ART 1309-001: ART OF THE WEST I
Instructor: Dr. Mary Vaccaro

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Office hours: Tuesdays 12:30-1:30pm, and by appointment

This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in creative arts.

Description of Course Content:
This course is the first of two broad introductory surveys of the art and architecture of the West offered at the University of Texas at Arlington. Art 1309 covers art produced in the West (Europe, the Mediterranean basin and the Near East) from prehistory until the end of the sixteenth century, the period commonly known as the Renaissance.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Students will develop skills in the visual recognition of images and artistic styles.
2. Students will be able to analyze art in terms of its constituent formal elements and to make qualitative assessments.
3. Students will be able coherently to express analytical skills in verbal and written form. The student, if a practicing artist, may apply such principles to his or her own art.
4. Students will better understand artifacts and works of art in their specific social, historical, and political contexts. Students will also recognize the limits of historical and archeological evidence, especially with regard to prehistoric societies.
5. Students will interrogate the practices of history: they will question the relationship between art, power, and historiography, for example, in the establishment of a canon and its exclusions, or the imperial appropriation of art and artifacts (e.g., the Elgin Marbles).
6. Students are highly encouraged to form study groups and to support each other throughout the course when compiling research for their museum papers. In this capacity, they will be asked to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

Required text:

**Please note: the course requires the entire book (hardback) or both volumes (paperback) of the 13th edition (2009).**

Requirements:
Class attendance, (conventional) note-taking, and assigned reading are critical to each student’s successful completion of the class. The works of art presented in class lecture are keyed to the information in the illustrations found in required text. In order better to take notes, the student should bring the Slide Guide to class.

**LAP-TOP COMPUTERS OR CELL PHONES MAY NOT BE USED IN THE CLASSROOM:** Anyone caught using these devices will automatically receive an F for the attendance grade.

**Grading Policy:**
- Two quizzes 25% total
- Two exams 50% total
- Attendance 25% total

Dates of the quizzes and examinations are listed below (schedule of lectures). Absence from quizzes and examinations is permitted only in cases of extreme and documented emergency.

Each quiz/examination will include slide identifications (to test student’s visual recognition of images and memorization of related data) and short-answer questions (to gauge student’s understanding of conceptual/historical information covered in lectures and assigned readings).

**Performance Levels:**
- Excellent A
- Very good B
- Average C
- Weak D
- Unacceptable F

**Attendance Policy:**
Class attendance is mandatory and constitutes 25% of the total final grade. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class, and students who arrive late will not be counted. Anyone using unauthorized electronic devices will receive an F for attendance.

**Signature Assignment:**
The one page Exhibition Critique Paper will be assigned and discussed allowing students enough time to choose, research, and visit one of several museum exhibition options, which exhibit artworks and/or artifacts covered in the course this semester. This assignment will be ungraded and used for course assessment purposes. Students will use the knowledge and skills they gain in class from lectures and readings to analyze and discuss the exhibition, both in terms of its art historical themes and the presentation and display techniques applied, as well as the overall production of the exhibition as an artwork itself. In doing so, they will make direct references to various art historical theories used in the coordination of an exhibition, use artistic terms and
vocabulary that support their critique, as well as detail the cultural, political, and historical circumstances which support the exhibition’s art historical theme and its relevancy in today’s modern art market. This paper will develop the research and analytical skills needed to evaluate artifacts and artworks used in many professional art oriented communities, such as museums, galleries, and auction houses. It also will support the student’s ability to think critically, communicate their ideas and skills effectively in both verbal and written capacities, and underscore their comprehension of the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities, shall support the student’s personal engagement and comprehension of the art.

Final examination date:  TBA

Schedule of Lectures and Reading Assignments

Parenthesized page numbers refer to Gardner (required text) unless otherwise noted.

Jan 15  On the History of Art (1-13)
Jan 17  Art before Writing (14-29)
Jan 22  Mesopotamian Art (30-51)
Jan 24  Egyptian Art (52-79)
Jan 29  QUIZ!!
       Aegean Art (80-97)
Jan 31  The Legend of Atlantis
Feb  5  Greek Art I (98-118)
Feb  7  Greek Art II (118-137)
Feb 12  Greek Art III (137-155)
Feb 14  Pandora’s Box: The Roles of Women in Ancient Greece
Feb 19  Etruscan Art (222-235)
Feb 21  Roman Art I (236-254)
Feb 26  Roman Art II (254-270)
Feb 28  Roman Art III (270-287)
Mar  5  MIDTERM EXAMINATION
Mar  7  Early Christian Art (288-309)
March 12/14  No class-Spring Break
Mar 19  Byzantine Art and Art of the Holy Roman Empire (310-339, 415-429)
Mar 21  Romanesque Art (430-459)
Mar 26  Gothic Art (460-495)
Mar 28  Early Renaissance (13-14th-century Italy) (496-517)
Apr 2  Renaissance: Fifteenth-century Italy (540-577)
Apr 4  QUIZ!!
        Renaissance (continued)
Apr 9  Private Life of a Masterpiece: Leonardo’s Last Supper
Apr 11 Museum/bibliographic extra-credit assignment (TBA)
Apr 16 Renaissance: Northern Europe (518-539)
Apr 18 High Renaissance: Central Italy (578-588, 597-601)
Apr 23 Michelangelo and Mannerism (589-596, 612-615, 618-623)
Apr 25 High and Late Renaissance: Venice (602-611; 616-617)
Apr 30 High and Late Renaissance: Northern Europe (624-647)
May 2  Art and the Counter-Reformation

May 7  FINAL EXAMINATION 11am-1:30pm

Drop Policy: Please refer to the official drop policy for the University of Texas at Arlington.

Americans with Disabilities Act:
The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and
letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation
Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled Americans with
Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus
on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students
with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility
primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing
authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding
specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at
www.uta.edu/disability. Also students may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities (Room
102, University Hall) or call the Office at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity:
It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a
completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons
involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and
procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and
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." (Regents' Rules and Regulations,
Series 50101, Section 2.2)
Student Support Services Available:
UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Librarian to Contact: Beverly Carver, Fine Arts Librarian, Art and Architecture Library, UTA: bcarver@uta.edu

Student Feedback Survey:
At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

Electronic Communication:
UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.