

Sam Houston State University
College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication
Department of Art

SURVEY I: PRE-RENAISSANCE ART HISTORY
ARTS 1303-03
3 Credit Hours
Spring Semester, 2018

Class Location: Art Building E, Room 108
Class Meeting Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30–10:50am
Instructor: Dr. Barbara Kaminska, Assistant Professor
Office Location: Art Building D, Room 118
Instructor Contact Information: (936) 294-1194
E-Mail: bak018@shsu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday, 11:30am–1pm, and upon appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a chronological survey of the major monuments of painting, sculpture, architecture, textiles, and metalwork from the ancient through the medieval periods.
Prerequisite: None. Credit 3.

MAIN COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Identify and understand the distinctive stylistic, iconographic, and functional characteristics of the art of ancient civilizations and medieval Europe
2. Analyze paintings, sculptures, and architectural monuments using discipline-specific vocabulary and methods
3. Comprehend the impact of Christianity on the ancient world and its role in shaping the history and culture of the Middle Ages
4. Understand the place of ancient heritage in the Western tradition

THRESHOLD CONCEPTS

In addition to these objectives, we will focus on the following threshold concepts in art history:

1. Art objects have always been an inherent part of the socio-political and religious life of societies and civilizations which produced them. Thus, it is necessary to study historical and cultural circumstances to understand works of art. The class you are taking is a survey of art history, and we will be learning a lot about the history of the world since the Prehistoric era until the late Middle Ages.
2. Because of this connection between historical circumstances and artistic production, works of art created by different civilizations vary: they look different, perform different functions, were intended for different audiences. These differences should not make us think that one art

work is better than another. In this class, we will learn to appreciate the diversity of ancient and medieval art, and understand the reasons behind their form and function.

3. Works of art stimulate a variety of interpretations. Some of these interpretations are based on what we know about historical civilizations, while others reflect our modern values. Since our knowledge of some prehistoric and ancient cultures is still very limited, sometimes scholars cannot provide an answer to the questions about functions or form of certain pieces.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO READ THIS SYLLABUS, AND KNOW AND FOLLOW THE COURSE POLICIES OUTLINED BELOW.

TEXTBOOK AND REQUIRED MATERIALS

All the exams are based on lectures presented in class, class discussion, and essays and other materials uploaded to Blackboard. You should take extensive notes; on the exams, you may be asked questions about cultural and historical context of works of art so do not dismiss this information when it is introduced in class. Slide shows with images analyzed in lecture will be uploaded to Blackboard before class. Download or print them out – it is easier to take notes if you already have images.

Textbook (recommended, not required): *Gardner's Art Through the Ages*, vol. 1, *The Western Perspective*, 15th edition, by: Fred S. Kleiner, Publisher: Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1-305-64508-0. The textbook is meant to help you understand the material and organize information; I will not ask any questions from the textbook if the material has not been discussed in lecture. You are welcome to buy a used copy of an earlier edition of the textbook (choose “The Western Perspective”), but it is your responsibility to make sure that you are not missing material. You can also consult the textbook in the Art Resources Library located in Art Building E, Room 113 during Library hours (about 8am–4pm). Finally, you can rent a digital copy of the textbook for about half the price, but you will have access to it for only 180 days.

You are always welcome to come to my office hours or schedule an appointment to discuss the material or any difficulties with the assignments, or simply to introduce yourself. Remember, a conversation is always more efficient than seeking advice over email. Please note: I will only discuss your grades in person, and never over email.

GRADING POLICY

Grade distribution (100% = 200 points)

- Attendance and Participation: 15% (30 points)
- Homework Assignments: 22% (44 points)
- Exam #1: 18% (36 points)
- Exam #2: 22.5% (45 points)
- Exam #3 (final exam): 22.5% (45 points)

Extra credit

You can receive extra points for attending events hosted by the Art Department, such as Art History Movie Nights, guest lectures, and exhibition openings (these events are broadly advertised

in advance and will be announced in lecture). Bring with you a note saying “I hereby confirm that [your name] attended [name of the event] on [date]” and get a signature from one of the faculty members. In addition, you need to write a summary/journal entry, 300-350 words long, describing this event. You must submit both documents within a week of the event, and no later than the last day of classes. Each event is worth four points; the maximum number of points you can get for attending these events is sixteen (thus, even if you attend more than four events, you will receive points only for four). This is the only extra credit opportunity in this course.

Format of the Exams

- 1) Exam# 1 (36 points):
 - ➔ Twelve (12) slides to identify (artist, title, period – e.g. Paleolithic or Gothic) and a multiple choice or fill-in-the-blank question about each slide
- 2) Exam #2 (45 points):
 - ➔ Twelve (12) slides to identify (artist, title, period – e.g. Paleolithic or Gothic) and a multiple choice or fill-in-the-blank question about each slide (36 points)
 - ➔ Short essay about one work of art (9 points)
- 3) Exam #3 (Final exam) (45 points):
 - ➔ Twelve (12) slides to identify (artist, title, period – e.g. Paleolithic or Gothic) and a multiple choice or fill-in-the-blank question about each slide (36 points)
 - ➔ Short essay about one work of art (9 points)

Each part of the slide identification is worth 0.5 points. Each multiple choice and/or fill-in-the-blank question is worth 1.5 point. Short essay should be approx. 8-10 sentences long and includes a slide identification as well.

Exams are not cumulative. Before each exam, you will receive a list of approx. 30-35 objects, from which I will choose images for the exam. You will also receive a list of terms, which you need to know for the test.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS POLICY

Homework assignments should be submitted electronically on Blackboard before class (assignments will no longer be available after the class begins, and I will not be accepting late submissions). Make sure to bring a copy of your assignment or copy of your notes to lecture – you will need them to participate in class activities.

Plagiarism

All your homework assignments should present your original ideas and be written by you. Do not plagiarize any part of any of your assignments. Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s ideas or work as one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to: downloading work of another person and submitting as one’s own; failure to acknowledge authorship when using sources such as books and textbooks, websites, journal articles, online term papers, dictionaries, emails; using someone else’s words or phrases, ideas or thoughts, copying data etc. without a proper citation. If you copy content of a website or textbook, and simply change a few words or the order of sentences, this will still count as plagiarism. Plagiarism is considered a fraud and constitutes a serious academic offence. It will result in a

failing grade for the assignment (0 points), and, in serious cases, in failing the course, and will be reported to the Dean.

EXAMS & MAKE-UP POLICY

If you miss an exam, you will need to provide a document explaining the cause of your absence: see “Excused versus Unexcused Absence” policy below. If your absence falls into the category of “unexcused absence,” you will receive zero points for the test and will not be given the opportunity to take a make-up test. It is your responsibility to notify me as soon as possible that you will be absent on the day of the exam. Missed tests must be taken within 3 school days of the original test date unless there is a serious medical emergency. If you cannot take the test on the day indicated in the syllabus due to a school-related event (athletic competition, conference, SHSU trip, etc.), you must take the test before the trip, not after. Bear in mind that scheduling a make-up test is always difficult: I need to write a new exam for you, find available room, and someone to proctor your test. It may happen that you will need to miss other classes to take your make-up exam.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION POLICY

Attendance and participation are essential to a good performance in this course. You can have three unexcused absences without losing any points for attendance. Each additional unexcused absence will result in the deduction of five points from this portion of your grade. Attendance will be taken regularly. If you miss class, ask another student for notes, and stop by my office if you need further clarification.

Excused versus Unexcused Absence

An absence can be excused in the following instances:

- illness or appointment documented with a doctor’s note
- out-of-town game, competition, performance, conference/workshop; other SHSU trips documented with a note from your coach or a professor
- jury duty or court date documented with jury summons or other official documents

Absences will not be excused if you cannot provide a relevant document justifying it. For example, if you send me an email stating that you’re not feeling well and will not be in class, but do not provide a doctor’s note, your absence will count as an unexcused one.

Attendance means that you are present in the classroom, paying attention, and contributing to the discussion. If you are texting, sleeping, or browsing the internet, you may still be marked as absent. If you are 20 minutes late or leave 20 minutes early due to a non-emergency reason, you will also be marked as absent. It is your responsibility to make sure that you do not have a scheduling conflict that will cause you to come late or leave early. Repeated tardiness will result in the deduction of points from the “Attendance and Participation” portion of your grade.

In order to receive full credit for the “Attendance and Participation” portion of your grade, you must have no more than three absences, arrive to class on time, and participate in class activities, including short writing exercises. If you do not contribute to the class discussion, you will receive a “C” for “Attendance and Participation,” even if you come to every class meeting.

If you need my signature on a grade check or any other form, please notify me in advance.

You can use your laptop to take notes. If you are caught using it for any other purpose, this privilege will be revoked. All other devices must be turned off and put away.

BLACKBOARD, EMAIL, AND EMAIL ETIQUETTE

You are expected to check your SHSU e-mail and course website regularly. All your emails to me should be sent from your SHSU account.

I will not reply to emails to which an answer can be found in this syllabus, e.g. “when is our next test,” “how many absences can I have without losing any points,” or “what do I do for the extra credit.”

All your emails to all your college professors should follow proper etiquette. Remember: you are writing a professional message, not a text to your friend or a comment on social media. Knowing how to write a properly worded and formatted email is an essential skill in today’s job market. Be respectful and mindful (e.g. you cannot expect your professor to answer an email sent at 3pm on Sunday on the same day). Check for spelling, punctuation, and grammar mistakes. In your email: include a subject line, introduce yourself (name and class which you’re taking – this is especially important at the beginning of the semester), clearly explain your question, sign your message. Never address your women instructors as Miss / Mrs. / Ms.; use “Doctor” or “Professor” instead. See the examples of emails below.

Right:

Dear Dr. Smith,
My name is Jessica Greene and I am a student in your Music Appreciation class (MW 8am).
I have a few questions about the assigned reading, which I would like to discuss with you. I have a class during your office hours, so I was wondering whether I could meet with you at a different time?
Thank you,
Jessica.

Wrong (*emails such as this one will be ignored):

Hey Miss Smith
so i have been reading the text you assigned us and their’s some things i don’t get please
when can i meet with you also where is ur office.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

POLICIES REGARDING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, AND STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS CAN BE FOUND AT
[HTTP://WWW.SHSU.EDU/SYLLABUS/](http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/)

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY (ACADEMIC POLICY #3810213)

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach.

Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: Dean of Student's Office

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY (ACADEMIC POLICY #811006)

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY (ACADEMIC POLICY #3861001)

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe

in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: </dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>

ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES POLICY (ACADEMIC POLICY #3861001)

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/bb0d849d-6af2-4128-a9fa-f8c989138491.pdf>

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

USE OF PHONE & TEXT MESSAGING IN THE CLASSROOM (ACADEMIC POLICY #100728)

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus impedes the mission of the university.

Please turn off and put away your cell phone before class begins. If you don't put away your cell phone after the first warning, you will be asked to leave the classroom and marked as absent. Repeated violation of this policy will be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

DEFACING UNIVERSITY PROPERTY

Defacing University property is prohibited by University policy. It is also a criminal offense. Students will be held responsible for the cost of damages to the facilities. Violations will be reported to University Police.

Students should not paint on concrete, asphalt, trees, sides of buildings, interior walls or floors of buildings, locker doors, etc. When using any kind of paint use a drop cloth or tarp to protect the surface from overspray.

COURSE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Week One

Thursday, 01/18: Introduction

Week Two

Tuesday, 01/23: Paleolithic and Neolithic Art

Thursday, 01/25: Mesopotamia

Week Three

Tuesday, 01/30: Egyptian Art 1

Thursday, 02/01: Egyptian Art 2

Homework Assignment 1 (8 points). Readings: Jo Marchant, “Cosmic-ray particles reveal secret chamber in Egypt’s Great Pyramid,” *Nature*, 2 November 2017; Alexander Stille, “The World’s Oldest Papyrus and What It Can Tell Us About the Great Pyramids,” *Smithsonian Magazine*, October 2015.

Week Four

Tuesday, 02/06: Cycladic and Minoan Art

Thursday, 02/08: Mycenaean Art; Exam 1 Review

Homework Assignment 2 (6 points)

Week Five

Tuesday, 02/13: **Exam 1 (36 points)**

Thursday, 02/15: Archaic Greece

Week Six

Tuesday, 02/20: Ancient Greece: Early Classical Period

Thursday, 02/22: Ancient Greece: High Classical Period

Week Seven

Tuesday, 02/27: Ancient Greece: Late Classical Period

Homework Assignment 3 (8 points). Readings: Sarah E. Bond, “Why We Need to Start Seeing the Classical World in Color,” *Hyperallergic*, June 7, 2017; Colleen Flaherty, “Classicist finds herself the target of online threats after article on ancient statues,” *Inside Higher Ed*, June 19, 2017.

Thursday, 03/01: Hellenistic Art

Week Eight

Tuesday, 03/06: Etruscan Art

Thursday, 03/08: Roman Art 1

March 12 – March 16: Spring Break

Week Nine

Tuesday, March 20: Roman Art 2

Thursday, March 21: Roman Art 3. Class meeting cancelled, narrated Power Point available on Blackboard.

Week Ten

Tuesday, March 27: Late Antiquity; Exam 2 Review

Homework Assignment 4 (7 points).

Thursday, March 29: **Exam 2 (45 points)**

Week Eleven

Tuesday, April 3: Early Christian Art

Thursday, April 5: Byzantine Art

Week Twelve

Tuesday, April 10: Romanesque Art

Homework Assignment 5 (8 points). Reading: Sorabella, Jean. "Pilgrimage in Medieval Europe." In Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2000–.

Thursday, April 12: Romanesque Art 2

Week Thirteen

Tuesday, April 17: Gothic Architecture

Thursday, April 19: Gothic Art

Week Fourteen

Tuesday, April 24: Gothic Art 2

Thursday, April 26: Late Medieval and Early Renaissance Art

Week Fifteen

Tuesday, May 1: Late Medieval and Early Renaissance Art 2

Thursday, May 3: Final Exam Review

Homework Assignment 6 (7 points).

Final Exam (45 points):

Thursday, May 10, 9:30-10:30am