History of Art I

Art History 1305 is an undergraduate survey of the principal monuments and currents of Near Eastern, West European and Mediterranean art from the Paleolithic period (Old Stone Age) through the Late Middle Ages, circa 30000 BC - 1250 AD. Major works of painting, sculpture and architecture from various civilizations will be studied and analyzed within their historical, socio-political, theological and cultural contexts, and the evolution of styles and techniques will be considered from a variety of perspectives. This course will also focus on questions of iconography (content and meaning), symbolism, reception and ideology.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Grossman earned his B.A. in Art History and English at the University of California-Berkeley, and his M.A., M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Art History at Columbia University. After seven years of residence in Tuscany, he completed his dissertation on the civic architecture, urbanism and iconography of the Sienese Republic in the Middle Ages and Early Renaissance. He served on the faculty of the School of Art and Design at San Jose State University in 2006-2009, taught art history for Stanford University in 2007-2009, and joined the Department of Art at the University of Texas at El Paso as Assistant Professor of Art History in 2009. During summers he is Coordinator of the Roma Aeterna summer study abroad program while he conducts research in Italy for his publications. He has presented papers and chaired sessions at conferences throughout the United States, including at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, and in Europe, at the biennial meetings of the European Architectural History Network. In April 2014 he presented his paper, “Ghibellines, Guelphs and the Piazza San Cristoforo of Siena in the Duecento,” at the 67th Annual Meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians in Austin. The following June he presented another paper, “Sienese Fortifications in the Age of the Guelph Commune,” at the 3rd International Meeting of the European Architectural History Network in Turin, Italy. In May 2015, the Italian Art Society sponsored his triple session, “Civic Foundation Legends in Medieval Italian Art,” for the 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan. In October 2015 he will give a lecture at Humanities West in San Francisco, “Italian Civic Palaces in the Age of the City Republics.” In the same month he will deliver a speech on the architecture of Henry C. Trost before the El Paso chapter of the American Institute of Architects. His book review of Fabio Gabrielli, Siena medievale: l’architettura civile (Siena: Protagon, 2010) was published by CAA Reviews during fall 2012, and his article “A Case of Double Identity: The Public and Private Faces of the Palazzo Tolomei in Siena” was published in the Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians in March 2013. His conference paper, “Sienese Fortifications in the Age of the Guelph Commune,” was published in
Investigating and Writing Architectural History: Subjects, Methodologies and Frontiers (Turin, Italy: Politecnico di Torino, 2014). His proposal for a co-edited volume entitled Condottieri and Courtly Culture in Renaissance Latium: The Orsini of Bracciano was submitted to Yale University Press for consideration in December 2014. He is currently preparing the main arguments of his doctoral thesis, the first synthetic treatment of the total architectural production of an Italian city-state, for submission to various journals. At present, his research focuses on the political iconography of the Sienese commune, as manifest in painting, sculpture, architecture, coinage, seals and manuscripts. In addition, he is studying the development of the Italian civic palace, from its origins in the twelfth century through its final transformations in the quattrocento, with the aim of challenging and revising accepted paradigms while forming a new critical apparatus for interpreting the architecture and urbanism of medieval and Renaissance city-states. Off campus, Dr. Grossman serves as Vice-Chair of the El Paso County Historical Commission, where he presides over the Architectural Preservation Committee, whose mission is to formulate and implement strategies for protecting the architectural heritage of El Paso while promoting the economic development of the historic districts of both the city and county.

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. To acquire a deep appreciation of the major Near Eastern, West European and Mediterranean artworks of the period between circa 30,000 BC and 1250 AD, and an understanding of the diverse historical, cultural and socio-political conditions of their creation.

2. To master basic art historical terminology and attain the necessary analytical and critical skills for identifying, describing, dating and interpreting artworks.

3. To understand how artists from various periods communicated meaning and truth through form, structure, content, symbols and narrative as well as through literary, philosophical, political, theological and rhetorical stratagems.

4. To develop a capacity to respond to works of art both analytically and affectively, and to improve one’s ability to write clearly, concisely and coherently.

5. To build a solid intellectual foundation on which to expand one’s knowledge of art history in specialized upper-division courses.

**COURSE PREREQUISITES**

There are no mandatory prerequisites for Art History 1305, however completion of English 1311 or 1611 or ESOL 1311 (or concurrent enrollment therein) is highly recommended.
**COURSE FORMAT AND GRADING**

All lectures will be accompanied by digitally projected images of artworks. In addition to regular readings, students will be required to take two scheduled midterms, write a paper of five to six pages on a topic to be assigned in class, and take a cumulative final examination. The final grade will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #1</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm #2</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
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Make-up examinations will only be permitted following a documented emergency or illness.

Papers must be submitted at the start of class on the due date or will not be accepted. Unexcused failure to submit the paper on time or to show up for an exam will automatically result in a grade of 0% (F). There will be no extra-credit assignments. All grades will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-93%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>84-86%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>64-66%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-63%</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
<td>F</td>
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Those students who will earn a failing grade (F) for the course no matter how well they perform on the final examination will not be permitted to take the final examination.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOR**

Attendance at all class meetings is absolutely mandatory as well as essential for success in this course since a substantial portion of the material on the midterms and final examination will be discussed only in lectures and will not be available in the assigned readings. Students who do not plan to attend every single lecture (and punctually) are advised to drop the course immediately and re-register in the future, when perfect attendance will not be an issue. Role will be taken at the start of every class. Students are required to arrive on time, refrain from talking, eating, sleeping, kicking up their feet, and using electronic devices; and they must remain for the duration of the class. The following rules are expected to be observed:

1. Students who arrive late must see the instructor after class in order to be marked as present. Arrival in class 30 minutes late or more will be counted as an absence.

2. If a student must leave early and has a documented excuse, the instructor must be informed before the start of class; otherwise the student will be marked as absent. Only serious illness or an actual emergency is a legitimate excuse.

3. In the event of an excusable absence, the instructor must be notified by email within 24 hours and written documentation of the absence must be presented to him within one week.
Each unexcused absence will result in a 2% reduction of the final grade. Each late arrival will be counted as half an unexcused absence and thus result in a 1% reduction of the final grade. Five unexcused absences will automatically result in a failing grade (F) for the course. Two unexcused absences between the first class and Census Day (February 3) will result in an automatic and permanent drop from the course.

Any student who engages in disrespectful behavior may be expelled from the classroom and marked as absent. In the event of a second offense, that student may be permanently expelled from the course and, if the drop deadline has passed, assigned a final course grade of “F”.

**ADDING, DROPPING, WITHDRAWALS, PASS/FAIL, INCOMPLETES**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about adding and dropping, and for withdrawing from the course in a timely manner if it becomes necessary. February 12 is the last day to select the Pass/Fail option and April 1 is the last day to drop the course. See [http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=75507](http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=75507). An incomplete grade (I) can be assigned at the discretion of the instructor and approval of the department chair; in order to be granted an “Incomplete”, the student must be passing the course and encountering a legitimate emergency beyond his/her control that requires extra time to complete the coursework.

**LAPTOP COMPUTERS AND NOTE-TAKING**

The use of computers and other electronic devices (including recording devices) is prohibited during class. It is important that students focus their attention on the lectures and projected images without distractions and that they take careful and detailed notes. Students should write down and memorize key terms, phrases and dates. Any student caught using an electronic device during class may be marked as absent and expelled from the classroom.

**BLACKBOARD**

All files posted on Blackboard are the intellectual property of the instructor and may only be used for Art History 1305, except with his written consent. These include but are not limited to:

1) The course syllabus.

2) A study sheet listing key artworks in the order in which they appear in the course and textbook. This should be brought to class so that lectures may be followed easily.

3) PowerPoint lecture files corresponding to each section of the course. These include all key artworks from the lectures as well as dates, terms, and other information.

4) PowerPoint flashcard files that contain all the study sheet images that must be memorized for exams.
PREPARATION FOR EXAMS

Attendance at all lectures, punctual completion of all assignments, and regular review and memorization of key artworks are essential for earning a passing grade on examinations. The two midterms and final will each consist of four sections:

1) Image identifications
2) Multiple-choice questions
3) Fill-in-the-blanks
4) Essays

To prepare for the exams, students should use the PowerPoint lectures files along with their notes and textbook to review all the course material very thoroughly. The major artistic periods and themes should be well understood, as well as all chronological sequences and vocabulary terms (in yellow in the PowerPoint lecture files), and other important facts discussed in lectures.

Furthermore, the artworks on the study sheet must be completely memorized: the names of artists (when listed), the titles of artworks or buildings, locations (when listed), dates of execution (within a margin of error of 50 years), and mediums (when listed). The PowerPoint flashcard files are intended to help with memorization.

OFFICE HOURS AND APPOINTMENTS

The instructor will be available during office hours (T 12:00-1:30pm, Th 10:30am-12:00pm) or by appointment, and can best be reached via his email address: megrossman@utep.edu.

TEACHING ASSISTANT

The teaching assistant for this course is Melanie Rodriguez. She will assist the instructor in grading exams and she will grade the papers at the end of the term. She will also be responsible for administering make-up exams for those students who have special permission to take them. She may be reached at mlrodriguez3@utep.edu and her office is located in Fox Fine Arts A461.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Recommended Reference Texts:

Hall, James, *Illustrated dictionary of symbols in Eastern and Western art* (London: John Murray, 1994).


Recommended Writing Aids:


**THE UTEP LIBRARY AND COURSE RESERVE SHELF**

The university’s main library is an invaluable resource and contains many relevant books and periodicals. Some of these may be placed on the course reserve shelf, located at ground level. Students are welcome to contact the library staff for assistance with research.

**POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY**

Cheating, plagiarism or collusion on any assignment or test will be reported to the Dean of Students and may result in a failing grade for the course and/or other disciplinary action. All papers must be original to the course (with no recycling of work from another class), meet all the requirements of the assignment, and properly cite all sources, including from the internet. Most importantly, all direct citations must be set in quotations and footnoted. See the UTEP policy on academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty: [http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/](http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/)

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with limitations due to disabilities provided that they contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) and
procure the proper documentation: http://sa.utep.edu/cass (tel: 747-5148). Students with documented disabilities must meet with the instructor within the first two weeks of class, with CASS documentation in hand, in order to inform him of any special needs. If particular accommodations are required for the midterms and final examination, the instructor must be informed and presented with the appropriate CASS documentation at least ten days before each scheduled test or no accommodations will be permitted.

COURSE SYLLABUS

The readings are intended to complement the lectures. The instructor may announce modifications to the syllabus during the semester, with fair notice. It is expected that the reading assignments will be completed each week in a timely manner (by the Tuesday after they are assigned) in order that students are adequately prepared for the corresponding lectures as well as the examinations.

Gardner’s “Introduction” and chap. 1 (to be read by Jan. 21).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 19</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 21</td>
<td>Art Before History: Paleolithic and Neolithic Art</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gardner’s, chap. 2.</td>
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<td>Jan. 26</td>
<td>Ancient Near East: Sumer and Akkad</td>
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<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>Ancient Near East: Babylon, Assyria and Persia</td>
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<td>Gardner’s, chap. 3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>Egypt Under the Pharaohs: Predynastic Era to the Old Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 4</td>
<td>Egypt Under the Pharaohs: Middle Kingdom and New Kingdom</td>
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<td>Gardner’s, chaps. 4 and 5 (85-104).</td>
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<td>Feb. 9</td>
<td>Prehistoric Aegean: Cycladic, Minoan and Mycenaean Art</td>
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<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td>Ancient Greece: 8th Century B.C. to Archaic</td>
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<td>Gardner’s, chap. 5 (104-30).</td>
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<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Ancient Greece: Archaic to High Classical</td>
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<td>Feb. 18</td>
<td>Ancient Greece: High Classical to Late Classical</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gardner’s, chap. 5 (131-41).</td>
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<td>Feb. 23</td>
<td>MIDTERM #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 25</td>
<td>Ancient Greece: Late Classical to Hellenistic</td>
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Gardner’s, chap. 6.

Mar. 1 Ancient Greece: Hellenistic (PAPER ASSIGNED)
Mar. 3 Etruscans

Gardner’s, chap. 7 (157-83).

Mar. 15 Roman Republic
Mar. 17 Roman Empire: Julio-Claudians and Flavians

Gardner’s, chap. 7 (183-207).

Mar. 22 Roman Empire: Julio-Claudians and Flavians
Mar. 24 Roman Empire: Trajan to Constantine

Gardner’s, chap. 8.

Mar. 29 Late Antiquity
Mar. 31 Late Antiquity

Gardner’s, chap. 9 (231-35).

Apr. 5 MIDTERM #2
Apr. 7 Byzantine Empire

Gardner’s, chaps. 9 (235-48) and 10 (261-69).

Apr. 12 Byzantine Empire
Apr. 14 Islam

Gardner’s, chap. 11.

Apr. 19 Early Medieval Europe: Germanic and Insular
Apr. 21 Early Medieval Europe: Carolingians and Ottonians

Gardner’s, chap. 12.

Apr. 26 Romanesque (PAPER DUE)
Apr. 28 Romanesque

Gardner’s, chap. 13.

May 3 Gothic
May 5 Gothic

May 10 FINAL EXAM: 10:00am-12:45pm