



Beijing Jiaotong University

2020 Summer Session

ART 101 Art History - Prehistory to Postmodernism

Course Outline

Term: July 13 - August 07, 2020

Class Hours: 8:00-9:50 (Monday through Friday)

Course Code: ART 101

Instructor: Dr. Brendan Prawdzik

Home Institution: Pennsylvania State University

Professor homepage: <http://english.la.psu.edu/faculty-staff/bmp16>

Office Hours: TBA

Email: bmp16@psu.edu

Credit: 4

Class Hours: This course will have 52 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, 8 professor office hours, 8 TA discussion session hours, and 4 review session hours.

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
- Greek
- Roman
- Early Christian
- Ancient Chinese



- Early Medieval
- Romanesque
- Gothic
- Late Renaissance
- Realism
- Impressionism
- Post-impressionism
- Modernism
- Post-modernism/Contemporary

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: 27%

Exam 2: 28%

Analysis Paper 1: 10%

Analysis Paper 2: 10%

Quizzes: 10%

Attendance and Participation: 15%

Exams: The exams will consist of a) twenty multiple-choice/matching questions based on concepts from the textbook, lectures, and discussions; and b) six 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 occur at the National Museum of China (free admission; reserve in advance). The first day, students will explore the museum to locate an artwork to analyze for the 2-3 pp. essay. On 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. Above all, the paper is to reflect the student's observations, critical thinking, and interpretive imagination. For the second analysis paper, we will meet at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA).

Quizzes: **Reading is required for each class session: no exceptions.** There will be six unannounced quizzes, which will be based on assigned readings. These will consist of three multiple-choice questions each. The sole purpose of these quizzes is to ensure that students are reading in advance of class. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.



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. Irresponsible attendance will result in a significant grading penalty.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Monday – Course Introduction; Prehistoric Art
Tuesday – Chapter 3, Egyptian Art
Wednesday – Chapter 5, Greek Art (i)
Thursday – Chapter 5, Greek Art (ii)
Friday – Discussion Section

Week 2

Monday – Chapter 7, Roman Art (i)
Tuesday – Chapter 7, Roman Art (ii); Chapter 8, Early Christian and Byzantine Art
Wednesday – Read *The Arts of Ancient China*; meet at the National Museum of China, day 1
Thursday – Meet at the National Museum of China, day 2

Friday – Exam 1 Review

Week 3

Monday – **Exam 1**
Tuesday – Chapter 16, The High Renaissance in Italy, 1495-1520
Wednesday – Chapter 24, The Age of Positivism: Realism, Impressionism, and the Pre-Raphaelites
Thursday – Chapter 25, Progress and Its Discontents: Post-Impressionism, Symbolism, and Art Nouveau, 1880–1905
Friday – Chapter 26, Toward Abstraction: The Modernist Revolution, 1904–1914; Chapter 27, Art Between the Wars

Week 4

Monday – Read “Millennial Artists in China” + 3 linked articles; Ullens Center for Contemporary Art
Tuesday – Chapter 28, Postwar to Postmodern, 1945–1980
Wednesday – Exam 2 Review; **Analysis Paper 2 due**
Thursday – Chapter 29, The Postmodern Era: Art Since 1980
Friday – **Exam 2**