

**ART 2 • HISTORY OF WESTERN ART: PREHISTORIC TO GOTHIC****Assignments & Exams Log**

<u>Title:</u>	<u>Due Date:</u>	<u>Points:</u>	<u>my score:</u>
1. What's My Interest	2/15 or 2/16	10	_____
2. Comparative Formal Analysis	Mar. 6/7	40	_____
3. Mythology & Me	Mar. 29/30	20	_____
4. Museum Report	May 22/23	100	_____
• Quiz 1	Mar. 9/10	10	_____
• Quiz 2	May 1/2	10	_____
• Quiz 3	June 5/6	10	_____
• Exam 1	Mar. 15/16	100	_____
• Exam 2	May 3/4	100	_____
• Exam 3	June 7/8	100	_____
<b>Total (500)</b>			_____

*All of these assignments are available online at:*

[www.elcamino.edu/faculty/alamillo/](http://www.elcamino.edu/faculty/alamillo/)

*\* Also, articles for assistance writing essays and taking exams are available by clicking on the "library e-reserves" link*

1. Click on View Course Materials On Electronic Reserve

2. Select: **Lucy Alamillo**, under instructor or select by course name

3. click on course title

4. Enter password: \_\_\_\_\_ then click on the "accept" tab

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**ART 2 • HISTORY OF WESTERN ART: PREHISTORIC TO GOTHIC****Assignment #1 • What's My Interest?**

Browse your textbook and see what “catches your eye.” Select one image that intrigues you (may be any type of art) and write about it following these guidelines:

1. Write “identification” information: title, artist (if applicable), type of art, date.  
*All information is provided underneath photograph, include page number.*
2. Briefly describe the object then summarize (in your own words) your understanding of the textbook’s explanation of the meaning of the object. In other words, tell me for what it was used or its purpose for existing.
3. Then explain your interest in that object.
4. Lastly, write at least two questions about the artwork (not addressed by the textbook). Consider this, while you were reading about that object, was there anything else you were wondering about it? What more might you want to know about it? Look and think critically about the object.

Important: Please note that this will be the only assignment I will accept handwritten. However, if you are able to type this assignment please follow the standard guidelines below.

**Standard Guidelines for all assignments:**

- typed, double-spaced
- 10 or 12 point type
- 1 inch margins
- stapled
- name and section at upper left or right corner

**Due: Next class session**

## Art 2 • History Of Western Art: Prehistoric To Gothic

### ASSIGNMENT # 2 • COMPARATIVE FORMAL ANALYSIS

Write a **3-4 page interpretive essay** by comparing and contrasting two works of art from two distinct cultures. Include description of specific elements of form in order to support your points.

Choose ONE of the following pairs of works of art:

1. [1-19] Stonehenge, Salisbury Plain, England, Neolithic period, c. 2550-1600 B.C.E.  
[3-8] Great Pyramids, Gizeh plateau, Egypt, Old Kingdom period, c. 2490-2528 B.C.E.

—OR—

2. [1-13] Rhinoceros, wounded man & Disemboweled Bison, Paleolithic France, c. 15,000 B.C.E.  
[2-13] Victory Stele of Naram-Sin, Iran, Akkadian culture, c. 2254-2218 B.C.E.

Analyze the works of art and compare them in order arrive at significant points of contrast and/or similarity. You are not expected to produce “correct” interpretations of the works because there may be multiple and contradictory meanings. However, this assignment requires close observation and visual analysis of the objects as basis for speculation on interpretation. What can we infer about the culture based on the appearance of the object?

To analyze each of the two works carefully, consider the subject matters as well as the various elements of composition and form, including medium, scale, etc. Do the works have a similar theme? What is the potential reason (purpose) for representing that theme? Also consider such elements as location and known/considered function in order to try to get at the intended meaning of the work. Consider any feelings or attitudes the composition may evoke and which design choices account for those feelings. Who may have been the intended audience? What was their relationship to the work supposed to be?

Because there are many differences in the representational styles of the Paleolithic era and Mesopotamia it is important to consider how the cultures differ from one another. Your essay should include significant aspects of each culture to support your interpretation.

Remember, your essay should begin with identification of the works to be discussed and the introductory paragraph should make a thesis statement. That is, you should specify, at least suggest, the outcome or reason for your essay. Of what are you trying to convince your reader? What is the theme of your paper?

Format: \* *please do not put your paper in a folder, binder or plastic sleeve*

– typed, double-spaced

– 10 or 12 point type

– 1 inch margins

– stapled, upper left corner

– name in upper left or right corner

– Give your paper a title

– Cover page optional. If you make a separate front cover page, make sure your name and section are clearly visible.

\* Always indicate title of an artwork by setting it apart with an underline and capitalize all principal words (nouns, verbs, adverbs); do not capitalize supporting words (articles, prepositions, conjunctions).

For example: The Cat in the Hat or The Fellowship of the Ring.

• Illustrations may be included. If so, they should be titled and numbered (in the order as they appear in your essay) at end of paper if they are not embedded within the text.

**DUE DATE: MARCH 6 (M) OR 7 (T)**

**Assignment # 3 • Mythology & Me**

Read the handout (to be distributed) on the Greek Pantheon. Each god has characteristics and attributes that make them a unique character. On the other hand, each one of them can be described as a “personality type.” After reading all of the descriptions, consider the characteristics of these gods. With whom can you identify? Maybe you are also able to identify types around you – friends, family, classmates who could fit the same generalized description.

Remember, these are generalized types — categories of behavior—of course no one will be a “perfect match” because these characters seem so extreme. (*but are they really?* 😊)

Choose a god whose description best approximates how you might categorize yourself OR as others might categorize you. Would you consider yourself rational like Apollo, temperamental like Artemis, or a trickster like Hermes? Or, is there someone you would want to be more like in the future?

Also, consider the following:

What is the “point” of mythology? What is the point of this exercise?

Elaborate on your choice. Fully explain your reasons and always support your points with examples.

• **2 pages, double-spaced type.**

- 10 or 12 point type
- 1 inch margins
- stapled, upper left corner; name upper left / right corner
- Cover page optional, standard format (name upper left or right corner)
- Give your paper a title

**DUE DATE: MARCH 29/30**

**MUSEUM PAPER****Suggested Locations\*:****L.A. Country Museum of Art (LACMA) • lacma.org**

5905 Wilshire Blvd. (between Fairfax &amp; La Brea) (323) 857-6000

M, T, Th 12-8, F 12-9, SS 11-8 \$5 w/ student i.d. (closed Wed.)

— OR —

**The Getty • 1200 Getty Center Dr. (off of Sepulveda/405 N) (310) 440-7300**TW 11-7/ThF 11-9/SS 10-6 \$5 parking • **getty.org****\*You may choose ANY culture you like, BUT you MUST choose art made before the 15<sup>th</sup> century (1400)**

– in other words, the assignment must be on an artwork that was made in time period covered in this course.

The assignment is to write a report that focuses on the style of artwork as the carrier of meaning for the object, as we do in class. Also, you will need discern and identify the stylistic characteristics of the period-culture to which it belongs. In the paper you will provide “proof” for identifying to which culture it belongs and **interpret the object’s appearance in relation to its function.** This report should be made primarily of your own observations and your own knowledge of art history. However, you may consult other sources (museum text, web, books, etc.) as support to your observations as long you properly cite them in a works cited list. Use should use your textbook to guide you and you may even find it helpful to use a similar object in the textbook as a comparison. *Consult the articles on writing comparisons available on the electronic reserve website link: <http://eres.elcamino.edu>.*

**At the museum:**

1. Write down all pertinent information about the artwork: title, date, period, culture, medium, size, etc.
2. Make a simple drawing of the art object you choose while at the museum to “map out” the composition. Identify the most important elements. I am not asking you to create an artwork yourself, a simple line drawing (i.e. stick figures) will do just fine. *Failure to include a drawing will drop your paper one letter grade.*
3. Observe the artwork carefully. Write a short description of the object while you are looking at it. Include any subject matter, symbolism, overall content. Make sure to describe the composition. Consider questions such as: Is it biblical or mythological? Does the object have religious or political meaning?
4. You may find it helpful to photograph the artwork if the museum allows photography, often no flash bulbs are allowed in the museum and you must take the picture with natural/existing light. You may include this image in the paper but it cannot replace your drawing.
5. **Document your trip.** Include a dated receipt, ticket stub, pass/sticker, or even a picture of yourself at the museum. Attach “proof” to a piece of paper (tape, glue, etc) and attach to back of paper, after the drawing. *Failure to include “proof” will drop your paper one letter grade.*

**Guidelines for the paper:**

1. **Identify** the artwork and museum first.
2. **Description.** Remember, you are talking about an artwork and you want your reader to visualize so describe it as precisely as possible. Be thorough, but concise. It shouldn’t take more than 2 paragraphs.
3. **Stylistic Analysis.** This should be the major part of your report. **This should explain how the piece you chose was supposed to be used, understood and appreciated in it’s own time and can include how it is similar to other artworks of the same culture/period.** Even though the museum identifies the period for you – you must point out which characteristics of the period are shown. For example, you might say “Aegean metalwork is characterized by repoussé technique and spiral motifs” (as you learned from the textbook) then apply your knowledge to your object: “the artwork, made in repoussé, shows the typical spiral motif but includes an unusual . . .” You could expand on this by comparing it to an object in the textbook (e.g. “a similar mixture of motifs can be seen in the artwork . . .”)

You should include reproductions of your comparison image if you use one.

4. **Conclusion.** All good essays conclude with a statement of purpose. What were your findings? You may summarize major points but, more importantly, state what was learned/proved by your observations.
  - Your paper must be typewritten, double-spaced, and 2 - 4 pages. 10 or 12 point type, 1” margins.
  - DO NOT put your paper in a binder or plastic cover. PLEASE staple the LEFT corner.
  - Give your paper a title. If you make a separate front cover page, make sure your name and section are visible.
  - Always indicate title of an artwork by setting it apart with an underline and capitalize all principal words (nouns, verbs, adverbs); do not capitalize supporting words (articles, prepositions, conjunctions). For example: The Cat in the Hat or The Fellowship of the Ring.
  - Illustrations should be titled and numbered (in the order as they appear in your essay) at end of paper.

**DUE MAY 22/23**