Art History: Renaissance to Modern
Sample Course Syllabus

Instructor Information

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Course Information

Course Title: Art History: Renaissance to Modern
Course Number: ARTH 182
Credit Hours: 3
Course Location: Carlsen Center 352
Course Time: MWF 10:00 – 10:50
Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical development of art and architecture of selected Western civilizations from the Early Italian Renaissance to the present.
2. Identify and describe the artistic, cultural and historical importance of selected works of art within their cultures.
3. Recognize and describe the aesthetic elements which mark selected periods and artists.
4. Discuss how cultural values are communicated through works of art.
5. Recognize and describe the function and stylistic elements of selected works of art.
6. Define and demonstrate use of the terminology, classifications and methods used in the study of art history.
7. Explain the interdisciplinary role of art within the humanities and its relationship to current cultural issues.
8. Discover the implications of the course material for understanding oneself by creating personal connections with selected artifacts which liberate and stimulate the imagination.

Course Description:

This course introduces the student to the history of Western art from the beginning of the Italian Renaissance to the present day. In addition to gaining a broad understanding of the artistic styles and major movements of the periods under study, the student will acquire a general knowledge of the geography, political implications, and socio-cultural aspects intertwined with them.

Art production will be studied in detail, to include differentiation between media (i.e. etching vs. engraving, oil painting vs. tempera, etc.). The lives of artists prominent in the history of Western art will also be highlighted. Further, the student will acquire a working vocabulary for the analysis of various works of art – understanding line, color, form, and symbolic content.

In-class activity will include slide-based lectures, discussion, group learning, and various active learning projects. A key component to this course will be visits to local art collections. Experiencing art first-hand provides the student opportunities to respond emotionally as well as critically to the work and to fine tune methods of conveying that response to others.
Course Requirements:

1. Exams

There will be three in-class exams and one Final examination. Exams will cover class lectures, textbook reading assignments, and pertinent learning material addressed throughout the semester. Exams will be made up of several sections addressing varying learning styles such as: slide identification, short answer, term definitions, multiple choice, and essay. Each exam is worth 100 points.

2. Quizzes

There will be three slide identification quizzes prior to each exam. Quizzes total 60 points.

3. Attendance

Attendance is crucial to your success in this course. Many more images are shown in class than are depicted in your textbook. Further, active-learning strategies will be routinely employed in order to facilitate a broader understanding of the material. There are no “make-ups” for these in-class activities. Attendance will be taken every class period and is worth a total of 50 points. Please note: active class participation will positively affect borderline grades. Grading of attendance will be based on the following scale:

- 1 or 2 absences = 50 points
- 3 = 40 points
- 4 = 30 points
- 5 = 20 points
- 6 = 10 points
- 7 or more = 0 points

After 7 absences, the instructor may withdraw the student from the class. The instructor will notify the student prior to the withdrawal via the student’s JCCC email account.

Please see the JCCC Attendance Policy online for further explanation:

http://www.jccc.edu/policies/procedures/attendance-314-01.html
4. Museum Visit / Writing Assignment

A visit to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, MO is a requirement of this course. Each student will write a two-page essay addressing in detail one of the works in the museum collection. Paper is worth 100 points. See the JCCC Art History webpage for directions to the Nelson-Atkins Museum, hours of operation, etc.

*Please do not e-mail papers to your instructor.*

**Tips for a Successful Paper**

1. After spending some time viewing the objects in the Nelson Atkins Collection, please select a work of art that sparks your interest. The date of the object must fall within the time period of the course (Renaissance – Modern), but may be any medium you chose (painting, sculpture, print, decorative object, etc.).

2. Spend some time with your selected work. What are your immediate reactions? Do your feelings about the work change after closer inspection?

3. What is the basic subject matter of the work? Is the artist successful at his / her attempt at conveying his / her subject?

4. Explain in detail the iconography depicted in the work.

5. Note the formal qualities of the work – line, color, form, sense of movement, etc.

6. Once you have selected the object, do some research. General bibliographic suggestions can be found in the back of your textbook. You also will want to do a key word search on the Billington Library catalog’s homepage.

7. DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA AS A SOURCE. Papers must contain 3 sources in addition to your textbook.

8. How does your work and selected artist fit into the history of art? Is the work representative of a particular period or style? Why or why not?

9. Your finished paper should be 500 – 750 words (2 – 3 pages), **type written**, double-spaced with 1 1/4” margins. You should include xeroxed illustrations (or cut and paste within your desktop).

10. You must document your sources with footnotes or endnotes and an alphabetized Bibliography. These must be in proper form according to either MLA or the Chicago Manual of Style.
11. Titles of works of art are always *italicized*.

12. Avoid contractions

13. Papers must be **stapled**!

14. **Document your attendance** to the Nelson-Atkins museum by providing your visitor’s clip or a brochure / map obtained at the museum.

15. For further help, you may want to consult Sylvan Barnet’s *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*.

16. The JCCC Writing Center (LIB 308) offers tutoring and is enormously helpful for the student unsure of his / her writing skills. Take advantage of it!

This project is worth one exam grade – 100 points. Good luck!

### Point Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Exercise</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Activities</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>660</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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### Extra Credit

1. Students may bring in an art-related current event cut out from a local newspaper or printed from a news source on the internet (CNN.com, etc). The student must have read the article and be prepared to explain its content to the class. The student will earn one point for every current event brought to class (not to exceed 10 points).

2. Students may attend up to two First Fridays events in the Kansas City Crossroads art district. A one-page written summary of your experience as well as business cards from three different galleries must be turned in to your instructor within one week of the event (held on the first Friday of every month). This assignment is worth 10 points each.
Policies

1. Due to the use of slides during exams, make-up exams are difficult to administer. Further, they are unfair to other class members and are highly discouraged. In the event of an excused absence (with written documentation), a student may make up one hour exam **during finals week only**.
   Late arrivals to exams will be considered absent.

2. There are no make-ups for quizzes or other in-class activities, projects, or assignments. Please do not e-mail the instructor asking for information on missed material. Instead, visit the instructor during office hours. **Papers and assignments must be turned in on the due date.** Absence from class on the due date is not an acceptable excuse for a late assignment.

3. If you would like to discuss your grade via e-mail, the instructor needs permission in writing.

4. The instructor will *always* respond to e-mails. If the student does not receive a response, then the e-mail was not successfully sent to the instructor.

5. Textbook reading assignments are required. Time does not allow for discussion of all material covered in the text, but students are responsible for the assigned page numbers. Readings and lectures should complement one another, and neither should serve as a substitute for the other.

6. **Silence all cell phones before entering class.**
7. Cell phone use is prohibited in the classroom and against the JCCC Student Code of Conduct (no pictures, texting, etc). If this occurs, the instructor will kindly ask you to leave the classroom, and you will be marked absent.

8. Writing Exercises must be received by instructor no later than 4:00 PM on the due date to receive full credit. Papers turned in after 4:00 PM will be dated the following day. Papers will be lowered one letter grade for every day past the due date.

9. Papers and assignments written for this class must not also be submitted to any other class. Submitting the same paper to two different instructors will result in a failing grade for the assignment.

10. You may drink in class, but please do not eat unless you plan on providing snacks for everyone (Your professor especially likes chocolate).

11. Cheating and plagiarism is not tolerated in this classroom and will result in serious consequences including: an F on the assignment/exam in question, an F in the course, disciplinary action from the College.

12. Sleeping: The art history classroom is dark and an easy environment to fall asleep in! Please come to class well rested, ready to learn, and to participate in class discussions. Out of respect for everyone involved, do not lay your head down on the desk! Sleeping students will be marked absent.
13. **Locking of the classroom door:** For your safety, the instructor will lock the classroom door no later than 5 minutes after the hour. If a student arrives late, and the classroom door is locked, the student may visit the instructor during office hours to discuss missed material (although no make-up work will be allowed) or the student may attempt to borrow notes from a colleague during the next class meeting. Please do not knock on the door, as it will not be unlocked once class has begun.

14. **SUPPORT SERVICES:** JCCC provides a range of services to allow persons with disabilities to participate in educational programs and activities. If you desire support services, contact Access Services, located in the Student Center 292, 913-469-8500 ext. 3521 or 913-469-8500 TDD. Contacting Access Services is the responsibility of the student desiring accommodations. If you foresee any other problems meeting the requirements of this course, please see the instructor. Most problems can be resolved with advance notice and sincere communication.

For further information, please see the **JCCC Student Code of Conduct:**

Sample Schedule of Topics

Please Note: The syllabus outlines weekly topics (rather than daily) to allow for a more fluid schedule. Further, it is with great intention that the syllabus encourages the student to actively determine the specific daily required reading assignments (page numbers are listed as weekly only). An important part of the learning process is reviewing your notes, actively engaging with the text, and determining the pertinent daily written material. It is the student’s responsibility to attend class and determine which sections of the text are omitted due to time constraints, etc.

Week 1:

Course requirements, overview and introduction
Ch. 18: 15th Century Art in Northern Europe
Stokstad pp. 561-591

Take-Home Syllabus Quiz Due (5 pts)
Library Assignment Given (5 pts)

Week 2:

Wrap up Ch. 18
Begin Ch. 19: Renaissance Art in 15th Century Italy
Stokstad pp. 593-609

Study Techniques: ARTstor Extra Credit Opportunity

Week 3:

Ch. 19 Continued
Stokstad pp. 609-629

Week 4:

Quiz #1; Finish Ch. 19
Exam #1

Week 5:

Begin Ch. 20: 16th-Century Art in Italy
Stokstad pp. 631-675
Week 6:
Ch. 21:  16th Century Art in Northern Europe
Stokstad pp. 677-709
Begin Ch. 22:  Baroque Art
Stokstad pp. 711-728

Week 7:
Ch. 22 Continued
Stokstad pp. 729-755

Week 8:
Quiz #2;  Ch. 22 Continued
Stokstad pp. 755-769
Exam #2

Skip Chapters 23 – 28 (Covered in Asian Art)

Week 9:
Ch. 29:  18th-Century Art in Europe & the Americas
Stokstad pp. 903-957

Week 10:
Writing Assignment Discussed in Detail
Focus:  Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
Begin Ch. 30:  19th-Century Art in Europe & the US
Stokstad pp. 961-976

Week 11:
Quiz #3;  Ch. 30 Continued
Stokstad pp. 976-1015

Week 12:
Exam #3
Begin Ch. 31:  Early Modern Art in Europe
Stokstad pp. 1017-1021
Week 13:
Ch. 31 Continued
Stokstad pp.1021-1081

Week 14:
Finish Ch. 31; Ch. 32: The International Scene Since 1945
Stokstad pp. 1083-1135

Week 15:
Ch. 32 Continued
**Papers Due**

Week 16:
Finish Ch. 32
Review

**Final Exam**
Personal Grade Record

Attendance  # of Absences:_____________  Total ____/50

1 or 2 absences = 50 points
3 = 40 points
4 = 30 points
5 = 20 points
6 = 10 points
7 or more = 0 points

Quizzes  #1___________ / 20
         #2___________ / 20
         #3___________ / 20

In-Class Activities  ____________ / 50

Exams  #1___________ / 100
       #2___________ / 100
       #3___________ / 100

Writing Exercise  ____________ / 100

Extra Credit  __________

Total  ____________ / 560

Please Note: The Final Exam is worth an additional 100 points.