

ART HISTORY 1-1304-001

Sul Ross State University,

Fall 2023

Instructor:

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Class Meets: Rooms FAB 207

WEDNESDAY, 6 – 8:50 pm.

Final exam :: TBD based on SRSU SCHEDULE

Office Hours:

TUE/THUR 12-1 OR

BY APPOINTMENT

Course Overview:

In this course we will be surveying art, architecture, and craft through prehistory through 1400 ce. With some of the earliest cave paintings dating back to 15,000 BCE this course will begin with the works of art and life witnessed through visual creation in the nomadic early stages (the caves). We will trace the development of art/craft through early civilization. We will observe the relationship of society and art by observing the timeline of art history through the rise of the first cities, the earliest systems of writing, burial practices, and paintings on the walls of cathedrals. By observing the basics of the beginning of what we know now to be our current day world of art we will be able to think about the functions of art and the advancement of spaces. Some questions: How does the cave relate to the cathedral? How do adronments communicate social standing? How do stories inform value structures and the ethics of communities? When does the artist become the artist? How does religion inform artistic and ritual practices? How does art/craft play a role in culture and tradition?

Every class will be accompanied by a reading that overviews the time period and a cultural text to accompany a weekly ponderance. We will look at the tower of Babel, paleolithic whistles and figurines,

the mosaics of cathedrals. This course at its core is a meditation on the basics of existence and the pulse of life and creation through objects, movements, and naming— "In the bgininng..".

Course Outcomes

WE WILL LEARN ART STYLES AND MOVEMENTS FROM PREHISTORY TO 1400 CE
WE WILL PLACE MOVEMENTS INTO A POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CONTEXT
WE WILL INTRODUCE THE TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES
WE WILL EXAMINE DIFFERENT WORKS OF ART
WE WILL OBSERVE WORKS OF ART EXPANDING LANGUAGE AND THOUGHT
WE WILL INTERROGATE THE ARGUMENT OF CRAFT VS ART
WE WILL SYNTHESIZE THE EVOLUTION OF FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICES AS THEY SHIFT
OVER PERIODS OF TIME, REGION, SPIRIT, & CLASS
WE WILL OVERVIEW POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS OF THE TIME
WE WILL ADDRESS SYMBOLS COLOR TECHNIQUE AND CHOICE FOR WORKS
WE WILL ADDRESS POWER, PROPERTY, AND ART
WE WILL CREATE A TIMELINE TOGETHER

Required Course Materials

TEXTS

ALL READING MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER BOTH IN DIGITAL .PDF FORM AND IN PRINTED FORM. CHAPTERS WILL BE ORGANIZED BASED ON WEEKS AND IN CORRESPONDANCE TO PREPARATION FOR IN-CLASS DISCUSSIONS AND LECTURES.

THE MAIN TEXT FOR THIS COURSE: THE STORY OF ART by E. H. GOMBRICH (in print fourth edition and in lecture sixteenth edition.)

TIME

THIS COURSE IS THREE HOURS ONCE A WEEK. THERE IS AN EXPECTATION THAT YOU WILL SPEND AT LEAST AN HOUR IN PREPARATION OUTSIDE OF THE TIME IN CLASS FOR WRITTEN AND DISCUSSION CONTRIBUTION.

Assessment & Grading Criteria

You will be assessed in each class on your progress and participation in lectures, discussions, assignments, and critiques. Your grade will be based on class participation and the quality of the effort you put into completing all assignments. Being in class is very important. The knowledge needed to complete assignments will be gained through in-person lectures and demonstrations that will be difficult to repeat or for you to make up. If you miss class, catching up is your responsibility.

Work Policy & Absences

It is important to stay on track because we will cover material in class each week that builds on the previous weeks. Don't skip class & don't get behind. If you must miss a class, you **must let the instructor know and schedule a time to make-up work you missed**. Keep up with the assignments posted on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to catch up. Recurring absences will affect your participation grade.

*** you will be required to share the artist and synthesis from the week missed at the next week class.

ADA Statement:

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartze Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartze@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

Weekly Responsibilities

Throughout the semester, you will keep a notebook dedicated to responses to readings. This is also the place where you will keep your writings on the artists you will report on during each class.

Structure

WE WILL BEGIN EACH CLASS WITH A GREETING // CHECK -IN
WE WILL DISCUSS SHORT READINGS
THE INSTRUCTOR WILL GIVE A LECTURE ON THE OVERVIEW OF TIME PERIOD
WE WILL DISCUSS THE CONTAINERS OF SOCIAL ORDERS
WE WILL DISCUSS MAJOR FIGURES
WE WILL DISCUSS EXAMPLES OF ARTISTIC MEDIUMS
WE WILL DEFINE THE FUNCTIONS OF ART

Tentative Class Schedule

WEEK 1 JANUARY 15 ---- INTRODUCTION & SYLLABUS

** CHAPTER 1 : STRANGE BEGINNINGS p19-32

WEEK 2 JANUARY 22 PREHISTORIC ART OVERVIEW CAVE PAINTINGS

PREHISTORIC PAINTINGS, SYMBOLIC THINKING, AND THE EMERGENCE OF LANGUAGE .PDF

rites, wrongs, and analogies - rituals and religion as explanation of prehistoric rock art .
PDF

WEEK 3 JANUARY 29 SHUMALA LECTURE

WEEK 4 FEBRUARY 5 FIGURINES AND POTTERY

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF HUMAN FIGURINES AND THE BODY : .PDF

PALAEOLITHIC WHISTLES OR FIGURINES? .PDF

** CHAPTER 2 : ART FOR ETERNITY p33-48 : EGYPT, MESOPOTAMIA, CRETE

WEEK 5 FEBRUARY 12 ANCIENT NEAR EAST

OVERVIEW :: SUMMERIAN // BABYLONIAN // ASSYRIAN

SUMMERIAN CUNIFORMS

WEEK 6 FEBRUARY 19 ANCIENT NEAR EAST

TOWER OF BABEL .PDF

WEEK 7 FEBRUARY 26 ANCIENT EGYPT c3000 - 300

TRADITION AND CREATIVITY P. 229-258

** CHAPTER 3 : *THE GREAT AWAKENING* p49-66 : Greece seventh to fifth century BC

WEEK 8 MARCH 5 ANCIENT GREECE

** CHAPTER 4 : *THE REALM OF BEAUTY* p67-78: Greece and the Greek world, fourth century BC to first century AD

WEEK 9 MARCH 12 ANCIENT GREECE

WEEK 10 MARCH 19 // BREAK NO CLASSES

** CHAPTER 5 : *WORLD CONQUERORS* p79- 90: Romans, Buddhists, Jews, and Christians, first to fourth century AD

** CHAPTER 7 : *LOOKING EASTWARD* p99-108 : Islam, China - second to thirteenth century

WEEK 11 MARCH 26 THE PLACE OF GOD

** CHAPTER 6 : *A PARTING OF WAYS* p91-98 : Rome and Byzantine, fifth to thirteenth century

WEEK 12 APRIL 2 ETRUSCANS AND ANCIENT ROME

*** CHAPTER 8 : WESTERN ART IN THE MELTING POT p109- 119 : Europe, sixth to eleventh century*

WEEK 13 APRIL 9 THE DARK AGES

*** CHAPTER 9 : THE CHURCH MILITANT p119-130: The twelfth century*

WEEK 14 APRIL 16 EARLY CHRISTIAN ART , CELTIC ART , VIKING ART

*** CHAPTER 10: THE CHURCH OF TRIUMPHANT p131-148 : The Thirteenth Century*

WEEK 15 APRIL 23 ROMANESQUE AND GOTHIC ART

*** CHAPTER 11 : COURTIERS AND BURGHERS p149-160: The Fourteenth Century*

WEEK 16 APRIL 30 EARLY ITALIAN ART LAST DAY OF CLASS