

ART 231: History of Western Art I

Fall 2011

Clough Hall 417

MWF 1:00 – 1:50 pm

Prof. Francesca Tronchin

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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, The Western Perspective, Volume I*, 13th 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 **four exams**—three 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 first three exams are closed-book and are not cumulative.* The final exam will include one essay question which deals with “big picture” concepts which have been covered over the course of the semester. 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. A list of monuments for each lecture will be provided to students to use as a study guide.

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 learn that date. Understanding the relative chronology of the works studied in class is absolutely essential.

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 December 2 in class.

EVALUATION/BASIS OF GRADING

Paper	20%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Exam 4	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.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

A TRUTH: Technology breaks. Servers go down, formats are not compatible, files become corrupt. The list goes on. These are not considered emergencies. They are part of the normal production process. Protect yourself by managing your time and backing up your work. Do not trust your computer to function correctly at the last minute! Technological malfunctions will not be accepted as an excuse for late work.

CONTACTING PROF. TRONCHIN

- Email is best: tronchinf@rhodes.edu
- Please include **ART231** somewhere in the subject line of your email.
- Treat emails to your professor as professional correspondence; please use proper grammar, spelling, salutations & sign-offs.

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*.

SAFE ZONE

Professor Tronchin, her classrooms, and her office are Safe Zones. See the following page if you are unfamiliar with Safe Zones on the Rhodes campus:

<http://www.rhodes.edu/campuslife/11503.asp> Please do not hesitate to speak with Prof. Tronchin about LGBTIQ issues.

COURSE SCHEDULE

NB: Dates and topics are subject to change. Such changes will be announced in class and by email.

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
	August 24 Introduction to the course	August 26 Introduction to Art History, Antiquity, & the Medieval Period Reading: Kleiner, pp. xix-xxxi
August 28 Prehistoric Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 1-14	August 31 Prehistoric Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 1-14	September 2 The Ancient Near East Reading: Kleiner, pp. 17-28
September 5 NO CLASS Labor Day	September 7 Ancient Near East Reading: Kleiner, pp. 29-37	September 9 Egyptian Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 39-50
September 12 Egyptian Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 50-58 MAP QUIZ	September 14 Egyptian Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 58-65	September 16 The Prehistoric Aegean Reading: Kleiner, pp. 67-76
September 19 The Prehistoric Aegean Reading: Kleiner, pp. 76-83	September 21 EXAM 1	September 23 Early Greek Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 87-91
September 26 Archaic Greek Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 91-102	September 28 Archaic Greek Art & the Transition to the Classical Period Reading: Kleiner, pp. 103-109	September 30 Classical Greek Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 109-111, 119-123

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
October 3 The Acropolis of Athens Reading: Kleiner, pp. 111-119	October 5 Late Classical Greek Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 123-130	October 7 Hellenistic Greek Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 131-140
October 10 Etruscan Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 143-155	October 12 EXAM 2	October 14 Art of the Roman Republic Reading: Kleiner, pp. 157-164
October 17 NO CLASS Fall Recess	October 19 The Early Roman Empire Reading: Kleiner, pp. 174-183	October 21 The Cities of Vesuvius Reading: Kleiner, pp. 164-173
October 24 The High Roman Empire Reading: Kleiner, pp. 183-196	October 26 The High Roman Empire, continued Reading: Kleiner, pp. 183-196	October 28 The Late Roman Empire Reading: Kleiner, pp. 196-207
October 31 Art of Late Antiquity Reading: Kleiner, pp. 209-229	November 2 Art of Late Antiquity Reading: Kleiner, pp. 209-229	November 4 Byzantine Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 231-247
November 7 Byzantine Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 247-259	November 9 EXAM 3	November 11 Early Medieval Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 285-293
November 14 Carolingian and Ottonian Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 293-307	November 16 Romanesque Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 309-323	November 18 Romanesque Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 323-331
November 21 Romanesque Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 331-337 VOCABULARY QUIZ	November 23 NO CLASS – Thanksgiving	November 25 NO CLASS – Thanksgiving

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
November 28 Gothic Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 339-351	November 30 Gothic Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 352-364	December 2 Gothic Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 364-367
December 5 Gothic Art Reading: Kleiner, pp. 367-373	December 7 Art of Italy in the 13 th and 14 th Centuries Reading: Kleiner, pp. 375-386	December 9 Exam Review/Catch-Up
December 12 Final Exam, 1PM		