

Ms. Devon Stewart  
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Oxford College, Fall 2012  
TThu 11:50-1:30

### **Introduction to Art History: Art and Architecture from Prehistory to the Renaissance**

**Course Description:** This course will function as an historical survey of the visual images that exemplify the philosophical and aesthetic concepts that shaped western culture from the Paleolithic period through the fourteenth century. The aesthetic, historical and technical aspects of major art forms, including painting, architecture, drawing, and sculpture, will be studied in relation to the socio-economic and political developments in Western Civilization.

**Course Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify by title, artist, style and period the works of art that are the visual representatives of the evolution of western society from prehistory through the fourteenth century.
2. Trace the major political, philosophical, and socio-economic developments in western society from the Paleolithic period to the advent of the Proto-Renaissance in relation to major art forms.
3. Identify and define the major aesthetic and philosophical trends during the time parameters of this course.
4. Develop critical analysis of individual works of art, styles and schools of aesthetic philosophies.

**Course Goals:** For the successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the subject matter by

Completing all reading assignments.  
Attending lectures and discussions.  
Demonstrating verbal proficiency of historical theories by actively participating in classroom discussions.  
Applying academic theories in the form of two written assignments and a research project

**Texts:**

*Art History*: Fourth Edition (Hardback) or Third Edition (Paperback) by Marilyn Stokstad (Volume I).

Supplementary readings may be assigned and will be provided by the professor.

**Course Requirements:**

Writing assignment (Description)	10%
Midterm exam	25%
Writing assignment (Formal Analysis)	10%
Research Essay	25%
Final exam	25%
Class participation	5%

*Grading Scale:*

A 93-100	C+ 77-79
A- 90-92	C 73-76
B+ 87-89	C- 70-72
B 83-86	D+ 67-69
B- 80-82	D 60-66
	F 0-59

**Student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by Oxford College and Emory College faculty and staff for the purposes of improving instruction and enhancing Emory education.**

**Class Policies:**

- Attendance is not mandatory. However, because class participation represents 5% of your final grade, regular and attentive attendance is strongly recommended.
- Academic integrity is essential. Violation of the academic honor code will not be tolerated. The results of violating the code are the failure of this class and the possible suspension or dismissal from this college.
- One letter grade per day of lateness will be deducted from your score for any late assignments. Extensions may be granted at the professor's discretion. If you are having trouble completing an assignment on time, please contact the professor immediately.
- There will be no make-up exams administered.

## **Class Schedule:**

Aug. 30: Introduction

Week 1 (Sept. 4-7): Prehistoric European Art

Reading: Chapter 1 (Prehistoric Art in Europe)

Week 2 (Sept. 10 - 14): Ancient Near Eastern Art and Egyptian Art

Reading: Chapter 2 (Art of the Ancient Near East) and Chapter 3 (Art of Ancient Egypt);  
Gay Robins, "Hair and the Construction of Identity in Ancient Egypt, c. 1480-1350 BC,"  
(available on Blackboard).

Week 3 (Sept. 17-21): Egyptian Art (continued) and Ancient Aegean Art

Reading: Chapter 3 (Art of Ancient Egypt) and Chapter 4 (Aegean Art); Alexandra  
Karetsoy, "Knossos after Evans: past interventions, present state and future solutions"  
(available on Blackboard)

Week 4 (Sept. 24-28): Ancient Greek Art

Reading: Chapter 5 (Art of Ancient Greece)

John Griffiths Pedley, "Greek Art" (available on Blackboard)

**WRITING ASSIGNMENT (DESCRIPTION) DUE SEPT 27**

Week 5 (Oct. 1-5): Ancient Greek Art (continued) and Roman Art

Reading: Chapter 5 (Art of Ancient Greece) and Chapter 6 (Etruscan and Roman Art)

Gisela M. A. Richer, "A Set of Etruscan Jewelry" (available on Blackboard)

Sheldon Nodelman, "How to Read a Roman Portrait" (available on Blackboard)

Week 6 (Oct. 8-12): Roman Art (continued)

Reading: Chapter 6 (Etruscan and Roman Art)

**MIDTERM EXAM THURSDAY, OCT 12**

Week 7 (Oct. 15-19): **Fall Break Oct. 15-16/No Class**

**Oct. 18: Library Research Day/No Class**

Week 8 (Oct. 22-26): Jewish, Early Christian Art and Islamic Art

Readings: Chapter 7 (Jewish, Early Christian, and Byzantine Art), Chapter 8 (Islamic  
Art)

J. Osborne, "The Roman Catacombs in the Middle Ages" (available on Blackboard)

Week 9 (Oct. 29-Nov. 2): Byzantine Art

Readings: Chapter 7 (Byzantine Art)

Henry Maguire, "Garments Pleasing to God: The Significance of Domestic Textile  
Design in the Early Byzantine Period" (available on Blackboard)

Week 10 (Nov. 5-9): Early Medieval Art

Readings: Chapter 14 (Early Medieval Art of Europe)

Barbara Zeitler, "Cross-Cultural Interpretations of Imagery in the Middle Ages"  
(available on Blackboard)

**WRITING ASSIGNMENT (VISUAL ANALYSIS) DUE NOV 8**

Week 11 (Nov. 12-16): Romanesque Art

Readings: Chapter 15 (Romanesque Art)

C. Edson Armi, "Report on the Destruction of Romanesque Architecture in Burgundy"  
(available on Blackboard)

Week 12 (Nov. 20-23): Gothic Art of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries

Readings: Chapter 16 (Gothic Art of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries)

Additional reading TBA

**No Class Thursday, Nov. 22 – Thanksgiving Break**

Week 15 (Nov. 26-30): Gothic Art (continued)

Readings: Chapter 16 (Gothic Art of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries)

Additional readings TBA

**RESEARCH PAPERS DUE NOV 29**

Week 16 (Dec. 3-7): Late Medieval and Early Renaissance Art

Readings: TBA

Dec. 11: **Last class meeting/semester wrap up**

**FINAL EXAM DECEMBER 18, 7-10PM**

