT:

This course requires visits to museums in the area in order to examine works of art as primary sources for writing assignments. Complete instructions will be provided. College level writing skills require the incorporation of specific rules of grammar, spelling, sentence and structure and punctuation. Equally important, students must cite the sources they use in their paper. These topics will all be further explained in class. However, if you are concerned about your writing skill, please see me and/or visit the GMU Writing Center. I will review papers before they are due but do not wait until the last minute.

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE:

George Mason University honor code that is clearly defined in the University Catalogue and GMU website. Every student will sign a pledge on every test and paper that their work is entirely their own. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's work as your own: it includes not citing your sources of information. It is a violation of the honor code.

GRADING:

A+=100; A=99-93; A-=92-90 (Superior work and understanding of concepts, factual material, excellent written work and classroom participation.

B work: (B+ (89-87); B (80-82); B-(82-80. (Above average mastery of material with well written assignments and obvious class participation and preparation.

C Work: C+=79-77; C= 76-73; C-=72-70. An average grade that represents a basic grasp of factual and conceptual material.

D work: 69-60. Unsatisfactory, minimal passing grade. Poor writing & learning skills.

F= Failed the course.

ARTH 200 MUSEUM PAPER ASSIGNMENT.

The museum paper assignment requires visiting two different museums in the area. One must be the National Museum of Natural History in Washington D. C. The other may be the National Gallery (East or West) or the Hirshhorn, Corcoran, or Phillips museums. You may also use the outdoor sculpture gardens for the second choice. Choose one object from each museum to compare and contrast in your paper.

For the first part of the paper, you will need to provide the information from the museum about each of the objects that you have chosen. This information should include: the title, artist, medium, size, date, country of origin, and accession number. This part of your paper should then describe each work of art and examine how each object is displayed. What is its historical context? What are the other displays around it? What is the theme or purpose of the display? This should be about two pages long with at least one page for each object you have chosen. Describe and discuss, individually, the two objects you have chosen within their museum setting.

Then, for the second part of the paper, compare and contrast your two choices: how the objects are similar and how they are different. And, also think about how these objects are displayed. Is there a difference in their presentation? How does each museum present each object? Is it art or history or both? Do you think there are different options in how your choices could be displayed? How would you display these objects differently and why?

The purpose of this paper is to learn the skills of observation as well as think about why and how museums are so different and, yet, so similar. How do different displays create other ways of 'seeing' something? This part of the paper should also be two pages long. The paper requirement is 4-5 pages: double spaced with a title.

Please: cite your sources with footnotes or endnotes. We will go over this in class before the paper is due. If you are concerned about your writing skills, visit the George Mason Writing Center on campus. You may reach them at <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

I will review a rough draft of your paper. However, do not wait until the last minute.