COURSE OVERVIEW

Description: This course is designed to give art history majors, who have completed all the introductory courses, an understanding of the way that art historians conduct research and interpret art historical objects. The class will read and discuss seminal art historical texts. Each student will also conduct research in order to produce a scholarly paper and presentation.

Learning outcomes: By the end of this course, the engaged student should

• have an understanding of the ways that art historians conduct research and how they interpret art works;
• have an understanding of the history of the field;
• be familiar with the research tools of the field of art history and how to use them to conduct scholarly research;
• and be able to produce a well argued research paper and formal presentation.

Format: Although each class meeting will vary depending upon the material to be covered that day, typically classes will combine lecture, discussion, and student presentations.

Readings: Required Textbook: Sylvan Barnet, A Short Guide to Writing about Art, 10th edition (available at the University bookstore, through Amazon.com, and on reserve in the library).

Additional readings will be available as handouts, PDF files on the class Web site, or on JSTOR. You will be expected to keep up with all the assigned readings, as they will be vital to class discussion.

Class Web site: Readings and handouts will be available on the course Web site:
http://frank.mtsu.edu/~cochrane/Courses.html

Term project: Each student will research and write a 10- to 15-page paper that will be due on the day of the final. Altogether, the work for this project will constitute 60% of your grade. You will be assessed by how well you apply what you have learned in class about art historical methodologies and research processes. You will also be graded on the quality of your writing and your argument.
**Class discussion and presentations:**
Twenty-five percent of your grade will come from your work in class. Everyone will be expected to participate in discussions about the assigned readings and every class member will also have to give presentations on the readings and help in leading the class discussion. The process of working through the readings will be vital to how well you master the materials; therefore, I expect everyone to come to each class and be prepared to have an in-depth discussion.

**Quizzes:**
There will be two quizzes that will cover the terms and concepts dealt with in the readings and in the class. Together the quizzes are worth 15% of your grade.

**Assessment:**
A standard ten-point grading scale will be used in this class.

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<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>80-89</td>
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<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<td>59 and below</td>
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A student will earn a C for completing all the assignments on time and sufficiently to fulfill the requirements of the course. To earn a B, one needs to go beyond the minimum requirements and turn in very good, solid work. To earn an A, one must submit excellent work.

**Grading breakdown:**

- **Term project 60%**
  - Biography 5%
  - Abstract 5%
  - Visual analysis 5%
  - Visual analysis rewrite 5%
  - Library scavenger hunt 5%
  - Project presentation/outline 15%
  - Final project 20%

- **Class work 40%**
  - Quizzes 15%
  - Discussion/attendance 15%
  - Article presentations 10%

**Lottery scholarships:**
To retain Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. You may qualify with a 2.75 cumulative GPA after 72 attempted hours (and subsequent semesters), if you are enrolled full-time and maintain a semester GPA of at least 3.0. A grade of C, D, F, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility. Dropping a class after 14 days may also impact eligibility; if you withdraw from this class and it results in an enrollment status of less than full time, you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship. Lottery recipients are eligible to receive the scholarship for a maximum of five years from the date of initial enrollment, or until a bachelor degree is earned. For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your Lottery Statement of Understanding form, review lottery requirements on the web at [http://scholarships.web.mtsu.edu/telsconteligibility.htm](http://scholarships.web.mtsu.edu/telsconteligibility.htm), or contact the Financial Aid Office at 898-2830.
ADA statement:
If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodation, or if you have any questions related to any accommodation for testing, note taking, reading, etc., please speak with me as soon as possible and contact the Office of Disabled Student Services (898-2783) with any questions about such services.

EXPECTATIONS

Attendance:
You are expected to attend every class. If you do miss a class, you will still be responsible for the information covered that day and will need to get notes from a fellow classmate.

Tardiness, although sometimes unavoidable, should not become a habit. I structure the lectures and discussions so that the point of the lecture is presented at the beginning of class. Even if you miss only the first ten minutes, you may not fully understand the class.

Behavior:
While you are in class, please be considerate of your fellow classmates and of me. If you do have to come late or leave early, please do so as quietly and unobtrusively as possible. Turn off cell phones before the class begins and do not text during class. I will ask you to leave the class if your behavior is distracting to your classmates or to me. I also do not allow the use of laptop computers during class.

Participation:
Fifteen percent of your grade will come from participation, so you should take this very seriously. Absenteeism and tardiness will count against your participation grade, as will inattentiveness or behavior that distracts your classmates or me. The way that I assess participation is as follows: you will earn an A in participation if you attend class regularly, come to class on time, are attentive and engaged in the class discussion, and offer regular, constructive comments. If you fulfill all of those criteria, but only actively participate in the discussion occasionally, you will earn a grade of B. You will earn a C if you come to class regularly and seem to be engaged, but do not participate in the discussion. You will earn a D or F if you miss numerous classes, are habitually late, and are not engaged in the discussion. If you text during class, do work for another class, sleep, or are otherwise clearly not paying attention, you will receive a 0 for participation that day, just as if you had been absent.

Assignments:
You are expected to hand in your work on time. A hardcopy of your assignment must be handed in at the beginning of class on the due date. Papers sent via email will NOT be accepted. Papers handed in anytime after the beginning of class on the day it is due will be considered late and will be penalized by a half of a letter grade. One half of a letter grade will be taken off for every additional twenty-four hour period that passes until the paper is turned in.

Quizzes and Presentations:
I expect you to be present for the quizzes and presentations at the times that they are scheduled. I will not offer makeup quizzes unless you have a very good and verifiable reason for having to miss (this would be along the lines of serious illness or a family emergency and you would need to provide documentation of such a situation). The same will be true of presentations. If you are
absent on a day that you were assigned to present, you will not be able to make it up and you will receive a 0 for that presentation.

Communication:
I shall communicate with the class via email, using MTSU email addresses only. I expect everyone in the class to check their email regularly. The easiest way to contact me is through my MTSU email.

Academic honesty:
I do not tolerate any form of plagiarism or cheating on papers or exams. Assignments or exams on which a student has cheated or plagiarized will receive a zero and will be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs. Please read and understand the University policy on academic integrity and misconduct (http://www.mtsu.edu/judaff/integrity.shtml). I will give a “plagiarism quiz” on the second day of class. I will not accept any assignments until the quiz has been taken and passed.

For my part …
I am available to students who would like to discuss any matter related to the class. I have office hours, which are posted, but I am also happy to meet at other times. Please come to see me to discuss how to go about an assignment, or if you have any other questions. I shall also do my best to get exams and papers back to you in a reasonable amount of time and I am happy to explain grades and elaborate on comments, if you come to see me. I cannot discuss grades or how I assessed your work over email.
CLASS SCHEDULE
(The following schedule and readings may be modified in order to respond to the needs of the
class. Deadlines for assignments will remain the same.)

Week 1

8/28 (Tu) – Introduction

8/30 (Th) – The Beginnings of the History of Art
Handout: Adams: “What is Art,” pp. 3-19

Week 2

9/4 (Tu) – Vasari and Biography
Handout: Giorgio Vasari, The Lives of the Artists

9/6 (Th) – Winckelmann and the Classical Tradition
Handout: Winckelmann, Reflections on the Painting and Sculpture of the Greeks

Week 3

9/11 (Tu) – Connoisseurship
Handout: Minor: “Connoisseurship, Style, Formalism,” pp. 125-133
JSTOR: Carlo Ginzburg, Morelli, “Freud and Sherlock Holmes: Clues and Scientific Method”
http://www.jstor.org/stable/4288283

9/13 (Th) – Panofsky and Iconography
Handout: Adams: “Iconography,” pp. 43-64
Handout: Erwin Panofsky, “Studies in Iconology”

Week 4

9/18 (Tu) – Schapiro and Style
Handout: Adams: “Formalism and Style,” pp. 21-41
Handout: Meyer Shapiro, “Style”
Handout: James Ackerman, “Style”

9/20 (Th) – Greenberg and Formalism
Handout: Minor: “Connoisseurship, Style, Formalism, cont’d.” pp. 133-139
Handout: Cement Greenberg, “Modernist Painting”
Week 5

9/25 (Tu) – Leo Steinberg and Other Criteria | BIOGRAPHY DUE
Textbook: Barnet: chs. 1-2
Handout: Leo Steinberg, “Other Criteria”

9/27 (Th) – The Art of Periodization
Textbook: Barnet: chs. 3-4
RESERVE: review organization of Gardner’s Art through the Ages

Week 6

10/2 (Tu) – Art Historical Sources and How to Use Them | ABSTRACT DUE
Textbook: Barnet: chs. 8-9

10/4 (Th) – The Art of Argumentation
Textbook: Barnet: chs. 10-11

Week 7

10/9 (Tu) – QUIZ I | SCAVENGER HUNT DUE
Textbook: Barnet: chs. 12-13

10/11 (Th) – Marxism and Social History | VISUAL ANALYSIS DUE
Handout: Minor: “Sociological and Marxist Perspectives,” pp. 140-149
Handout: Michael Baxendall, Painting and Experience

Week 8

10/16 (Tu) FALL BREAK

10/18 (Th) – Feminism I
Handout: Minor: “Feminism,” pp. 157-165
Handout: Linda Nochlin, “Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?”

Week 9

10/23 (Tu) – Feminism 2
Handout: Lynes, “Georgia O’Keefe and Feminism”
Handout: Lipton: “Manet: A Radicalized Female Imagery”
Handout: Lipton: Alias Olympia

10/25 (Th) – Freud and Psychoanalysis
Handout: Minor: “Psychoanalysis and Art History,” pp. 194-203
Handout: Freud, “Leonardo da Vinci and a Memory of his Childhood”
Handout: Geist, “Brancusi’s Bird in Space: A Psychological Reading”
Week 10

10/30 (Tu) – Semiotics
Handout: Seidel, Jan van Eyck’s Arnolfini Portrait

11/1 (Th) – Post-Colonial Theory | VISUAL ANALYSIS REWRITE DUE
Handout: Minor: “Culture and Art History,” pp. 204-215
Handout: Said, Orientalism
Handout: Nochlin, “The Imaginary Orient”

Week 11

11/6 (Tu) – The End of Art (History)?
Handout: Danto, The End of Art

11/8 (Th) – QUIZ 2

Week 12

11/13 (Tu) – Individual Meetings | OUTLINES DUE
11/15 (Th) – Individual Meetings | OUTLINES DUE

Week 13

11/20 (Tu) – STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
11/22 (Th) – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 14

11/27 (Tu) – STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
11/29 (Th) – STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Week 15

12/4 (Tu) – STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

12/11 (Tu) Final papers due to my office by 5.30 PM