University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
School of Art

ART HISTORY I
ARTS 1303-90L

INSTRUCTOR: Dr Riccardo Pizzinato
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Office Hours By appointment
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Lecture Time/Place Online

Course Description
This course is an introductory survey of Western art and architecture from Prehistory to the late Middle Ages. It covers the arts of the ancient civilizations of Egypt and the Near East, Greece and Rome; and the arts of the Middle Ages, from the Early Christian and Byzantine worlds through Medieval, Romanesque, and Gothic art. The course looks at works of sculpture, architecture, wall and vase painting, mosaic, manuscript illumination, and other media. We will discuss problems of the social context of art, its historical circumstances, religious and ritual significance, patronage, the impact of the individual artist, and the role of those who have been the viewers of art. We will consider what constitutes understanding and explanation in art history, and some of the different ways we can approach a work of art and grasp its various meanings.

Course Objectives
The course’s principal objective is to help you to achieve not only a visual and chronological familiarity with western art but also to comprehend its language, to understand the different styles, and the social and economic contexts involved in its creation.

UTRGV Core Learning Objective Terms: CT: critical thinking; Com: communication skills, verbal, visual, and written; TW: teamwork; SR: social responsibility.

By the end of this course, the active student should expect to meet these learning outcomes:

a. within the historical parameters of the course, achieve a general overview of the history and development of art, its major periods, movements, concepts, and artists, and its historical, social, cultural, religious, and political contexts (CT);

b. learn how to look at, analyze, and describe works of visual art (CT & Com);

c. develop an understanding and appreciation of the art forms, media, iconography, styles, and techniques as expressed in painting, sculpture, and architecture (CT);

d. develop an extensive art historical terminology/vocabulary of art history and analysis adequate enough to express yourself critically about art (CT & Com);

e. communicate views with others and gain insight to other perspectives (CT, Com & TW);

f. understand and appreciate what it is you are looking at when you travel and/or go to a museum (CT);

g. relate art history to broader life experiences and the contemporary world (SR).
Textbook and Required Readings
It is available for rent and purchase at the University Bookstore and online marketplaces. You can purchase it as an eBook or as Paperback. I would recommend rent it or buying it online for $18 on the Cengage Website. Make sure to purchase the volume I (*The Western Perspective*) 14th edition, which was published in 2014 (see below for specifics). Do not purchase any older editions or value editions. Moreover, you do not have to buy any additional features (LaunchPad etc). The book will do.

Course Format, Assignments, and Deadlines
Art History I is a 3.00 credit hours class. Since 1.00 credit hour translates into 3.00 “real” hours per week, you are expected to spend 9 hours per week on course work. Keep this in mind when planning your workweeks and your entire semester. Moreover, this class is reading extensive. The abilities to read and comprehend different forms of written documents (discern their meaning, argument etc.) and to express one's own ideas and arguments in a clear and coherent is not only vital for the study of art history. Academic writing requires you to think carefully, and critically, to break down and analyze complex ideas and arguments. Possessing these skills can give you an edge in today’s highly competitive, demanding, and diverse workforce and enable you to maneuver the complex world we live in.

Online Lectures, Quizzes, and Discussion Boards
This course consists of five weeks with three lectures (power points) per week, which can be found in the folders titled weekly course material. You must view the power point lectures (in the folder) assigned for each week. This course will have 5 quizzes that will be available every week (on Friday) of the summer term. It will also have 5 discussion boards.
Each week you have to complete a certain set of tasks/assignments:
1. You have to complete the assigned readings.
2. You have to view and study the power points.
3. You have to participate in the discussion board.
4. You have to prepare for a test that quizzes you every week on your readings using multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, questions, etc.

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<tr>
<td>5 Tests</td>
<td>75% (15% each)</td>
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<td>5 Discussion Boards</td>
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Quizzes
Each week there will be a short quiz that will consist of 15 questions. The quiz will open the last 3 days of the week (Friday-Sunday) and must be completed in about 20 minutes. Your final quiz grade will account for 10% of your final score in the course. Therefore, it is best to think of these as a way to make sure that you have a grasp of the material in the readings and online power points. In the quizzes, you will identify art history terms and periods of art with fill in the blank, multiple-choice and True/False questions. In the quizzes, you must identify the artworks and the period associated with each artwork. Lists of vocabulary terms as well as of important artworks will be available for each week. All power point lectures will also be posted on Blackboard to help provide good study aids.

The key to good grades: read carefully the textbook and learn the key art historical terms (these are provided in the power points and available in the vocabulary at the end of the textbook). Remember, images are active works of art that embody meaning within the specific time and place of their creation. The images that we discuss functioned to communicate social meaning or the intentions of a maker. These artworks communicate meaning that we can discuss through the use of key art historical terms. Please understand these art history terms that you see on the power points so you can think and write critically about the works discussed:
1. **Composition** (How is the artwork organized? How is space conveyed or not conveyed? What does this mean for the period the artwork was produced?);

2. **Subject matter** (What is represented? How is this subject relevant to the person who made this artwork? How does this subject convey meaning?);

3. **Period** (What is the Period Style, or traits in the artwork that can be associated with a particular historical era? What are they peculiar characteristics?);

4. **Technique** (How does the technique transform the artwork? How does it communicate the artist’s intentions?).

**Discussion Boards**
Participation on the discussion board is an integral part of the course. Specifically, since we will not be meeting face-to-face, the discussion board will serve the function of interaction with your fellow students. Please make sure to be active on the discussion board as this will be a large part of your final grade in the course. Here is some important information you should know regarding the discussion board:

- Your discussion board grade will account for 25% of your final grade.
- There will be two discussion questions each week.
- Your initial post will only account for a portion of your grade on each week’s question. It is also important to respond to your fellow student’s posts and address any question or comments posted to your thread. You are expected to respond to at least two of your fellow students’ posts. In order to receive credit for responses, they must contribute to the discussion. Specifically, you will be expected to ask questions or provide your thoughts. Your responses must be posted by the end of the week.

- Two criteria will guide the evaluations:
  1. Clarity and originality of posts and comments.
  2. The degree to which class members' learning was enriched by those comments and posts. Quality of the contributions is more important than quantity. In other words, posts and comments will not be evaluated on the basis of frequency or length. They will be evaluated solely on the basis of quality.

- Finally, I encourage all of you to share your thoughts and opinions. This will add greatly to the learning environment. However, disagreements will occur throughout the semester. Therefore, please make sure to voice your opinions in a manner that is respectful and thoughtful of your fellow students.

**Requirements**
It is important that you attend the illustrated lectures as they provide visual information that cannot always be found in the readings. You **must** complete the weekly assigned readings and study the power points. The quizzes and short answer questions will focus on the illustrated lectures and readings.

**Deadlines**
All lectures will be posted on Monday of each week. All tests will be available on Friday at noon and they have to be taken by Sunday at midnight. All tests are taken online on Blackboard. **You will have about 25 minutes to complete each online Test.**

**Rules of the Road**
1. **Tests can not be completed after the deadline (Sunday at midnight).** Exceptions are only made in cases of well-documented dire emergencies (e.g. death or severe illnesses in the family; student suffers from illness/disease/disorder that prevents him/her to complete work on time; complications during pregnancy or childbirth; loss of housing). Please note that for every case you have to submit some form of official documentation (an official hospital or doctor’s note; official note from the funeral home; official note from your electricity company in case of power outages etc).
2. **No extra-credit** will be offered or accepted in this class. Thus, make sure to care and keep track of your performance from the beginning of the semester. You can track your own progress by checking “My Grades.” Make-up assignments will only be granted and offered in case of well-documented emergencies.

3. **Online Etiquette (Netiquette).** Be polite! Be respectful! When communicating electronically, whether through email, instant message, discussion post, text, or some other method, practice the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. Be respectful of your professor, your classmates and their opinions. (Before you press “send” or “submit,” ask yourself, “Would I be okay with this if someone else had written it?”) Given the absence of face-to-face clues, written text can easily be offensive and misinterpreted. Avoid, for example, the use of strong, aggressive and offensive language, the excessive use of exclamation points, emojis, humor, and sarcasm.

4. **Email Standards.** Do not hesitate to contact your professor if you have any questions or concerns. When contacting your professor (or any other person) make sure to start your email with an appropriate greeting (e.g. “Dear Dr. …” or “Dear Professor …”); if you email a person for the first time, you should introduce yourself (e.g. My name is … and I am in your course …); pay attention to grammar, spelling, and punctuation; make sure that you properly sign off your email (e.g. Cordially, …/Sincerely, …/ With the best wishes, …).

5. **Scholastic Integrity.** As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

6. **Sexual Harassment, Discrimination and Violence.** In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

7. **Disabilities.** If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu.

8. **Mandatory Course Evaluations.** Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Online evaluations will be available July 2, 2019. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.
SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Note: this outline provides a framework for our course, and while I try to stay on schedule, it may be necessary to make modifications due to any unforeseen circumstances. Any modifications will be announced on Blackboard.

Required textbook:

Week 1 (June 1-7)
The Paleolithic and Neolithic Arts
Mesopotamian Empires and The Art of the Ancient Near East
The Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt
Required Reading: Kleiner, et al., Chaps. 1-3, pp. 14-83.
Online Test, June 5-7.

Week 2 (June 8-14)
Temples, Palaces, and Citadels: Aegean Art
Greek Art and Architecture
Required Reading: Kleiner, et al., Chaps. 4-5, pp. 84-163.
Online Test, June 12-14.

Week 3 (June 15-21)
Etruscan Art
Roman Art and Architecture
Required Reading: Kleiner, et al., Chaps. 6-7, pp. 164-231.
Online Test, June 19-21.

Week 4 (June 22-28)
Early Christian Art and Architecture
The Glory of Byzantium: Byzantine Architecture, Mosaics, and Painting
Early Medieval Art
Required Reading: Kleiner, et al., Chaps. 8-11, pp. 232-281; 306-331.
Online Test, June 26-28.
Week 5 (June 29-July 5)
Romanesque Art and Architecture
Gothic Art and Architecture

Required Reading: Kleiner, et al., Chaps. 12-14, pp. 331-421.
Online Test, July 3-6.