

# ARTH 101-K02 – INTRODUCTION TO VISUAL ARTS– SPRING 2023

Instructor: Amy Zhang (Xinyi Zhang)

Class meetings: G302; Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30 AM to 11:45 AM

Office Hours: G546; Tuesdays 1:00 PM-3:00 PM, or by appointment

Email: xzhang16@gmu.edu

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the visual arts. By 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 using the permanent exhibitions of two local museums: The National Museum of Korea and the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Gwacheon Campus).

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course fulfills the Mason Core Social/Behavioral Sciences core:

- 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).

## COURSE SCHEDULE

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

WEEK 1	
Monday 02/20	<b>What is Art? What is Art History? I</b>  Read: Tiernan Morgan & Lauren Purje, " <a href="#">An Illustrated Guide to Arthur Danto's 'The End of Art'</a> " 2015.

	<p>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> <p>Recommended: Arthur Danto, "The Artworld," pp. 571-584, 1964.</p>
Wednesday 02/22	<p><b>What is Art? What is Art History? II</b></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>
<b>WEEK 2</b>	
Monday 02/27	<p><b>Describing Art: Style, Form, and Content</b></p> <p>Read: DeWitte et. al., pp.170-189.</p>
<del>Wednesday 03/01</del>	<b>Independence Movement Day (No Classes)</b>
<b>WEEK 3</b>	
Monday 03/06	<p><b>Elements of Art: Line, Shape, and the Principle of Contrast</b></p> <p>Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 42-60.</p>
Wednesday 03/08	<p><b>Elements of Art: Form, Volume, Mass, and Texture</b></p> <p>Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 61-76.</p>
<b>WEEK 4</b>	
Monday 03/13	<p><b>Elements of Art: Implied Depth: Value and Space</b></p> <p>Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 77-89.</p>
Wednesday 03/15	<p><b>Elements of Art: Color</b></p> <p>Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 95-112.</p>
<b>WEEK 5</b>	
Monday 03/20	<p><b>Elements of Art: Motion and Time</b></p> <p>Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 113-124.</p>
Wednesday 03/22	<p><b>Principles of Design: Unity, Variety and Balance; Scale and Proportion</b></p> <p>Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 125-147.</p>

<b>WEEK 6</b>	
Monday 03/27	<b>Principles of Design: Focal Point and Emphasis; Pattern and Rhythm</b> Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 147-169.
Wednesday 03/29	<b>In-Class Quiz #1 on Elements of Art and Principles of Design</b>
<b>WEEK 7</b>	
Sunday 04/01	<b>Optional Office Hours at the National Museum of Korea</b> Prof. Zhang will be in the museum café from 12:00 PM-3:00 PM.
Monday 04/03	<b>In-Class Optional Office-Hours; Museum Activity #1 Due (Go to National Museum of Korea before 04/03)</b> Read: Carol Duncan, "The Art Museum as Ritual" in <i>Civilizing Rituals</i> , pp. 7-20, 1995.
Wednesday 04/05	<b>Art History: Prehistory and Ancient Mediterranean I</b> Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 367-378.
<b>WEEK 8</b>	
Monday 04/10	<b>Art History: Prehistory and Ancient Mediterranean II</b> Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 379-389.
Wednesday 04/12	<b>Art History: The Middle Ages</b> Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 391-409.
<b>WEEK 9</b>	
Monday 04/17	<b>Art History: Renaissance and Baroque Europe I</b> Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 461-481. Recommended: Daniel Savoy, "Introduction" in <i>The Globalization of Renaissance Art: A Critical Review</i> , 2017.
Wednesday 04/19	<b>Art History: Renaissance and Baroque Europe II</b> Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 461-481.
<b>WEEK 10</b>	
Monday 04/24	<b>Art History: Europe and America (1700-1865): Rococo to Romanticism</b> Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 487-500.
Wednesday 04/26	<b>Art History: The Modern Aesthetic: Realism to Expressionism I</b>

	Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 501-513.
<b>WEEK 11</b>	
<del>Monday 05/01</del>	<b>Labor Day (No Classes)</b>
<del>Wednesday 05/03</del>	<b>Spring Recess (No Classes 05/02 – 05/04) Childrens Day (No Classes 05/05)</b>
<b>WEEK 12</b>	
Monday 05/08	<b>Art History: The Modern Aesthetic: Realism to Expressionism II</b>  Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 514-523.
Wednesday 05/10	<b>Art History: Late Modern and Early Contemporary I</b>  Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 524-535.
<b>WEEK 13</b>	
Monday 05/15	<b>Art History: Late Modern and Early Contemporary II</b>  Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 536-545.
Wednesday 05/17	<b>Art History: The Late Twentieth Century and Art of the Present Day I</b>  Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 546-554.
<b>WEEK 14</b>	
Monday 05/22	<b>Art History: The Late Twentieth Century and Art of the Present Day II</b>  Read: DeWitte et. al., pp. 555-561.
Wednesday 05/24	<b>In-Class Quiz #2 on Art History</b>
<b>WEEK 15</b>	
Monday 05/29	<b>Museum Activity #2 Due</b>
Wednesday 05/31	<b>What Is the Canon? What is a Museum?</b>  Read: Andrew McClellan, "Introduction" in The Art Museum from Boulée to Bilbao, pp.1-12, 2008.  Recommended: Marlite Halbertsma, "The Call of the Canon: Why Art History Cannot Do Without," in pp. 16-28, 2007.
<b>WEEK 16</b>	
Monday 06/05	<b>Can Art History be Global?</b>  Read: Monica Juneja, "Global Art History and the 'Burden of Representation,'" in Global Studies: Mapping Contemporary Art and Culture, 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 (15x Weekly Responses)	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 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 Weekly Response activity on Blackboard will be open to students who attend and engage in class as a record of Class Participation. Weekly Responses are due at the start of next Monday's class (10:30 AM) 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 encourage an interactive learning environment and best outcomes for learning. PPTs will be available to view for one week after each class in a screen recording format (no audio).

### *PREPARING FOR CLASS*

Before each class, check the syllabus to see the assigned texts. Read the items marked “read” and bring the text to each class, either in hard copy or on your laptop. If you use an electronic device to access our class texts, make sure you use 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 strongly correlate 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 Response, you may appeal for access to the journal by communicating with the professor by email. 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. In both cases, you are not expected to share personal or sensitive information.

### *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 by 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 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](mailto: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 resources available to you, please contact Eunmee Lee, Ph.D., Director of the Academic Resource Center at [elee45@gmu.edu](mailto: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>)