

Ms. Devon Stewart

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Oxford College, Spring 2012

MWF 12:50-1:40

Office Hours: Monday 2-3, and by appointment.

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: Third Edition (Hardback) or Second Edition (Paperback) by Marilyn Stokstad (Volume I).

Supplementary readings may be assigned and provided by 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

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:

Week 1 (Jan. 18-20): Introduction and Prehistoric European Art
Reading: Chapter 1 (Prehistoric Art in Europe)

Week 2 (Jan. 23-27): 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(Jan. 30-Feb. 3): 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 (Feb. 6-10): Ancient Greek Art
Reading: Chapter 5 (Art of Ancient Greece)
John Griffiths Pedley, “Greek Art” (available on Blackboard)

Week 5 (Feb. 13-17): 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)
WRITING ASSIGNMENT (DESCRIPTION) DUE FEB 17

Week 6 (Feb. 20-24): Roman Art (continued)
Reading: Chapter 6 (Etruscan and Roman Art)
Sheldon Nodelman, “How to Read a Roman Portrait” (available on Blackboard)

Week 7 (Feb. 27-March 2): Jewish and Early Christian Art
Readings: Chapter 7 (Jewish, Early Christian, and Byzantine Art)
J. Osborne, “The Roman Catacombs in the Middle Ages”

Week 8 (March 5- 9): Visit to Carlos Museum (Saturday, March 3)
MIDTERM EXAM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

Week 9 (March 12- 16): **Spring Break/No Class**

Week 10 (March 19-23): 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 11 (March 26-30): Byzantine Art (continued) and Islamic Art
Readings: Chapter 7 (Jewish, Early Christian, and Byzantine Art) and Chapter 8 (Islamic Art)
Gary Vikan, “Byzantine Pilgrimage Art” (available on Blackboard)

Week 12 (April 2-6): Early Medieval Art
Readings: Chapter 14 (Early Medieval Art of Europe) and
Barbara Zeitler, “Cross-Cultural Interpretations of Imagery in the Middle Ages” (available on Blackboard)
WRITING ASSIGNMENT (FORMAL ANALYSIS) DUE APRIL 6

Week 13 (April 9-13): Romanesque Art

Readings: Chapter 15 (Romanesque Art)

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

Week 14 (April 16-20): Gothic Art of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries

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

Additional reading TBA

Week 15 (April 23-27): Gothic Art (continued)

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

Additional readings TBA

RESEARCH PAPERS DUE APRIL 23

April 30: **Last class meeting/semester wrap up**

FINAL EXAM MAY 3, 7PM-10PM