

Course Description

This is an *introductory* course for non majors that provides an overview of Art from the fourteenth-century in Europe to 20th-Century Postmodernism. The course covers the Art of Europe, Africa, and the United States as well as methods of visual and art historical analysis. Our studies will span approximately 700 years of art and cultural practices across four continents. We will cover the Renaissance and Baroque movements in Italy, Modern Africa and Japan, and the discursive art movements of the 19th and 20th century - from Impressionism, Cubism and Dada, to Surrealism, Conceptual and Installation. We will also study film, video art and photography. The aim of this course is to deliver a cross-cultural approach to the History of Art.

You will develop these areas of knowledge:

- 1) critical thinking
- 2) visual analysis and interpretation
- 3) writing at the college level
- 4) oral communication and speech: explaining and discussing art
- 5) primary and secondary research using MLA format of citation
- 6) authorship
- 7) creative thinking, writing
- 8) peer review, self reflection
- 9) group work

How will Art History be different from other online courses?

This is an introductory course that provides an overview of Art History and methods of visual and art historical analysis. Major works in many media including painting, sculpture, architecture, and textiles will be covered. The class is "rich media" intensive.

We will complete one essay writing assignment per week, an average of 800 words. You will complete one to three Discussion Posts per week, an average of 300 words each, PLUS two substantive responses to classmates.

Our Assignments and Assessments employ non-linear, narrative and visual learning modalities. It requires that you 1) read your textbook 2) perform and participate in active research to external links (the links have been designed to open within Vista) 3) form conclusions, insights and opinions supported by numbers one and two 4) be able to put those conclusions and insights into well-written short paragraphs.

The focus of this course is not on memorization of names, dates and places, but on critical thinking and analysis: It is my goal that in the context of this online course you learn how to research art historical topics through reliable and verifiable sources, and that you are able to come to conclusions by comparing and contrasting the similarities and differences between artistic

styles and the countries and cultures that produced them.

By the end of this course you will have a visual vocabulary with which to intelligently discuss and write about works of art. Regardless of whether the work is accessible and easy to admire or difficult to understand, you will be able to evaluate works of art not only for their beauty, but for other intrinsic values such as power of expression and boldness of communication. Through slide, PowerPoint and selected readings, you will experience an over view of art history, studio methods and critical thinking. By the end of the semester you will have a basic vocabulary of art and design terminology, knowledge of geography and a greater sensitivity and awareness of the visual arts and its relationship to society, culture and history.