SURVEY OF WESTERN ART I
Prehistoric to Gothic Art
ART 1920-003 | Fall 2014
M/W 2:20-3:45
339 Todd Hall

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Office Hours: Mon./Wed. 3:45-4:30;
Tues./Thurs: 2:30-4:45; and by appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW

Description:
This course will examine art made in Europe from prehistoric times to the late medieval period, focusing on architecture, sculpture, and painting. Although the development of art historical styles will be an important consideration, we shall especially focus on how artistic works reflect their historical and social contexts.

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

- have an understanding of basic art historical concepts and methodologies;
- have a sense of historical, philosophical, political, and social contexts of art history;
- be able to recognize and verbalize the stylistic features of the art historical periods covered;
- be able to analyze works of art in an informed and logical manner;
- and show a sense of professionalism and an understanding of the expectations of college level work.

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

Readings:
You are expected to keep up with all the assigned readings, as they will be vital to class discussion.

Required Textbook: Gardner's Art Through the Ages, 13th or 14th edition. Backpack volumes, books A and B, are available at the University Bookstore and used through Amazon.com. A copy of the 13th edition will be on reserve in the library. (Note that some of the chapter numbers in the volume on reserve in the library are different than those listed in your syllabus—use chapter titles to make sure you are reading the correct information.)

Additional readings: You will also be responsible for additional readings, which will be available as PDF files on the class Web site, http://capone.mtsu.edu/cochrane/Courses.html
Quizzes:
There will be quizzes on days on which primary source readings are assigned. Their purpose is to ensure that you do the readings carefully and will ask straightforward questions about the content of the material and how it pertains to the class. Because reading quizzes are related to class discussion, these quizzes cannot be made up, even in the case of an excused absence.

There will be a daily quiz at the end of each lecture on the material covered that day. There will be no way to make up these quizzes, even if your absence is excused. I build in enough extra points to compensate for the occasional absence or bad day.

Participation
Participation is 10% of your overall grade and you should take it very seriously. Your participation grade will be assessed on the basis of your behavior, attendance, promptness, and comments during class discussion. Attendance will also be counted as part of your participation grade (see attached sheet). Students who have 5 unexcused absences will receive a 0 in participation. Students with 6 or more unexcused absences will receive an F for their final grade in the class.

Exams:
There will be two exams for this class: a midterm and a final. The exams will include slide identification, terms to define, short answers, and essay questions. See the class schedule for exact due dates.

Assignments:
There is a writing/drawing assignment (the object sheet), which is due before the midterm and a comparison assignment, which will be due during the second half of the semester. See the class schedule for exact due dates.

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

90-100 = A
80-89 = B
70-79 = C
60-69 = D
59 and below = F

A student will earn a C for completing all assignments on time and in a satisfactory manner, sufficient to fulfill the requirements of the course. To earn a B, one must go beyond the minimum requirements of the course and turn in very good work. To earn an A, one must submit excellent work. Per University policy, I cannot give a grade of incomplete except in exceptional cases of illness or family emergency. Such situation will need documentation. If there is a chance you will not be able to complete the course by the end of the semester, come and speak to me as soon as possible.

Grading breakdown:
Reading quizzes 15%
Object sheets 15%
Midterm 15%
Participation 10%
Comparisons 15%
Final 20%
Daily quizzes 10%
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. Do not ask me to provide lecture notes. There will be no makeups for daily quizzes, even in the case of excused absences.

Attendance will also be counted as part of your participation grade (see attached sheet). Students who have 5 unexcused absences will receive a 0 in participation. Students with 6 or more unexcused absences will receive an F for their final grade in the class.

Tardiness should also be avoided. Class lectures and discussions are structured so that the point of the lecture is presented at the beginning of the class. Even if you miss only the first ten minutes, you may not fully understand that day’s material. Reading quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. If you are late (even by only a few minutes), you may miss the quiz and you will not have an opportunity to make it up.

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 as unobtrusively as possible. Also, turn off cell phones before the class begins and do not text during class. I do not allow the use of laptop computers or tablets for note taking, or for any other purpose. I will ask you to leave the class if your behavior is distracting to your classmates or to me.

Late work:
You are expected to hand in your work on time. To receive full credit, 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 (5%). 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 (this includes non-class meeting days and weekends). If you find that you must turn in your work late, please discuss the situation with me and let me know when I can expect the work to be turned in.

Exams and quizzes:
I expect you to be present for quizzes and exams at the times that they are scheduled. I will not offer makeup exams except in the cases of exceptional circumstances (this would be along the lines of serious illness or a family emergency and you would need to provide documentation of such a situation). Reading quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. If you are late (even by only a few minutes), you may miss the quiz and you will not have an opportunity to make it up.

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 failing grade and will be reported to the Office of the University Provost. Please read and understand the University policy on academic integrity and misconduct (http://www.mtsu.edu/provost/acadmisconduct.php). I will give a “plagiarism quiz” on the first 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, if you make an appointment. Please come to see me to discuss how to go about an assignment, how to study for exams, or if you have any other questions.

I shall 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 too see me. I will not discuss grades or how I assessed your work over email.

And now a few words from our sponsors …

Regarding Lottery scholarships:
Do you have a lottery scholarship? 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, FA, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility. Dropping or stopping attendance in a class may also impact eligibility; if you withdraw from or stop attending 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 reaching 120 TELS attempted hours or earning a bachelor degree. For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your Lottery Statement of Understanding form (http://www.mtsu.edu/financial-aid/forms/LOTFOD.pdf) or contact your MT One Stop Enrollment Counselor (http://www.mtsu.edu/one-stop/counselor.php).

From the Disability & Access Center:
Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Middle Tennessee State University is committed to campus access in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any student interested in reasonable accommodations can consult the Disability & Access Center (DAC) website www.mtsu.edu/dac and/or contact the DAC for assistance at 615-898-2783 or dacemail@mtsu.edu.
CLASS SCHEDULE

**Week 1:** Read Gardner’s: Introduction (What is Art History?)

8/25 (M) – Course overview

8/27 (W) – Introduction: Art and History

**Week 2:** Read Gardner’s: chap. 1 (Art before History)

9/1 (M) – LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

9/3 (W) – Prehistoric Art: Art before Texts

**Week 3:** Read Gardner’s: chap. 2 (Mesopotamia and Persia) and chap. 3 (Egypt under the Pharaohs)

9/8 (M) – Mesopotamian and Persian Art

9/10 (W) – Art Exhibition | QUIZ

**Week 4:** Read Gardner’s: chap. 3 (Egypt under the Pharaohs)

9/15 (M) – Egyptian Art: Old Kingdom Tradition

9/17 (W) – Egyptian Art: New Kingdom Innovation

**Week 5:** Read Gardner’s: chap. 4 (The Prehistoric Aegean) and chap. 5 (Ancient Greece—up to the section on the Early and High Classical period)

9/22 (M) – Minoan and Mycenaean Art

9/24 (W) – Greek Art: Geometric and Archaic | READING QUIZ

READ: Primary source: Homer: *Iliad*

**Week 6:** Read Gardner’s: chap. 5 (Ancient Greece—up to the section on the Late Classical period)

9/29 (M) – MINI-MIDTERM QUIZ

10/1 (W) – Classical Greek Sculpture | READING QUIZ

READ: Primary source: Plato: “Allegory of the Cave”
**Week 7:** Read Gardner’s: chap. 5 (Ancient Greece— to the end of the chapter)

10/6 (M) – Classical Greek Architecture | READING QUIZ
READ: Primary source: *New York Times* article on Elgin Marbles

10/8 (W) – Late Classical Greek Sculpture

**Week 8:** Read Gardner’s: chap. 6 (The Etruscans) and chap. 7 (The Roman Empire—up to the section on the High Empire)

10/13 (M) – FALL BREAK

10/15 (W) – Hellenistic Art and Republican Roman Portraiture | OBJECT SHEETS DUE

**Week 9:** Read Gardner’s: chap. 7 (The Roman Empire—to end of chapter)

10/20 (M) – Imperial Roman Art

10/22 (W) – Late Antique Art

**Week 10:** Read Gardner’s: chap. 8 (Late Antiquity)

10/27 (M) – MIDTERM

10/29 (W) – Early Christianity and the “Problem with Images”

**Week 11:** Read Gardner’s: chap. 9 (Byzantium)

11/3 (M) – Christian Art as Imperial Art

11/5 (W) – The Cult of Images and the Iconoclastic Controversy

**Week 12:** Read Gardner’s: chap. 11 (Early Medieval Europe)

11/10 (M) – Early Medieval Art in Anglo-Saxon England | READING QUIZ
READ: Primary source: *Beowulf*

11/12 (W) – Early Medieval Manuscripts

**Week 13:** Read Gardner’s: chap. 12 (Romanesque Europe)

11/17 (M) – Romanesque Architecture and Sculpture | READING QUIZ
READ: Primary source: Bernard of Clairvaux
11/19 (W) – The Art of Pilgrimage

**Week 14:** Read Gardner’s: chap. 13 (Gothic Europe—through section on French Gothic)

11/24 (M) – Early Gothic Architecture and Sculpture | READING QUIZ
READ: Primary source: Suger, *De administratione*

11/26 (W) – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

**Week 15:** Read Gardner’s: chap. 13 (Gothic Europe—to end of chapter)

12/1 (M) – Building a Gothic Cathedral | COMPARISONS DUE

12/3 (W) – Late Gothic Art

**FINAL:** Wednesday, December 10, 12:30-2:30 PM
You can verify your exam times at [http://www.mtsu.edu/registration/fall-exams.php](http://www.mtsu.edu/registration/fall-exams.php)