

AMERICAN FINE ARTS

Instructor: Valeri Hardin

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Tuesdays, Thursdays, 10:50-12:05, room 433

Office hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays 16:00-17:00, Monday, Wednesday, 16:00—17:00, room 315; also by appointment and via e-mail

Course Description and Goals

In this course we shall try to accomplish three goals. First, we shall learn how to see and appreciate the fine arts on their own terms. (We shall concentrate on painting and sculpture). Second, we shall study how American artists have related to the European tradition. And third, we shall discover how the American fine arts relate to American history and culture. These three goals are necessarily linked, since one cannot study the cultural meanings of art without knowing something about art's own conventions, and one cannot appreciate American art without knowing a good deal about European art. And although one can study art apart from history and culture, we would be forfeiting our strength and objective in doing so. For our goal in this course is also to know more thoroughly the American nation that gave rise to these works of art.

Our primary means of learning about art will be the in-class viewing and discussion of reproductions, slides, and videos and writing about them. Thus, class attendance is compulsory. We shall also consult the words of the artists themselves and of their most sensitive critics.

Texts

The main text is Wayne Craven's *American Art: History and Culture*, 20 copies of which are available in the AUCA library. This is the best textbook on American art currently available.

Another excellent text that will give us insights into the development of art in the Western world will be Gardner's *Art through the Ages*. Both books have been reserved for you in the AUCA library; so check them out.

We will also use various video materials on art.

Students Learning Objectives:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Analyze, discuss, and explain the works of art in terms of their content and style orally and in writing
2. Discuss and explain the evolution of American art and its major styles and schools
3. Discuss art in its historical and social context

Assessment

In order to receive credit, students must attend class without fail and participate in discussions in class orally and in writing in class and out of class through online e-course and complete the required writing assignments (class participation), make end-of-the-semester presentation, lead the class in at least four interpretations/discussions of a particular work of art, and take a mid-term and final written exams. The exams and the final presentation will be based on the art works/themes of the course, assigned and class readings, and class discussions. More detailed information regarding the exams and the presentation will be provided in due time.

Grading:

Assessment is based on a cumulative average of the following activities: attendance and participation—25%; individual presentation—25 %; midterm examination—25%; final examination—25%. The grade is calculated using the approved AUCA grading system.

Attendance and participation

A—regular attendance and active participation in class activities, full and adequate completion of required e-course writing and art interpretations

B—regular attendance and active participation in class activities, adequate completion of required e-course writing and art interpretations with a few uncompleted assignments and unexcused absences (not more than 15%)

C—the number of unexcused absences and uncompleted assignments exceeds 15%

D—the number of unexcused absences and uncompleted assignments exceeds 20%; the completed assignments do not demonstrate the required adequacy

F—the number of unexcused absences and uncompleted assignments exceeds 30%; the completed assignments do not demonstrate the required adequacy

Presentations (the requirements for the presentations will be made available after the Spring break)

A—fully meets all the requirements set for final presentations

B—fully meets most of the requirements

C—meets most of the requirements by not fully

D—fails to meet many requirements

F—fails to meet most requirements or no presentation is made

Class Schedule

Week 1 Jan 14	Introduction into American Art
Week 1, Jan 16	Colonial period, Painting: 1700—50, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 5. Painting after 1750, Chapter 7
Week 2, Jan 21	Painting in the Tradition of the Grand Manor, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 10
Week 2, Jan 23	American romanticism: Landscape, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 15
Week 3, Jan 28	American romanticism: Landscape, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 15:
Week 3, Feb 30	Painting: Native Americans. Luminism, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 15
Week 4, Feb 4	Painting: Native Americans. Luminism, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 15
Week 4, Feb 6	Genre Painting, Narrative, Still Life and Portraiture 1825—1870, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 16
Week 5, Feb 11	Sculpture: Neoclassicism and Naturalism, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 18
Week 5, Feb 13	The Naturalistic Tradition and Cosmopolitanism, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 23; Chapter 21: The Second Half of the Century: The Predominance of Realism, pages 755—775, <i>Art through the Ages</i>
Week 6, Feb 18	American Impressionism, American Renaissance, and Trompe L'Oeil

Realism, *American Art: History and Culture*, Chapter 24

Week 6, Feb 20	Sculpture: From the American Renaissance to the Western Frontier 1870—1900, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 26:
Week 7, Feb 25	Realism and Regionalism, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 29
Week 7, Feb 27	Realism and Regionalism, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 29
Week 8, March 3	Painting: The Modern Mode 1900—40, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 30
Week 8, March 5	Painting: The Modern Mode 1900—40, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 30
Week 9, March 10	Sculpture: Tradition, Diversity, and Anarchy 1900—40, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 32
Week 9, March 12	Mid-term test
Week 10, March 17	Spring break
Week 10, March 19	Spring break
Week 11, March 24	Painting: Social Realism and Abstraction, 1940 to the present, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 36
Week 11, March 26	Painting: Social Realism and Abstraction, 1940 to the present, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 36
Week 12, March 31	Painting: Hardedge Colorfield, Pop Art and Realism, 1940 to the present, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 37:
Week 12, April 7	Painting: Hardedge Colorfield, Pop Art and Realism, 1940 to the present, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 37
Week 13, April 9	Sculpture: Old Tradition and New Directions, 1940 to the present, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 38
Week 13, April 14	Sculpture: Feminism, Found objects, Pop, Minimalism, and Realism, 1940 to present, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 39
Week 14, April 16	Sculpture: Feminism, Found objects, Pop, Minimalism, and Realism, 1940 to present, <i>American Art: History and Culture</i> , Chapter 39
Week 14, April 21	Student presentations
Week 15, April 23	Student presentations
Week 15, April 28	Student presentations
Week 16, May 5	Student presentations

Week 16, May 7 Student presentations

Examination week Final test