



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	ARTH
Course Number:	C1100
Descriptive Title:	Survey of Art from Prehistory to the Medieval Era
Division:	Behavioral and Social Sciences
Department:	Art History
Course Disciplines:	Art History
Catalog Description:	This course introduces students to visual art and architecture from prehistory to the medieval era with a focus on art from Europe, North Africa, and the near East. The course will further consider global interactions involving these regions.
Prerequisite:	None
Co-requisite:	None
Recommended Preparation:	Eligibility for English C1000 or qualification by appropriate assessment
Enrollment Limitation:	N/A
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	
General Education: ECC	Area 3 - Humanities
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	Area C1 - Arts and Humanities - Arts: Arts, Cinema, Dance, Music, Theatre
Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	Area 3A - Arts
Term:	
Other:	
CalGETC:	
Term:	

Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	SLO #1 Analyze Form Students will demonstrate the ability to observe, analyze, and comprehend form in the interpretation of visual culture from Prehistoric to Gothic time periods. SLO #2 Analyze Content Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate and determine the content and context of images in the interpretation of visual culture from Prehistoric to Gothic time periods. SLO #3 Synthesize Ideas and Information Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively research images and ideas in order to communicate a synthesis of information in the interpretation of visual culture from Prehistoric to Gothic time periods.
Course Objectives:	Part 1: At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to: 1. Identify, examine, and assess representative works of art and architecture from prehistory to the medieval era employing appropriate art historical terminology. 2. Analyze works of art and architecture in terms of aesthetic, socio-political, religious, historical, technological, and cultural contexts in which they were created. 3. Develop critical thinking, information literacy, and problem solving through an engagement with art, architecture, artists, and patrons from prehistory to the medieval era. Part 2 Optional (Expanded?) objectives/outcomes: At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to: 1. Identify major art works of each era by visual recognition, providing title, date, period, culture, location, medium, and other pertinent data. 2. Analyze and discuss major art works in terms of style, iconography, and historical importance. 3. Interpret and discuss major art works in relation to relevant social, political, philosophical, and religious factors. 4. Contrast and compare major art works from different periods and cultures, including prehistoric, tribal, ancient, and medieval. 5. Define technical terms and identify their application in major art works. 6. Assess the effects of socio-cultural factors on the production of art and visual culture throughout history.
Major Topics:	Part 1: Required Topics This course critically examines the art and architecture of the following periods with an integration of history, theory, aesthetics, and cross-cultural connections: 1. Prehistory, visual analysis before writing 2. Mesopotamia 3. Ancient Egypt 4. Ancient Aegean cultures 5. Ancient Greece 6. Etruria 7. Ancient Rome 8. Contextualizing Monotheism a. Judaism b. Early Christianity c. Early Islam 9. Byzantine

	10. Medieval Part 2: Expanded Topics I. The Basis and Methods of Art History as a Discipline (3 hours, lecture) A. Form, content, and function B. Function and the relationship to cultural value C. Social influences on art: religion, ritual, climate, geography, etc. II. Prehistoric Art: Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic Periods (9 hours, lecture) A. Possible interpretations of subject matter and functions of objects and images B. Co-relations between prehistoric art and living tribal societies, including Inuit, Native American, and African art III. Mesopotamian Art: Early Civilization (6 hours, lecture) A. Artistic conventions in relation to the emergence of urban societies B. Comparison to other early civilizations, including China and Indus, as river-valley based societies IV. Egyptian Art: Pre-Dynastic to Ptolemaic Periods (6 hours, lecture) A. Artistic conventions with comparison to Mesopotamia and other early civilizations B. Art for the glorification of rulers and the afterlife V. Aegean Islands: Cycladic, Minoan, and Helladic Art (3 hours, lecture) A. Emergence of early civilization B. Styles and motifs of the three distinct pre-Hellenic Greek cultures C. Collapse, aka "Dark Ages" in Mediterranean cultures VI. Greek Art: Geometric to Hellenistic Periods (6 hours, lecture) A. Development of city-states after the Dark Ages B. Art and philosophy C. Art and the state VII. Etruscan and Roman Art: Republic Through Fall of Empire (9 hours, lecture) A. Distinction from Hellenic cultures B. Cross-cultural influences C. Relationship between art and the politics of empire VIII. Early Christian and Byzantine Art in the Late Roman Period (3 hours, lecture) A. Church architecture and decoration B. Relationship to the Roman legacy C. The development of a distinct Byzantine-Christian style of art IX. Brief Survey of Early Medieval Art (3 hours, lecture) A. Pre-Christian art of the warrior lords of non-Roman peoples B. Early Christian art of Scandinavia, British Isles, Spain; Hiberno-Saxon, Carolingian, Ottonian kingdoms C. Introduction to Islamic art X. Medieval Art: Romanesque Period (3 hours, lecture) A. The Crusades, pilgrimages and devotion in art and architecture B. Anticipate Gothic style XI. Medieval Art: Gothic Period (3 hours, lecture) A. The new aesthetic and structural systems of Gothic Cathedrals B. Symbolism and the philosophical connection to Scholasticism C. The relationship to prior forms and techniques from the pagan, Classical and Christian traditions
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54

A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	Methods of evaluation will include: 1. Written essays and/or research projects 2. Exam with essay component Methods of evaluation may also include: 1. Discussions 2. Objective exams 3. Projects and presentations 4. Quizzes 5. Group Assignments 6. Museum Assignments Methods of evaluation are at the discretion of faculty
A.2. Primary Method of Evaluation (Part 2 - all courses; choose one):	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Write a three- to five-page essay that analyzes and critiques the dictum of the Greek philosopher Protagoras, "Man (is) the measure of all things." How does this philosophy impact and reflect the art of the Classical age?
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	Write a three- to five-page essay, or deliver an eight to ten minute oral presentation, that critically analyzes the iconography and style of selected examples of art from prehistoric through Gothic periods. Discuss the social factors which may have influenced artistic production.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	Using readings from the text as well as from Internet sources, write a three- to five-page paper that compares and contrasts Egyptian art of the Old and New Kingdoms, noting social-political and philosophical factors that resulted in stylistic change.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Classroom (Campus or Online) Discussions, Completion, Essay Exams, Group Assignments, Matching Items, Multiple Choice, Museum and Gallery Reports, Objective Exams, Other (specify), Projects and Presentation, Quizzes, Research Projects, Term or Other Papers, True/False, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Group Activities, Lecture, Multimedia presentations, Other (specify)
If other:	Internet presentations
Work Outside of Class:	Observation of or participation in an activity related to course content (such as theatre event, museum, concert, debate, meeting), Other (specify), Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	Internet to research, review, and augment learning in the class
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Textbooks (most recent editions) - Janson, H. W. History of Art. 2016. (Discipline Standard) - Kleiner, Fred S. Gardner's Art Through the Ages: The Western Perspective, Volume 1. 2021. - Kleiner, Fred S. Gardner's Art Through the Ages: A Global History, Volume 1. 2020. - Stokstad, Marilyn. Art History, Volume 1. 2022. OER - Smarthistory's (Khan Academy) materials/books (available online and to print out for free) - Smarthistory OER Commons - Smarthistory Reframing Art History (global perspectives) open access - Gustlin and Gustlin. Libretexts, Introduction to Art History, A World Perspective of Art History. 2023. - Met Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History. 2025. These are representative texts. Texts used by individual institutions and individual instructors will vary.
Alternative Texts:	Printed Textbook Jean Robertson, et al, <u>The History of Art: A Global View</u>, Thames and Hudson, 2021. OER Art History I (Lumen). 1 May 2020, https://human.libretexts.org/@go/page/52732.

Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for English C1000 or qualification by appropriate assessment
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	It is advised that students should be able to read and effectively analyze college level texts and can write a paper that persuasively proves an original thesis. If students are eligible for English C1000, they are more likely to be successful in this course. This course involves reading college level textbooks, written assignments and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills. Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts. Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Elizabeth Atherton
Date:	10/11/1973

Original Board Approval Date:	
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Karen Whitney
Date:	04/09/2025
Last Board Approval Date:	12/16/2025
Effective Term:	FALL 2026