ARTh 101-910: Prehistory to the Renaissance: Introduction to Western Art

ARTh 101-910
Prehistory to the Renaissance: Introduction to Western Art

Summer Session I
May 22-June 28, 2017
Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00 am-12:50 pm
Room: TBD; class also includes visits to the Penn Museum and the Philadelphia Museum of Art
Instructor: Patricia Kim | pekim@sas.upenn.edu
Office Hours: Thursdays 3-4pm; or by appointment (Jaffe Building, B-8, basement)

(Left to Right: Bust of queen in royal headdress, greywacke, 360-330 BCE, Egypt; Wall painting of personified Asia and Macedon, copy of Hellenistic original, 40-30 BCE, Boscoreale, Italy; Arybollos in shape of African head, terracotta, 480-430 BCE, Greece)

Course Description:
This course offers a survey of major developments in the painting, sculpture, and architecture of Western cultures from prehistory (ca. 15,000 BCE) through the late Middle Ages/Early Renaissance (ca. 1450 CE). During this course, you will learn a basic understanding of the function, style, and context of art and architecture throughout different historical periods—how art was created and viewed, how art shaped social identities and religious beliefs, and how art of the past affects us today. Several in-class lectures and interactive activities will be at local collections, such as the Penn Museum and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Course Objectives:
Students in ARTH 101 will gain familiarity with the history of art and architecture of Western Europe and the Mediterranean. Students will work both independently and collaboratively to develop their:

- Ability to analyze, interpret, and write about visual culture
- Ability to contextualize cultural, social, and historical significance of visual culture and monuments
- Oral presentation skills
- Critical thinking ability in response to scholarly literature
Course Requirements: There are no prerequisites for this course. Requirements include weekly assigned readings posted on Canvas, weekly quizzes (a total of 5), 2 writing assignments, and active participation in lecture and discussions.

Course Materials:
[optional textbook] Janson’s History of Art. The Western Tradition, by P. Davies, W. Denny, F. Hofrichter, J. Jacobs, A. Roberts, D. Simon (Pearson-Prentice Hall, reissued 8th edition), available at the Barnes & Noble Penn Bookstore. [n.b. if you want to order this online or used, please make sure it is the reissued 8th edition.] This book is also on reserve as Fisher Fine Arts Library. The specific chapters covered in class from this text are available as PDFs on Canvas.

[required reading] weekly PDF readings are posted on Canvas.

Recommended texts:

Course Evaluation:
Attendance and participation 20%
Assignment 1 25% due 6/1, 6/8, 6/13
Assignment 2 30% due 6/21 by midnight
Weekly Quizzes (5% each) 25% 6/1, 6/6, 6/15, 6/20, 6/27 in-class

Attendance and Discussion Participation: (20%)
Students are required to attend all classes, and attendance will be taken every meeting. You can miss one lecture without losing grade points; and you will be marked late if you arrive more than fifteen minutes late to class. It will be your responsibility to make up absences; in the case of missing lecture material, this means arranging with a classmate to pick up handouts and learn what you have missed. Attendance will be recorded on Canvas.

During class we will extensively discuss the reading assignments. Students are required to read the assignments and participate in the discussions. Please be sure to bring copies of that day’s Canvas readings to class (either in PDF or hardcopy). Students will be asked to demonstrate knowledge of the weekly readings in the quizzes as well.

IMPORTANT: Laptops, iPads, e-readers, and phones are allowed in class so long as students appropriately use the device(s)—e.g. taking notes, referring to the readings during discussion, etc. If the instructor sees a student/students using electronic devices for non-class use during class (e.g. texting, social media, web browsing), she reserves the right to ban the use of electronics from that student on that day, as well as electronic devices from the entire class for the remainder of the summer term.

Assignment 1: Visual Analysis Paper & Presentation (3-part assignment, 25% total)
Students will submit a 3-4-page visual analysis paper on a selected object in the Penn Museum collection. The goal of this assignment is to hone your visual analysis skills in both describing and analyzing an art object. Students will consult with the instructor on selecting an art object from the Penn Museum collection. This assignment is due in three stages:
1) 2-page description of the selected object (due 6/1 by 9:00am, Canvas submission) (5%)
2) 10-minute presentation on selected object in the Penn Museum (in class on 6/8) (5%)
3) 3-4-page visual analysis of the selected object (due on 6/13 by midnight, Canvas submission in .doc or .docx form) (15%)

**Assignment 2: Comparative Analysis Paper (30%)**
Students will submit a 5-6-page paper comparing two art objects from the Penn Museum and/or Philadelphia Museum of Art collections. This paper will build upon the previous assignment's focus on description and analysis of a single art object to interpret and compare two objects. Students will consult with the instructor on selecting art object(s); students may use the same object analyzed in Assignment #1, or select two new objects. (Due on 6/22 by midnight, Canvas submission in .doc or .docx form)

**Quizzes: (25% total, 5% each)**
There are five short quizzes given in weeks two through six (6/1, 6/6, 6/15, 6/20, & 6/27), usually at the beginning of class. The quizzes will cover material from readings and lectures, including definitions of terminology, slide identifications, comparisons, and/or a short answer questions. Students will be responsible for identifying the objects and monuments by name, location, date (within half-century), and artist/architect (if known), as given on the monuments list.
*The instructor will post the PowerPoint slides from lecture and a condensed monuments & terms list on Canvas. These materials will be posted after class to help prepare for the quizzes.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**Week 1 (May 23, 25)**
T:   - Introduction to the Course: What is the History of Art?
     - Prehistoric Art in Europe: Learning to look at visual culture
     - Ancient Egypt I: Materials, Mummies, and Style in the Tomb

Readings:
- Gombrich, “Introduction: Psychology and the Riddle of Style”
- Baines, “On the Status and Purposes of Ancient Egyptian Art”
- Optional: Janson, Ch. 2 (Ancient Near Eastern Art)

R:   - Ancient Egypt II: Cross-cultural interactions and representation
     - Ancient Near East: Empire and Sculptural Relief
     *Penn Museum Visit: Ancient Near Eastern & Egyptian Galleries

Readings:
- Pittman, “The White Obelisk and the Problem of Historical Narrative in the Art of Assyria”
- Feldman, *Diplomacy by Design* (excerpts)
- Optional: Janson, Ch. 3 (Egyptian Art)

**Week 2 (May 30, June 1)**
T:   Ancient Greece I: Politics of Hair, Sex, and the Body
ARTH 101-910: Prehistory to the Renaissance: Introduction to Western Art

*Penn Museum Visit: Greek Galleries

Readings:
- Stewart, *Art, Desire, and the Body in Ancient Greece* (excerpts)
- Optional: Janson, Ch. 5 (Greek Art)

R:   Quiz #1
- Achaemenid Persian Art and Architecture
- Ancient Greece II: Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic World

Assignment #1 part 1 (visual description) due by the beginning of class (Canvas submission)

Readings:
- Stewart, *Art in the Hellenistic World* (excerpts)
- Smith, “Spear-won land at Boscoreale”
- Root, “Defining the Divine in Achaemenid Persian Kingship: The View from Bisitun”

Week 3 (June 6, 8)
T:   Quiz #2
- Etruscan and Early Roman Art
*Penn Museum Visit: Etruscan Galleries

Readings:
- Stewart, “Who Made Roman Art?”
- Etruscan tomb
- Optional: Janson, Ch. 6 (Etruscan Art)

R:   - Roman Art and Architecture (Republic-Imperial): Performance, Pleasure, and Play
*Penn Museum Visit: Roman Galleries

Assignment #1 part 2 (presentations) in the Penn Museum

Readings:
- Kuttner, “Delight and Danger in the Roman Water Garden: Sperlonga and Tivoli”
- Clarke, “Putting your best face forward: Self-representation at Home”
- Optional: Janson, Ch. 7 (Roman Art)

Week 4 (June 13, 15)
T:   - Early Jewish, Byzantine Christian, and Islamic Visual Culture and Exchange
*Penn Museum: Special Exhibitions

Assignment #1 part 3 (visual analysis) due by midnight on Canvas

Readings:
- Oosterhout, “Holy Space”
ARTH 101-910: Prehistory to the Renaissance: Introduction to Western Art

- Hoffman, “Pathways of Portability: Islamic and Christian Interchange from the Tenth to the Twelfth Century”
- Optional: Janson, Ch. 8 (Early Jewish, Early Christian, and Byzantine Art); Ch. 9 (Islamic Art)

R: Quiz #3
Early Medieval Art: Kingdoms and Cultural Interactions
*Schoenberg Manuscript Collection, Kislak Center, 6th Floor Van Pelt (TBD)

Readings:
- Nees, “Word and Image” and “Expressive and Didactic Images”
- Optional: Janson, Ch. 10 (Early Medieval Art)

Week 5 (June 20, 22)

T: Quiz #4
- Gothic Art and Architecture: Seeing and Believing
- Romanesque Art and Architecture: Pilgrimage and Devotion

Readings:
- Caviness, “Patron or Matron? A Capetian Bride and a Vade Mecum for her Marriage Bed”
- Optional: Janson, Ch. 11 (Romanesque Art); Janson, Ch. 12 (Gothic Art)

R: [No lecture]
*Philadelphia Museum of Art Visit: Medieval Galleries & Johnson Collection
(meet at the West Entrance [not Rocky steps] at 9:50am)

No readings

Assignment #2 due by midnight on Friday, 6/22 (Canvas submission)

Week 6 (June 27)

T: Course Conclusion: What is the Renaissance?
Review for final quiz
Quiz #5

Readings:
- Optional: Janson, Ch. 13 (Early Italian Renaissance)