



**Beijing Jiaotong University**

**2019 Summer Session**

**ART 101 Art History - Prehistory to Postmodernism**

**Course Outline**

**Term: July 08-August 09,2019**

**Class Hours: 16:00-18:00 (Monday through Friday)**

**Course Code: ART 101**

**Instructor: Dr. Brendan Prawdzik**

**Home Institution: Pennsylvania State University**

**Office Hours: TBA**

**Email: bmp16@psu.edu**

**Credit: 4**

**Class Hours:** This course will have 72 class hours, including 40 lecture hours, professor 10 office hours, 10-hour TA discussion sessions, 2-hour review sessions, 10-hour extra classes.

**Course Description:**

This course surveys the history of world art from prehistoric times to the late medieval period (ca. 1450). We will proceed chronologically through the following periods and styles:

- Prehistorical
- Ancient Near-Eastern
- Egyptian
- Aegean
- Greek
- Etruscan
- Roman
- Early Christian & Byzantine
- Islamic
- Chinese
- Early Medieval
- Romanesque
- Gothic
- Late-medieval/Early Renaissance.



The course accomplishes two primary goals.

First, students will gain expansive knowledge of art history, including a) the evolving characteristics that distinguish these prominent artistic categories (period or style); b) the major representative works from these categories; and c) how these categories fit into a narrative of global art history.

Second, students will gain aesthetic appreciation and the ability to analyze artworks closely and to interpret them for meaning.

Most class sessions will follow a common structure. They will begin with lecture and general discussion that covers the historical scope and aesthetic characteristics of the art historical category, before focusing that knowledge upon a small selection of works. Here, students will observe and practice immersive formal analysis. This knowledge and practice will continue in small group discussions. Groups will perform Internet research to identify a work that interests them. They will apply concepts from lecture and the textbook to describe how the work fits into the day's period or style. They will then introduce the artworks to the class and offer an interpretive perspective for further discussion.

The Friday discussion sections will be devoted to a) reinforcing concepts; b) preparing for course exams; and c) preparing for the course paper.

Lecture/discussion content and other course files and resources are available on the course website: <http://sites.psu.edu/art-history-prawdzik>

### **Course Objectives:**

By the end of this course, students will meet the following goals:

- Develop a broad understanding of the global history of art, from prehistoric times to the late-medieval period.
- Develop a broad understanding and appreciation of the historical and cultural contexts of artworks.
- Develop a vocabulary—including facts and concepts—for locating, describing, and explaining this art.
- Develop aesthetic appreciation and interpretive engagement.
- Develop skills of formal analysis and interpretation.
- Experience immersive engagement with select works.
- Observe, analyze, interpret artwork in argument-driven writing.
- Speak about artwork insightfully.

### **Required Textbook:**

Penelope J. E. Davies et al., *Janson's History of Art, Volume 1*, 8th edition (Pearson: 2015).  
ISBN-13: 978-0133910117

### **Reading:**

Assigned readings will proceed through the textbook. For the Chinese Art phase of the course, a separate text will be provided. Students must show up to class having completed the assigned reading (we will discuss proper reading practices). Consistency and quality of reading will affect scores on the reading quizzes, exams, essay, and participation.

## **Grading & Evaluation:**

Exam 1: 20%

Exam 2: 20%

Essay: 25%

Quizzes: 10%

Group Presentations: 10%

Attendance and Participation: 15%

Exams: The exams will consist of a) twenty multiple-choice questions based on concepts from the textbook, lectures, and discussions; and b) four identification and written analysis questions, which will require you to identify an artwork and its period/style and to apply course concepts while analyzing and interpreting it.

Essay: Two class sessions will be conducted at the National Art Museum of China. The first day, students will explore the museum to locate an artwork to analyze for the 5-pp. essay. The second day, students will study their chosen works closely, taking notes from which they will write the essay. The essay will introduce the work by locating it within its historical and aesthetic contexts. It will analyze and interpret the artwork to demonstrate grasp of course material, aesthetic appreciation, analytical skills, and interpretative argumentation.

Quizzes: There will be six unannounced quizzes, which will be based on assigned readings. These will consist of five multiple-choice questions. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Group Presentations: A regular feature of class will be brief presentations in small groups. Groups will be asked to conduct web research to locate and identify an artwork from the period/style discussed on that day. The presentations will apply course concepts to introduce and explain the artwork to the class.

Attendance and Participation: Points will be awarded for level of engagement during class, meaningful contributions to class discussion, and effective work in groups. Attendance is, of course, required and assumed.



## Course Schedule

### Week 1

Monday – Course Introduction  
Tuesday – Chapter 1, Prehistoric Art  
Wednesday – Chapter 2, Ancient Near Eastern Art  
Thursday – Chapter 3, Egyptian Art (i)  
Friday – Discussion Section

### Week 2

Monday – Chapter 3, Egyptian Art (ii)  
Tuesday – Chapter 4, Aegean Art; and Chapter 5  
Wednesday – Chapter 5, Greek Art (i)  
Thursday – Chapter 5, Greek Art (ii)  
Friday – Discussion Section

### Week 3

Monday – **Exam 1**  
Tuesday – Chapter 6, Etruscan Art  
Wednesday – Chapter 7, Roman Art (i)  
Thursday – Chapter 7, Roman Art (ii)  
Friday – Discussion Section

### Week 4

Monday – Chinese Art (i), *text to be provided*; meet at the National Art Museum of China  
Tuesday – Chinese Art (ii), *text to be provided*; meet at the National Art Museum of China  
Wednesday – Chapter 8, Early Christian and Byzantine Art  
Thursday – Chapter 9, Islamic Art  
Friday – Discussion Section

### Week 5

Monday – Chapter 10, Early Medieval Art; **Essay Due**  
Tuesday – Chapter 11, Romanesque Art  
Wednesday – Chapter 12, Gothic Art  
Thursday – Art in Thirteenth- and Fourteenth-Century Italy  
Friday – **Exam 2**