

**ART 231: History of Western Art I**

Spring 2011

Clough Hall 417

MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am

Prof. Francesca Tronchin

Email: tronchinf@rhodes.edu

Office: Clough Hall 412

Office hours: Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 – 11:00 am,  
or by appointment**Course description**

This course examines the history of Western Art (architecture, painting, and sculpture) from the third millennium BCE to the fourteenth century CE—the prehistoric, ancient, and medieval periods. We will examine not only representative monuments from these periods, but also the historical and cultural contexts in which they were produced. There will be a strong emphasis, too, on questions of analysis and interpretation—including, in some cases, the changing history of the works' reception. A main goal is to impart not only a body of knowledge but also a set of critical tools, which the students should be able to apply to material not specifically covered in this course.

Students will learn to:

1. recognize representative monuments of architecture, sculpture, and painting from the Stone Age to the end of the medieval period;
2. both identify and explain the principal features of these monuments, using the appropriate art historical vocabulary;
3. discuss relevant aspects of the historic, social, and religious context for most of these monuments;
4. discuss the significance many of these monuments (or the historic styles they represent) had for later eras.

Students are encouraged to continue the survey of Western art in ART 232.

**Course materials**

Required: F. Kleiner, *Gardner's Art Through the Ages, Volume I*, 13<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2009.

Recommended: S. Barnet, *A Short Guide to Writing About Art*, 2009.

Earlier editions of these books are acceptable, but be advised that page numbers and some images will be different. These books are also available on reserve in Barret Library.

Additional course materials will be provided to the students through the course folder.

This material is for study purposes only and students should observe the honor code and copyright restrictions while making use of them.

### **Course requirements and grading**

Students should **read** the assigned passages in the textbook *before* the class meeting on that topic and be prepared to discuss relevant concepts and monuments in class.

There will be **three exams**—two during the term and one during the final exam period (see course schedule for dates and times). The exams will be comprised of slide identification and discussion, compare and contrast, and connoisseurship questions. *The exams are closed-book and are not cumulative* (i.e. the final covers the material from the class after the second exam to the last day of class). More details about the exams will be presented in class.

The exam material comes from class lectures, class discussion, and reading assignments. Memorization of dates, names, and places will only make up a small percentage of the grade on the exams. It is much more important that students learn the major stylistic developments in each period, the cultural and political contexts for the works of art, and why the monuments were created at their specific point in history.

Spelling does not “count” on exams, but students must make an effort to reproduce the spelling of names and places. Some leeway is allowed in providing dates on exams. Try to provide a date within 25 years of the one noted in lecture/textbooks. When specific dates are given (e.g. 447-432 BCE for the Parthenon), you should memorize that date. Understanding the relative chronology of the works studied in class is absolutely essential.

There will be **two short** (5-10 minute) **quizzes** given in class regarding geography (a map quiz) and art historical vocabulary. A list of terms will be provided well before the dates of the quizzes.

After the first exam, students will receive their **paper assignments**. The 1000-1500-word paper will be a visual analysis of a work of art in the Brooks Museum of Art. The paper is due April 15 in class.

### **Evaluation/Basis of grading**

Quizzes	10%
Paper	20%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	25%
Final exam	25%

If at any point in the semester you are concerned about your grade, please contact Professor Tronchin to receive an estimated evaluation of your standing.

**Attendance policy, make-up exams, and extensions**

Class attendance is *essential* for your understanding of the material. Monuments and objects not pictured or discussed in the textbook will frequently be addressed in class, so presence in lecture will be beneficial to your grade. Attendance will be taken on a regular basis, especially at the beginning of the semester so that Professor Tronchin can get to know you.

Make-up exams are only allowed *under compelling circumstances* (e.g., a death in the family) or in the case of illness. In the event of the latter, excused absences will be granted only with a physician's note. Please plan your semester wisely as make-up exams will not be granted for students leaving early for vacations or traveling for weddings, for example.

Extensions for paper assignments will only be granted under compelling circumstances and *before* the due date of the paper.

Students with extracurricular activities (athletics, mock trial, etc.) that will require them to miss one or more classes during the semester should speak to Prof. Tronchin before anticipated absences.

**Academic Integrity and the Honor Code**

All work for this course is to be completed in accordance with the Rhodes College Honor Code. Plagiarism in particular will not be tolerated. If you have questions about plagiarism, please speak to Prof. Tronchin.

### **Courtesy policies**

To avoid disturbing your classmates and instructor, please observe the following policies:

- Arrive to class on time.
- Please set all cell phones and other communication devices to a silent mode. Any student responding to a cell phone call while in class will be asked to leave and will not be allowed to return to that class meeting. No texting during class. It is distracting to both your professor and your fellow students.
- Using laptop computers is permitted in class. Using such a computer for IMing, gaming, Facebook, etc. is not allowed.
- Drinking (water, coffee) is permitted in class; eating is not.
- Be respectful of other points of view expressed by your fellow classmates.
- Be present—in both mind & body—at class meetings. You will get a much better rest in a bed than at your desk during a lecture. In other words: no sleeping in class.
- A good grade in this course comes from hard work, not from just showing up.

### **Suggestions for success** in this course (and others)

- Keep up with reading assignments.
- Spend time looking at the artworks included in the reading assignments and review material on a weekly basis. In other words: don't plan to cram the night before the exam.
- Begin written assignments early.
- Exchange email addresses or phone numbers with a few classmates; arrange a study group.
- Take advantage of instructor's office hours.
- Do not hesitate to ask questions or clarify points during class meetings.

### **Special Needs**

If a student has a documented disability and wishes to receive academic accommodations, the student should first contact the Office of Student Disability Services (x3994) and then provide the professor with an accommodation form *as soon as possible*.

**Course schedule** (subject to change)

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
	<b>January 12</b> Introduction to the course	<b>January 14</b> Introduction to Art History, Antiquity, and the Medieval Period  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 1-13
<b>January 17</b> <b>NO CLASS – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. DAY</b>	<b>January 19</b> Prehistoric Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 15-28	<b>January 21</b> Prehistoric Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 15-28
<b>January 24</b> The Ancient Near East  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 31-50	<b>January 26</b> The Ancient Near East  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 31-50	<b>January 28</b> Ancient Near East  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 31-50
<b>January 31</b> Egyptian Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 53-78	<b>February 2</b> Egyptian Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 53-78	<b>February 4</b> Egyptian Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 53-78
<b>February 7</b> The Prehistoric Aegean  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 81-97 <b>MAP QUIZ</b>	<b>February 9</b> The Prehistoric Aegean  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 81-97	<b>February 13</b>  Exam 1 review
<b>February 14</b>  <b>EXAM 1</b>	<b>February 16</b> Early Greek Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 99-105	<b>February 18</b> Archaic Greek Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 105-118
<b>February 21</b> Classical Greek Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 118-125, 134-137	<b>February 23</b> The Acropolis of Athens  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 125-133	<b>February 25</b> Late Classical Greek Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 137-144

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
<b>February 28</b> Hellenistic Greek Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 145-155	<b>March 2</b> Etruscan Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 223-235	<b>March 4</b> Art of the Roman Republic  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 237-244
<b>March 7</b> The Early Roman Empire  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 254-260	<b>March 9</b> The Cities of Vesuvius  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 244-253	<b>March 11</b> The High Roman Empire  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 260-267
<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	<b>ENJOY!</b>
<b>March 21</b> The High Roman Empire, continued  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 267-276	<b>March 23</b> The Late Roman Empire  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 276-287	<b>March 25</b>  Exam 2 review
<b>March 28</b>  <b>EXAM 2</b>	<b>March 30</b> Late Antiquity/Early Christian Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 289-309	<b>April 2</b> Byzantine Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 311-327
<b>April 4</b> Byzantine Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 327-339	<b>April 6</b> Early Medieval Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 407-415	<b>April 8</b> Carolingian and Ottonian Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 415-429

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
<b>April 11</b> Romanesque Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 431-445 <b>VOCABULARY QUIZ</b>	<b>April 13</b> Romanesque Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 445-453	<b>April 15</b> Romanesque Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 453-459 <b>PAPERS DUE</b>
<b>April 18</b> Gothic Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 461-486	<b>April 20</b>  NO CLASS – EASTER RECESS	<b>April 22</b>  NO CLASS – EASTER RECESS
<b>April 25</b> Gothic Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 461-486	<b>April 27</b> Gothic Art  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 486-495	<b>April 29</b> Art of Italy in the 13 <sup>th</sup> Century  Reading: Kleiner, pp. 497-517
		<b>MAY 7</b>  <b>FINAL EXAM: 5:30 PM</b>