

History of Western Art I (AHY 1113) Fall 2017

Instructors: Profs. Gabriella Szigethy and Janos Szirmai

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Office Hours: by appointment

READING MATERIAL

AHY 1113 Reader (mandatory) provided by the instructor via email at the beginning of the semester. Readings assigned according to the schedule of the course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the beginnings of what we call Western art and will provide students with a basic knowledge of current art historical, sociological and anthropological techniques to understand and appreciate the forms of art. The course ends with 1400, the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of a new era, the early modern period in European art.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Familiarize students with the major centers and creators of the period
- Give an outline of the historical events that had an impact on artistic output
- Look into the sociological background of art
- Understand how different cultures can be assessed with anthropological methods

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will gain an understanding of the different definitions of art
- Students will develop a sense of visual memory and skills
- Students will be able to assess the different societal and historical factors in art production
- Students will improve writing, referencing, research, and argumentative skills on art historical and art-related topics.

GRADING

- Attendance:** **10 %** (2 points minus for each unexcused absence after 2 classes. Doctor's papers submitted to the Secretariat. Participation. Attendance sheet undersigned before I start the class.)
- Presentation:** **30%** For criteria see below. From a list provided by the instructor at the beginning of the semester. The last two classes of the semester in an alphabetical order.

- Midterm:** **10%** 1000 - word description of an artwork provided by the instructor. Deadline: 17 October 2017 8 pm via email. For criteria see below.
- Final Essay:** **50%** An essay of 2300 words on an artwork provided by the instructor. Deadline: 12 December 2017 8 pm via email. For criteria see below.

For class details see the attached schedule for the course. Attendance is vital for students to be able to follow closely the explanations. Contact your fellow-students for missing notes. You may need to look up: a Greek mythology, the Bible.

Criteria for Midterm:

- a basic, consistent description of the elements (the objects and figures) of the artwork (choose one direction and follow it throughout)
- recognition of the major figures of the artwork
- no theories or alternative interpretations

Criteria for presentation:

- 20 minute long presentation with PPT or equivalent
- tracking issues of interest
- offering solutions
- interaction with your audience
- as a “final draft” for your Final Paper

Criteria for Final essay:

- Clear academic structuring of what you want to say
- Spelling, grammar, syntax
- Individuality of argument, independent reasoning
- New findings
- Proper citation
- Word count: with footnotes, but without bibliography and/or occasional pictures

Cancelling the scheduled time of your presentation or being late with the submission of your papers for other than a medical reason means 20 % minus.

Let me know via e-mail till 8 pm the day before if such a medical situation may occur.

If it is a medical issue we re-negotiate the submission of the assignments.

Note the **Honor Code**: The College’s Honor Code will be *strictly* upheld under all circumstances.