

High School AP Art History Syllabus

Instructor: Brock Essick

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Classroom: #38

Office Hours: Tues and Thurs. 3:45-4:00

Course Description

AP Art History is a college-level course that explores the history of art across various cultures and time periods. Students will engage in the study and analysis of major forms of artistic expression from prehistory to the present. The course emphasizes understanding works of art within their historical context, developing visual literacy, and preparing for the AP Art History exam.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Develop a comprehensive understanding of the major periods and movements in art history.
2. Analyze and interpret works of art from different cultures and time periods.
3. Understand the historical and cultural contexts of various artworks.
4. Apply art historical methods and vocabulary in written and verbal analyses.
5. Prepare for the AP Art History exam through practice exams and review sessions.

Materials

- Textbook: Gardner's Art Through the Ages: A Global History, AP Edition
 - Access to Khan Academy AP Art History resources
 - Notebook and/or binder for notes and handouts
 - Sketchbook for visual note-taking and drawing exercises
 - Access to a computer and internet for research and online assignments
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Course Outline

Unit 1: Global Prehistory (30,000-500 BCE)

- Introduction to Art History and Visual Analysis
- Key works: Venus of Willendorf, Lascaux Cave Paintings, Stonehenge
- Themes: Ritual and Symbolism

Unit 2: Ancient Mediterranean (3500 BCE-300 CE)

- Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Greek, and Roman Art
- Key works: Standard of Ur, Palette of Narmer, Parthenon, Augustus of Prima Porta
- Themes: Power and Authority, Religion and Mythology

Unit 3: Early Europe and Colonial Americas (200-1750 CE)

- Early Christian, Byzantine, Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque
- Key works: Hagia Sophia, Chartres Cathedral, Michelangelo's David, Bernini's Ecstasy of Saint Teresa
- Themes: Spirituality and the Divine, Humanism

Unit 4: Later Europe and Americas (1750-1980 CE)

- Rococo, Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Realism, Impressionism, Modernism
- Key works: The Swing, The Oath of the Horatii, The Starry Night, Les Femmes d'Alger (O.J. version)
- Themes: Revolution and Society, Innovation and Experimentation

Unit 5: Indigenous Americas (1000 BCE-1980 CE)

- Art of the Americas before and after European contact
- Key works: Chavín de Huántar, Machu Picchu, Transformation Mask
- Themes: Ritual and Cosmology, Identity and Politics

Unit 6: Africa (1100-1980 CE)

- Art from various African cultures and kingdoms
- Key works: Great Zimbabwe, Benin Plaques, Ndop (portrait figure) of King Mfonko
- Themes: Power and Authority, Ritual and Identity

Unit 7: West and Central Asia (500 BCE-1980 CE)

- Art from the Islamic world and surrounding regions
- Key works: Dome of the Rock, Great Mosque of Isfahan, Taj Mahal
- Themes: Religion and Sacred Spaces, Trade and Cultural Exchange

Unit 8: South, East, and Southeast Asia (300 BCE-1980 CE)

- Art from India, China, Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia
- Key works: Great Stupa at Sanchi, Terracotta Warriors, The Great Wave off Kanagawa
- Themes: Religion and Philosophy, Nature and the Environment

Unit 9: The Pacific (700-1980 CE)

- Art from Oceania, including Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia
- Key works: Moai on Easter Island, Navigation Chart, Presentation of Fijian mats and tapa cloths
- Themes: Navigation and Migration, Ritual and Society

Unit 10: Global Contemporary (1980 CE-Present)

- Art in the globalized world
 - Key works: Shirin Neshat's Rebellious Silence, Ai Weiwei's Sunflower Seeds, El Anatsui's Old Man's Cloth
 - Themes: Identity and Global Issues, Innovation and Media
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Assessment and Grading

- **Class Participation and Discussion:** 10%
- **Reading and Homework Assignments:** 30%
- **Quizzes and Tests:** 30%
- **Projects and Presentations:** 10%
- **Midterm Exam:** 20%

Grading Scale:

- A: 90-100%
- B: 80-89%
- C: 69.5-79%
- F: 69.4 and below

Late work policy: 70% credit for work turned in after the due date. Ask for an extension, and you will often be provided additional work time. Late work must be turned in a week within the due date.

Classroom Policies

- **Attendance:** Regular attendance is crucial. Students are expected to be present and on time for every class.
 - **Respect:** Respect for classmates, the instructor, and all materials is mandatory. This includes maintaining a clean workspace and handling supplies properly.
 - **Deadlines:** Assignments must be submitted on time. Late work will be penalized unless prior arrangements are made.
 - **Participation:** Active participation in class discussions, critiques, and activities is essential for success in this course.
 - **Academic Integrity:** Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.
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Important Dates

- **Midterm Exam:** December 2024
 - **AP Exam Review Sessions:** April 2025
 - **AP Art History Exam:** Thursday, May 15, 2025
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Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me during office hours or via email. I am here to support your academic growth and ensure you have a successful and enriching experience in AP Art History.

Student and Parent Acknowledgment

Please sign and return this section by 08/16/2024

I have read and understand the course syllabus for AP Art History.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

This syllabus provides a comprehensive outline for the AP Art History course, emphasizing a structured approach to learning art history while preparing students for the AP exam.

