



蘇州大學
Soochow University

ART 210 Art and Visual Culture: From Prehistory to the Early Renaissance

Summer 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email:TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course provides a comprehensive survey of art and visual culture from prehistoric times to the early Renaissance period. Students will explore the development of artistic expression across various cultures and civilizations, examining significant artworks, architectural achievements, and cultural contexts. Through analysis of art forms including painting, sculpture, architecture, and decorative arts, students will gain an understanding of the socio-cultural, religious, and historical factors that shaped visual culture during this period.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Develop an understanding of the major artistic movements and styles from prehistoric times to the early Renaissance;
2. Analyze significant artworks and architectural achievements within their cultural and historical contexts;
3. Explore the roles of art and visual culture in shaping societies and civilizations;
4. Develop critical thinking skills through the interpretation and evaluation of artworks;
5. Enhance visual literacy and communication skills through discussions and presentations;
6. Appreciate the diversity of artistic traditions and perspectives across different regions and time periods;



7. Foster an appreciation for the continuity and evolution of artistic traditions from antiquity to the Renaissance.

PREREQUISITES

ENG 110 English Essay Writing; ENG 221 Academic Writing

GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
4 Writing Reports	40 Points
Presentation	10 Points
Midterm Exam	25 Points
Final Exam	25 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F.$$

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

1. Randall White, *Prehistoric Art: Symbolic Journey of Humankind*, 2003, Harry N. Abrams, Inc.
2. Marilyn Stokstad, Michael W. Cothren, *Art History*, 2017, Pearson.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
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Module 1	<p>Topics: Topic 1: Prehistoric Art: Cave Paintings and Sculptures Topic 2: Ancient Near Eastern Art and Architecture Topic 3: Egyptian Art: Pyramids, Sculpture, and Hieroglyphics Topic 4: Ancient Greek Art: Sculpture, Pottery, and Architecture</p> <p>Assessments: Writing Report #1</p>
Module 2	<p>Topics: Topic 5: Etruscan Art and Funerary Practices Topic 6: Roman Art and Engineering: Mosaics, Sculpture, and Aqueducts Topic 7: Early Christian Art: Catacombs and Basilicas Topic 8: Byzantine Art and Iconography</p> <p>Assessments: Writing Report #2</p>
Module 3	<p>Topics: Topic 9: Byzantine Art and Iconography Topic 10: Early Medieval Art in Europe: Manuscripts and Metalwork Topic 11: Romanesque Architecture and Sculpture Topic 12: Gothic Art and Architecture: Cathedrals, Stained Glass, and Sculpture</p> <p>Assessments: Midterm Exam</p>
Module 4	<p>Topics: Topic 13: Italian Renaissance Art: Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture Topic 14: Early Renaissance in Northern Europe: Painting and Altarpieces Topic 15: Renaissance Humanism and Artistic Patronage Topic 16: Renaissance Portraiture and Individualism</p> <p>Assessments: Writing Report #3</p>
Module 5	<p>Topics: Topic 17: Classical Mythology in Renaissance Art Topic 18: Scientific Innovation and Perspective in Art Topic 19: Artistic Techniques and Materials: Fresco, Tempera, and Oil Painting Topic 20: Devotional Art and Religious Iconography</p> <p>Assessments: Writing Report #4</p>



Module 6	<p>Topics: Topic 21: Artistic Guilds and Workshops Topic 22: Courtly Art and Royal Patronage Topic 23: Artistic Exchange and Cultural Diplomacy Topic 24: Gender and Identity in Renaissance Art</p> <p>Assessments: Presentation Final Exam</p>
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ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.



TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.