

**ART HISTORY 105  
HISTORY OF WESTERN ART**

**BULLETIN INFORMATION**

ARTH 105: History of Western Art (3 credit hours)

**Course Description:**

The visual arts from Paleolithic times to the Renaissance

**SAMPLE COURSE OVERVIEW**

A survey course that examines the history of Prehistoric art (ca. 30,000 BCE) through late Gothic art (ca. 1350 CE). A rich variety of cultural expression, that includes painting, sculpture and architecture, will be used to address some of the ways art historians understand and interpret art. This course will emphasize the historical and social contexts of human-made objects: their historical, ritual or religious significance, as well as the maker, user and patron. It will encourage you to develop your skills of looking at and seeing works of art, and begin to explore ideas of understanding, interpreting and explaining in the field of art history. This syllabus will serve as your guide to reading assignments, test dates, and contact information. Our discussions will be guided by the following definitions of art and art history:

1. Art is the class of man-made objects with *an extra-utilitarian function*.
2. Art History is *informed speculation* on the production and reception of artworks, with a focus on how they functioned or were meant to function for their makers and/or users within their original contexts: biographical, social, and/or artistic.

**ITEMIZED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of ARTH 105, students will be able to:

1. Identify artistic monuments and works from the Western art tradition dating from prehistory through the fourteenth century
2. Recognize key elements that identify these works as belonging to specific cultures and specific periods of time
3. Explain and discuss the contexts in which these pieces were created and their relationships to subsequent works.

**SAMPLE REQUIRED TEXTS/SUGGESTED READINGS/MATERIALS:**

TBA

**SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAM**

1. **Exams:** There will be **four exams** in this class. Each exam will consist of two parts:
  - a. Name and term identifications and
  - b. An image identifications and discussions.

The names, terms and images for which you will be responsible will be clearly identified in class and listed on Blackboard. For the images you will be expected to know the classification/artist, title, approximate date (period dates are fine), the category or categories to which the work belongs. You will also be expected to discuss the given work's thematic and stylistic meaning and the function for which it was apparently produced, which is to say: who was it made for and what it was meant to provide for that viewer or those viewers.

2. Students may submit up to **4 critiques** of specified exhibitions for **extra credit**. (Extra credit reports will be accepted only on specific dates, not before or after.)

### **SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE WITH TIMELINE OF TOPICS, READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS/PROJECTS**

<b><u>Class 1:</u></b>	Introduction to ARTH 105
<b><u>Class 2:</u></b>	1. Prehistoric Art in Europe
<b><u>Class 3:</u></b>	2. Art of the Ancient Near East
<b><u>Class 4:</u></b>	2. Art of the Ancient Near East
<b><u>Class 5:</u></b>	3. Art of Ancient Egypt
<b><u>Class 6:</u></b>	3. Art of Ancient Egypt
<b><u>Class 7:</u></b>	TEST #1
<b><u>Class 8:</u></b>	4. Aegean Art
<b><u>Class 9:</u></b>	4. Aegean Art
<b><u>Class 10:</u></b>	5. Art of Ancient Greece
<b><u>Class 11:</u></b>	5. Art of Ancient Greece
<b><u>Class 12:</u></b>	5. Art of Ancient Greece
<b><u>Class 13:</u></b>	6. Etruscan Art
<b><u>Class 14:</u></b>	7. Roman Art
<b><u>Class 15:</u></b>	7. Roman Art
<b><u>Class 16:</u></b>	7. Roman Art

<b><u>Class 17:</u></b>	TEST #2
<b><u>Class 18:</u></b>	8. Early Christian Art
<b><u>Class 19:</u></b>	9. Byzantine Art
<b><u>Class 20:</u></b>	9. Byzantine Art
<b><u>Class 21:</u></b>	10. Middle Ages
<b><u>Class 22:</u></b>	10 Middle Ages & Romanesque
<b><u>Class 23:</u></b>	11. Romanesque Art
<b><u>Class 24:</u></b>	TEST #3
<b><u>Class 25:</u></b>	12. Gothic Art: 12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> Cent.
<b><u>Class 26:</u></b>	12. Gothic Art: 12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> Cent.
<b><u>Class 27:</u></b>	13. 14 <sup>th</sup> Century European Art
<b><u>Class 28:</u></b>	13. 14 <sup>th</sup> Century European Art
<b><u>Class 29:</u></b>	13. 14 <sup>th</sup> Century European Art
<b><u>Class 30:</u></b>	<b><u>Final Exam according to University exam schedule</u></b>