

ARTH 101-K02 – INTRODUCTION TO VISUAL ARTS– SPRING 2022

Instructor: Amy Zhang (Xinyi Zhang)

Class meetings: G301; Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00pm-4:15pm

Office Hours: G546; Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm, or by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the visual arts. Through considering material products of human creativity from prehistory to the present, we will learn to analyze and interpret the visual evidence of history. In our first unit on art theory and formal analysis, we study varied historical perspectives on what constitutes art and practice describing and analyzing visual material. In our second unit, we survey objects that populate dominant narratives of art history, emphasizing what their material and form communicate about the societies that produced, circulated, and preserved them. Our third unit considers unsettled issues in the visual arts, including the provincialism of art history, the necessity of the canon, and the social role of the arts and art museums. Our class meetings will involve lectures, discussions, activities, and a great deal of inquisitive looking at objects. We will complement our classroom learning with experiential learning by visiting two art museums: The National Museum of Korea and the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Gwacheon Campus).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course meets the Mason Core Arts requirement. Our learning objectives include:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between artistic process, and a work's underlying concept, and where appropriate, contexts associated with the work.
- Identify and analyze the formal elements of a particular art form using vocabulary and critique appropriate to that form.
- Analyze cultural productions using standards appropriate to the form, as well as the works cultural significance and context.
- Analyze and interpret the content of material or performance culture through its social, historical, and personal contexts.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All reading assignments are available on Blackboard under the “Course Texts” tab including the sections from *Gateways to Art. Understanding the Visual Arts* (DeWitte et. al. 2015) that we will be reading.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Course schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in writing.

WEEK 1	
Tuesday 08/23	What is Art? What is Art History? I Recommended: Claire Farago and Donald Preziosi, “Introduction: Art and/as Manifesto” in <i>Art is Not What You Think It Is</i> , pp.1-10, 14-16, 2012.

	<p>Recommended: Tiernan Morgan & Lauren Purje, "An Illustrated Guide to Arthur Danto's 'The End of Art'" 2015.</p> <p>Recommended: Arthur Danto, "The Artworld," pp. 571-584, 1964.</p>
Thursday 08/25	<p>What is Art? What is Art History? II</p> <p>Read: DeWitte et. al., "Introduction" pp. 20-35.</p> <p>Read: "Introduction" in <i>Art = Exploring Infinite Connections at the Metropolitan Museum of Art</i>, p. 1, 2020.</p> <p>Recommended: James Elkins, "The Conditions Under Which Global Art History Is Studied" in <i>The End of Diversity in Art Historical Writing</i>, 2021.</p> <p>- Download a PDF reader that can highlight and annotate on your device (ex. Adobe Acrobat)</p> <p>- Whitelist donotreply@blackboard.com in your email.</p>
WEEK 2	
Tuesday 08/30	<p>Describing Art: Style, Form, and Content</p> <p>Read: DeWitte et. al., pp.170-189.</p>
Thursday 09/01	<p>Elements of Art: Line, Shape, and the Principle of Contrast</p> <p>Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 42-60.</p>
WEEK 3	
Tuesday 09/06	<p>Elements of Art: Form, Volume, Mass, and Texture</p> <p>Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 61-76.</p>
Thursday 09/08	Fall Recess (No Classes)
WEEK 4	
Tuesday 09/13	<p>Elements of Art: Implied Depth: Value and Space</p> <p>Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 77-89.</p>
Thursday 09/15	<p>Elements of Art: Color</p> <p>Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 95-112.</p>
WEEK 5	
Tuesday 09/20	<p>Elements of Art: Motion and Time</p> <p>Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 113-124.</p>
Thursday 09/22	Principles of Design: Unity, Variety and Balance; Scale and Proportion

	Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 125-147.
WEEK 6	
Tuesday 09/27	Principles of Design: Focal Point and Emphasis; Pattern and Rhythm Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 147-169.
Thursday 09/29	In-Class Quiz #1 on Elements of Art and Principles of Design
WEEK 7	
Tuesday 10/04	Make Up Day (Follow Monday Schedule. Tuesday Classes Do Not Meet.)
Thursday 10/06	Museum Activity #1 Due (National Museum of Korea) Read: Carol Duncan, "The Art Museum as Ritual" in <i>Civilizing Rituals</i> , pp. 7-20, 1995.
WEEK 8	
Tuesday 10/11	Art History: Prehistory and Ancient Mediterranean I Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 367-378.
Thursday 10/13	Art History: Prehistory and Ancient Mediterranean II Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 379-389.
WEEK 9	
Tuesday 10/18	Art History: The Middle Ages Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 391-409.
Thursday 10/20	Art History: Renaissance and Baroque Europe I Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 461-481. Recommended: Daniel Savoy, "Introduction" in <i>The Globalization of Renaissance Art: A Critical Review</i> , 2017.
WEEK 10	
Tuesday 10/25	Art History: Renaissance and Baroque Europe II Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 461-481.
Thursday 10/27	Art History: Europe and America (1700-1865): Rococo to Romanticism Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 487-500.
WEEK 11	

Tuesday 11/01	Art History: The Modern Aesthetic: Realism to Expressionism I Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 501-513.
Thursday 11/03	Art History: The Modern Aesthetic: Realism to Expressionism II Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 514-523.
WEEK 12	
Tuesday 11/08	Art History: Late Modern and Early Contemporary I Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 524-535.
Thursday 11/10	Art History: Late Modern and Early Contemporary II Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 536-545.
WEEK 13	
Tuesday 11/15	Art History: The Late Twentieth Century and Art of the Present Day I Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 546-554.
Thursday 11/17	Art History: The Late Twentieth Century and Art of the Present Day II Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 555-561.
WEEK 14	
Tuesday 11/22	In-Class Quiz #2 on Art History
Thursday 11/24	Museum Activity #2 Due (National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art - Gwacheon Campus)
WEEK 15	
Tuesday 11/29	What Is the Canon? What is a Museum? Read: Andrew McClellan, "Introduction" in <i>The Art Museum from Boulée to Bilbao</i> , pp.1-12, 2008. Recommended: Marlite Halbertsma, "The Call of the Canon: Why Art History Cannot Do Without," in pp. 16-28, 2007.
Thursday 12/01	Can Art History be Global? Read: Monica Juneja, "Global Art History and the 'Burden of Representation,'" in <i>Global Studies: Mapping Contemporary Art and Culture</i> , pp. 274-293, 2011. Recommended: Aruna D'Souza, "Introduction," in <i>Art History in the Wake of the Global Turn</i> , pp. vii-xxii, 2014.

GRADING AND REQUIREMENTS

Class Participation (13x Journals)	20%
In-Class Quiz #1	20%
Museum Activity #1	20%
In-Class Quiz #2	20%
Museum Activity #2	20%
Reflective Essay (Extra Credit +2%)	
TOTAL	100%

A+	97+
A	93 to <97
A-	90 to <93
B+	87 to <90
B	83 to <87
B-	80 to <83
C+	77 to <80
C	73 to <77
C-	70 to <73
D	60 to <70
F	<60

CLASS PARTICIPATION

It is essential that you come to class on time and prepared to engage in with the material and participate constructively in class. You can participate by listening attentively; raising informed discussion points; asking pertinent questions; connecting discussion to reading material and relevant experiences; listening to others' perspectives; sharing the floor with others; and soliciting input from your peers in group activities. Constructive participation requires honoring the electronics policy.

Each week, a Journal activity on Blackboard will be open to students who attend and engage in class as a record of Class Participation. Journals are due at the start of next Tuesday's class (3:00pm) and are not accepted late.

IN-CLASS QUIZ #1 ON ELEMENTS OF ART AND PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

This quiz consists of multiple choice and short answer questions and will reflect the material from weeks 1-6. It is an open-note and open-book quiz.

MUSEUM ACTIVITY #1

Visit the National Museum of Korea before the due date to complete this activity.

IN-CLASS QUIZ #2 ON ART HISTORY FROM PREHISTORY TO THE PRESENT DAY

This quiz consists of multiple choice and short answer questions and will reflect the material from weeks 8-13. It is an open-note and open-book quiz.

MUSEUM ACTIVITY #2

Visit the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Gwacheon Campus) before the due date to complete this activity.

REFLECTIVE ESSAY (EXTRA CREDIT)

This extra credit assignment asks you to write a short reflective essay in response to one of three prompts.

COURSE POLICIES

COURSE MODALITY

This course will follow all policies and guidance set by Mason Korea. Should any class sessions need to be adjusted or canceled due to health and safety concerns, students will be notified by email and can continue to check Blackboard for course materials and updates

The Korean Ministry of Education recommends that higher education instruction be conducted in person and as such, this course has been designed for in person instruction and learning. Course sessions will not be recorded to fully engage in an interactive learning environment. PPTs will be available to view for 1 week after each class in a screen recording format (no audio).

PREPARING FOR CLASS

Before each class, check the syllabus to see what the assigned texts are. Read the items marked “read” and bring the text to each class, either in hard copy, or on your laptop. If you are using an electronic device to access our class texts, make sure you are using a PDF reader that can highlight and annotate—all our class texts are OCR scanned so you can easily highlight, underline, and take notes on these documents.

ABSENCES

Absences have a strong correlation to student success, so it is to your benefit to attend class. When you are absent from class, there are several steps to take to ensure the continuity of your learning: (a) review the assigned reading, (b) view the screen recording of the PPT, (c) consult a peer. If you were absent from class and would like to complete the weekly journal, you may appeal for access by communicating with the professor. In your message, confirm that you have completed (a), (b), and (c) independently. If you experience a longer or more serious interruption to your semester, we will discuss how best to accommodate it.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

We will conduct discussions with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. It is expected for us to disagree with one another, and we should feel free to debate. We do so in the spirit of dialogue: to keep the conversation as open and informative for everyone as possible. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask me for guidance and clarification and if you feel our classroom is not meeting your needs in these regards, please let me know.

If you wish, please share your name and gender pronouns with me and indicate how best to address you in class and via email. I use she/her for myself, and you may address me as “Professor Zhang” in email and verbally.

ASSIGNMENTS

All assignment due dates are as indicated on Blackboard. Assume all due dates on blackboard are in Korean Standard Time (KST), not Eastern Time (ET). Weekly Journals are not accepted late. Other assignments may be accepted within three days (72 hours) of the due date. The assignment grade will be reduced one mark (-3.33 or reducing one letter grade) for each day it is late.

ELECTRONICS AND TECHNOLOGY

Cell phone use is not allowed in the classroom. You are welcome to bring a laptop to class and use it for class-related purposes only. Course materials and recordings are not to be distributed, sold, or employed for any other purposes.

EMAIL

GMU faculty and students are required to use GMU email accounts to communicate. You must regularly check your GMU email address, as important updates will be sent that way. Emails that I send to our class will also be posted as Blackboard announcements which you can view on the “Home Page” of our course Blackboard. I will respond to emails within 24 hours on weekdays. After that period, you are encouraged to send me a “following up” message.

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are for you; this time is dedicated to supporting your learning. You are welcome to come to my office (G546) during office hours without making an appointment. You may also request an office hour appointment outside of those times by email.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES*SAFE RETURN TO CAMPUS DURING COVID-19:*

All in the Mason Korea community play an important role in keeping our classroom environment and one another safe during the current conditions. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with Mason Korea building safety protocols and local government regulations. Your faculty recognizes that local COVID-19 conditions and individual situations can vary throughout the semester. Should you need academic accommodations, immediately communicate with your faculty and academic advisor for case-by-case arrangements. For counseling, students can contact Jan Lee (jlee227@gmu.edu, 032-626-6142).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

George Mason University has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Please see <http://honorcode.gmu.edu/> to ensure that you abide by it. If you are uncertain about citation rules or assignment guidelines, ask me for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct. If you feel unusual pressure or anxiety about your grade in this or any other course, please let me know and also seek help from University resources.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

The Academic Resource Center offers tutoring and workshops to support your academic progress. To discuss academic support resource available to you, please contact Eunmee Lee, Ph.D., Director of the Academic Resource Center at elee45@gmu.edu. (<https://masonkorea.gmu.edu/resources-and-services/academic-resource-center>)

COUNSELING AND WELLNESS

Counseling and Wellness aims to provide comprehensive support services that promote the personal, social, and academic success of George Mason University Korea students. (<https://masonkorea.gmu.edu/resources-and-services/counseling-and-wellness>)

DISABILITY SERVICES:

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please visit the Disability Services office (<https://masonkorea.gmu.edu/resources-and-services/disability-services>)