

ART 2
HISTORY OF WESTERN ART: PREHISTORIC TO GOTHIC
SYLLABUS and COURSE POLICY

Sect: 5060: TTh 9:30-10:55 a.m.

5064: MW 5 – 6:25 p.m.

Instructor: Lucy Alamillo
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Office: Art 3 (basement level)
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Office hours: MW 4 – 5:00 p.m. / TTh 12:45 – 1:15 or by appt.

Required Textbooks: Gardners's Art Through the Ages, 12th edition, (volume 1) by F. Kleiner.

Recommended: Writing about Art by Henry Sayre

* both books are available at the Reserve Desk in Schauerman Library

Course Description: A chronological survey of visual art beginning with prehistoric artifacts and ending in the 15th century, a.k.a. the “Gothic” or Medieval era. Students will examine painting, sculpture, architecture and other artifacts and their relationship to changing social, political, philosophical and religious conditions. Our approach will be to study artworks as documents of specific historical moments. Emphasis is placed on the relationship between the visual style of a work of art and the meaning that particular style conveys. We will learn the legacy of those forms, especially the Classical and Biblical traditions and how they impact the history of art. Consequently, we will see patterns of revival and transformations of art styles over time.

Students enrolled in this course assume a responsibility for viewing, learning about and understanding a considerable range of artifacts and monuments. In return, they will acquire the skills to think critically about the visual manifestations of our western European heritage.

Reading and writing form an integral part of the course. The lectures will be supported by the reading assignments drawn from the textbook as well as occasional supplemental materials to be distributed over the semester.

Course Requirements: All work must be completed to receive a passing grade.

- One paper based on a visit to a local museum
- Four essay assignments
- Three exams
- Regular attendance and participation in the classroom. Attendance at all lectures is crucial. You are responsible for learning about the images shown in class and concepts associated with those images. Most images and information can be found in the textbook, however, much material shown will not be found in the textbook and can only be learned through lecture and discussion.

Course Resources

Tutoring: visit the Learning Resource Center, 2nd Floor of the Library to see schedule & availability.

• **Tips:** Come prepared to class by reading the textbooks and answering the study guide questions.

Spend time looking at the pictures. Make flashcards of the important artworks with vocabulary terms, Who's Who names, and other factual information that apply to the artwork.

• **Course Website:** <http://www.elcamino.edu/faculty/lalamillo/>

Access and download course syllabus, schedule, assignments, and study guides. View links and other resources.

Paper and Homework Assignments:

Please follow these general guidelines for all assignments(unless otherwise specified):

All assignments must be typed and bound (staple or paper clip only) or they will not be accepted.

Note: If you turn it in anyway it will not be graded or considered for credit.

Use 1” margins (1.5 left o.k.); 10 or 12 point type, double spaced lines; inset paragraph start 1/2 inch; print your name & section at top left/right corner; provide a title and use an underline or bold typeface to set apart from the main body of text.

Papers and homework must be turned in on or before due date specified on the assignment. Your assignment will 5 points per each day late. Assignments will be collected at the end of the class period. If you miss the class but show up only to turn in your assignment, it will still be considered late and you lose 5 points on your paper and 5 attendance points as well. If you must be absent the day the work is due, you may drop it off early at my office or to **my mailbox in the Fine Arts Office (MU101)**. Assignments will be accepted by email in the event of an unavoidable absence only if it is mailed prior to or on the same day as the missed class. A hard copy must still be turned in at the next class session.

Exams: Three exams, not cumulative. Each exam will be comprised of objective questions (multiple choice, true/false, etc.), slide identifications and image analysis, short answer and essay questions. Exams will be based on readings, images and material covered in lectures, discussions and any supplementary materials given in class. You will need to identify and discuss works of art and architecture by title, culture, style, and artist (if applicable), as well as to draw on knowledge of the concepts introduced in discussion and assigned readings. There are no make-up exams. In the event of a missed exam, the missed exam score will be averaged based on the other two exams.

Each exam will require a Scantron form no. 886-E (mini essay book)

Exam preparation: In preparation for each exam, we will have a review session on the day before the exam. A study guide (a list of works of art, vocabulary, and pertinent concepts) will be distributed one week prior to each review session to allow you sufficient time to prepare questions.

Grading: All grading is on an absolute scale, not on a curve.

<u>Exams:</u> 3 exams @ 100 pts. Each	300	
<u>Quizzes</u>	30	
<u>Homework:</u> 3 assignments (10/20/40)	70	
<u>Museum Paper</u>	100	Total: 500

• Grading		
40 pt. Assn.	100 pt. Exam	semester total
A = 36-40	90-100	450-500
B = 32-35	80-89	400-449
C = 28-31	70-79	350-399
D = 24-27	60-69	300-349
F = 0-23	0-59	0-299

- **Attendance:**

Attendance is absolutely required and will be taken each class period. There are no excused absences unless arranged in advance for “emergency” purposes only and at my discretion. However, if you do miss a class I recommend that you contact me to inquire about the day’s information.

The school catalog states “regular attendance is expected of every student” (catalog 10).

Additionally, the catalog points out that students can be “dropped from the class when absences from the class exceed the number of units assigned to the course” (catalog 10). **I do not drop students.** My policy is to take **5 points for each unexcused absence**. If you are not present when I call roll you will be marked absent. If you arrive late it is solely your responsibility to notify me of your tardy arrival after the class. Do not take for granted that I saw you and will mark you present. Three tardies are equivalent to one absence. If you arrive more than 15 minutes late, you will be still be marked absent.* However, it is better to arrive late than to not attend at all. Again, I will not drop you from the course for excessive absences (see withdrawal policy below), instead your grade will suffer. ***You get one “free: be absent from class” pass. Use it wisely.***

- * **Other equivalences for absence:**

- if you leave excessively early without notifying me in advance.
- If you sleep through the class.
- If your body is present but your actions are not (i.e., reading other material, games, conversation, etc)

**Don’t be surprised if I ask you to leave the classroom in these instances. If I don’t you may still be marked absent.

- **Withdrawal from Class** (ECC policy; see schedule, p. 3): It is the **student’s responsibility** to process an official withdrawal from class with the Admission’s Office or the Cashier’s Office. Failure to do this will result in a letter grade of F recorded on the student’s permanent record.

Academic Integrity: Students who violate standards of academic integrity are subject to disciplinary sanctions, including failure in the course and suspension from the college. Plagiarism is taking someone else’s ideas and claiming them as your own. If you use someone else’s ideas, you must give them credit. If you do not give the author credit for her/his ideas, this is equivalent to stealing.

- **American with Disabilities Act**

Please inform the instructor if you need course adaptations or accommodation in the classroom because of a disability. Also, share with your instructor if you have emergency medical information or if you need special arrangements in the case of an emergency evacuation.

Final Statement and CYA Policy

I reserve the right to make changes to this policy statement and the course syllabus throughout the semester. I may need to make changes to the schedule in order accommodate unforeseen delays and/or happy accidents – such as extended discussion which may accelerate or decelerate time spent on a topic, or the addition of new topics per your interests. Assignments could be dropped or new ones may be added. This could change the total number of points from those listed above, however grading percentages remain the same. Be sure to save all of your work and keep track of your scores, they are your responsibility and you’ll want them for reference. Also, be sure to keep a computer disk with backup copies of your homework assignments, or at least an extra print out.

TIPS FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- Read your syllabus carefully and familiarize yourself with the instructor's policies
- If there is an assigned reading schedule, read before class to get maximum benefit from lectures.
- Come to class prepared and ready to participate in discussions on weekly topics.
- Look closely at the works of art and think about them for yourself, before and during reading.
- Keep an open mind, respect every work of art and enjoy as many works of art as you can.

Taking Lecture Notes

- If possible, before lecture, familiarize yourself with the images of artworks (as well as titles, artists, general culture), so that you can focus on content and interpretation during class.
- Make doodles! While observing the artwork in class, make a quick sketch (line drawing/stick figures/) of major figures and basic compositional elements.
- Jot down descriptive words used by your instructor for each artwork
- Make note of stories/anecdotes you find interesting – they'll help you remember the images!

Studying Art History

About each artwork, ask yourself:

- What is important about the object shown?
- How does it relate to the society that produced it? What function did it serve? In other words, what is the *context* of the artwork?
- In what ways is it (artwork) like/unlike other works of art in that society? In other words, is it typical of that culture's art, or is it unusual or against the norms of that society?
- What are its distinguishing characteristics?
- Is there an apparent influence from earlier art forms? Or is it a "new" style?
- Does it show influence from another society?
- Does it relate to the religious beliefs of that society? If so, how?
- Does it have a function other than being "art"? Is that function obvious or is it disguised?

Taking an Exam

- Come to class prepared with necessary materials. (# 2 pencil, eraser, pen, scantron)
- On Essay questions, write out your answer in complete sentences; outlines are not sufficient.
- Leave nothing blank! Unanswered questions are graded as zero. You might receive credit for an honest effort, even if it is not completely correct. Try to reason through an answer and at the very least make observations on form if the question is based on images. On multiple choice questions, try to apply some sort of logic to come up with an answer, at the very least take a guess!
- Lastly, FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCT! When you are not 100% sure of an answer, the first guess is usually the right one. Don't convince yourself to change the answer unless you are sure that you should make that change.