

Sul Ross State University
Department of Fine Art & Communication
Art History I
ART 1303-001

Term: Spring 2020
Instructor: Valerie Breuvar
Email: vxb16rm@sulross.edu
Office hours: Wednesdays 4:30 pm – 6 pm, Room FAB06
Class time & location: Wednesdays 6:00-9:00 pm, WSB 201.

Course Summary:

Art History I is a lecture survey course that covers painting, sculpture, architecture and other art forms in Europe and the rest of the world from the prehistoric times to the Romanesque period (XIth century CE). Following a roughly chronological order, the course will study the historical, geographical, and cultural contexts as well as the artistic developments that marked the key regions and periods from the very first artistic expressions known to man to the eve of Gothic Art. After our first class on Prehistoric Art we will focus on the regions around the Mediterranean Sea, where some of the earliest organized civilizations and empires developed (Sumerians, Egyptians, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, early Islam). We will then travel the world eastbound and study the early civilizations of Asia, the Americas, and will finish the semester back in Europe during the Medieval period.

This course will include primarily lectures using power point, as well as student presentations and critical discussion thereof. There will be reading assignments due every week and a brief weekly test taken at the beginning of every class.

Course reading

The following title is needed for the course. It is very affordable and available second hand or new on the internet, as well as at the Sul Ross Wildenthal Library. It is required that you obtain or secure access to it throughout the semester, as weekly assignments will require you to read and study from it starting on the first class.

Gombrich, Ernst H. *The Story of Art*. London: Phaidon, 1995 (16th ed.)

Ernst Gombrich is one of the most celebrated art historians of the XXth century. His *Story of Art*—probably the biggest art history book success ever—is both thoroughly researched and beautifully written. Originally published in 1950, it has been revised multiple times until the author’s death in 2001. A pleasure to read, it is also an excellent source to refer to over and over again. If you have one art history book in your library, it should be this one!

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate a general knowledge of all major western art historical periods of the past.

- A. Display the ability to meet Texas Art History objectives: (TASA standards)
 - i. An ability to identify geographic centers, time periods and stylistic characteristics of major art movements.
 - ii. An ability to recognize individual styles of major artists and an understanding of the technical procedures for work in a variety of media.
 - iii. An understanding of the impact of individuals, historical events and religious and philosophical concepts on art making in various periods.
- B. Demonstrate proficiency in discipline-specific writing.
 - i. An ability to follow the correct writing style manual and utilize art historical terminology
 - ii. Write a good thesis statement and follow it with a defined argument and closing statement.

Course Objectives

- to gain a knowledge and understanding of the major artistic developments that took place between the Prehistoric and the Romanesque periods around the world;
- to understand the spatial and temporal connections between the different civilizations and movements studied in the course;
- to demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the art production and the specific historical, geographical, and cultural contexts of the different civilizations studied in the course;
- to demonstrate a general understanding of the history and basic methods of archaeology and art history;
- to understand and use appropriate art historical terminology;
- to be able to identify the style, period, technique of artworks from the various periods and regions covered by the course;
- to demonstrate an ability to process and reconcile all of the above through writing skills and a scientific method that can also be applicable to other fields.

Grading scale

Participation, 9 points
 Weekly tests 26 points (2 points per test x 13 weeks)
 Presentation to class, 20 points
 Mid-term Exam, 20 points
 Final Exam, 25 points

90-100%	A (Excellent)
80-89%	B (Good)
70-79%	C (Fair)
60-69%	D (Poor)
59% or lower	F (Failure)

Class assignments

Attendance and showing up to class with a willingness to learn is a requirement. In case of an absence, you are expected to warn the instructor by email in advance of the class, explaining the reason of your absence. If you do not do so, you will be penalized and lose 2 points of your overall

grade per unexcused absence. **No more than 2 absences throughout the semester will be tolerated, whether excused or unexcused.** If you are absent 3 or more classes, you will immediately get an I grade (Incomplete) for the semester.

Participation – 9 points:

Your participation will be graded throughout the semester based on your attention and level of participation. You are expected to demonstrate interest in the material presented by taking extensive notes, answering questions from the instructor, asking questions or initiating relevant conversation about the material.

Weekly tests – 26 points:

A 10-minute written test will be taken at the beginning of every session starting week 2, based on the reading assigned for the week and on the previous week's class. The instructor's Powerpoint will be posted on Blackboard at the end of each class, and the last slide always includes the reading due for the following week. Each weekly test should be carefully crafted and articulated, using full sentences only.

If you are absent, you can make up for the missed test by writing a summary of the reading that was due for the class you missed. Make sure you send me your paper via email **before** the beginning of the following class.

Each weekly test will be graded 2 points: 1 point for the format & style of the paper (looking at how concise, structured, and articulated your answer is), 1 point if the answer is correct.

Presentation to the class – 20 points:

Each student will prepare a presentation on a work or body of work and present it to the class at a set date according to schedule. Presentations need to be carefully crafted, about 20 minutes long and include slides accompanied by your oral presentation to the class (preferably spoken, not read).

Your presentation should include many images. You should also prepare a printed outline and bibliography, and provide it to students and instructor.

After each presentation there will be a period for questions and comments from students and instructor.

Mid-term and final exams – 20 and 25 points:

Each exam will include a quiz (with multiple-choice answer), and one or two essay(s) on a specific question, a formal analysis, or a comparative analysis of 2 works. Each assignment should be about 1,000 words long, include an opening and closing statements and multi-part and structured argumentation. These need to be carefully crafted and articulated, with full sentences only. You will be expected to use the content, material, and terminology used and learned in class, as well as make references to the readings where appropriate.

A chance to receive up to an extra 2 points to your overall grade

A group visit of the Chinati Foundation in Marfa (for more info visit: chinati.org) will be organized during the semester (specific date tbd). Students attendance is strongly recommended during this visit, and each student who attends the visit will receive an extra 2 points to his/her overall grade.

Course Policies

- Plagiarism is one of the most punishable infractions to the student's code of academic conduct. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will immediately result in a F grade for the semester.**

If you have any question regarding what constitutes plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask me! You can also read more about plagiarism here:

<https://www.turnitin.com/static/plagiarism-spectrum/>

If you are working on an assignment and wonder if your writing is considered plagiarism, better safe than sorry: always ask your instructor for guidance.

- Students are expected to be ready to learn, have a respectful and positive attitude toward the class and each other, be attentive and inquisitive. Attendance and participation are key, and thoughtful questions and comments are therefore strongly encouraged. Should your behavior or attitude be deemed inappropriate, you may be asked to drop this class at instructor's discretion.
- Students are expected to take extensive notes during class, either on a laptop or notepad.
- Students are expected to arrive a few minutes before the beginning of each class. Repeated tardiness will be penalized.
- There will be a 10 to 15 minutes break in the middle of the class. Students are expected back in class promptly after the break.
- Drinks and snacks are allowed in class and should be consumed with discretion. Food other than snacks are not allowed during class (use the class break for more consistent food consumption).
- Absences will be excused only for major personal reasons that need to be discussed with the instructor in advance. Each unexcused absence will result in a 2 point drop in your grade. No more than 2 absences (excused or unexcused) will be permitted during the semester.
- For every absence, whether excused or unexcused, student will be expected to catch up on the missed class and obtain notes from a fellow student and/or independently research the subjects discussed.
- Students are expected to have clear communications with the instructor regarding any issues or questions they may have about the class, its content, schedule, assignments, or any other matter. It is the student's responsibility to reach out to the instructor for any information or assistance the student may need.
- All cell phones should be made silent during the class, and stored in your handbag. Use of cell phones should be limited to emergency use only and outside the classroom.

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz. in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is PO Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX 79832. Telephone 432-837-8203. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu

Course Calendar

Week 1 – January 15

Presentation & syllabus review

What is art history?

Week 2 – January 22: Prehistoric Art (50,000-3,500 BCE)

Week 3 – January 29: Mesopotamia (3,500-460 BCE)

[Last day to drop class without creating an academic record]

Week 4 – February 5: Egyptian Art (3,150-525 BCE)

Week 5 – February 12: Greek Art I: The Aegean (1900-1000 BCE)

Week 6 – February 19: Greek Art II (900-30 BCE)

Week 7 – February 26: Roman Art (VIth century BCE-IVth century CE)

March 4 – Mid-term exam

March 11 – Spring Break – no class

Week 8 – March 18: Early Christian & Byzantine Art (IIIrd-XVth century CE)

Week 9 – March 25: Islamic Art (VIIth-XVIth century CE)

Week 10 – April 1: Art from South and Southeast Asia (India, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Indonesia)

[April 3: last day to drop the class and receive a 'W']

Week 11 – April 8: Art from Far East Asia (China, Korea & Japan)

Week 12 – April 15: Art from the Pre-Columbian Americas

Week 13 – April 22: Early European Medieval Art (IVth-XIth century CE)

Week 14 – April 29: Romanesque Art (XIth-XIIth century CE) & review

May 4-6 – Final exam (exact date tbd)