

# **Mercer County Community College**

## **Arts and Communication Division**

### **ART 121**

#### **HISTORY OF ART I PREHISTORIC THROUGH GOTHIC**

##### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will focus on the aesthetic and historical evaluation of artists, styles and cultures from the prehistoric period through Gothic Art. Color slides will be analyzed and discussed.

Text (s):       **Reference Division Booklist**

Prerequisites:

Co-requisites:

**Credits: 3**

**Lecture Hours: 3**

**Studio/Lab Hours: 0**

**Food and Drink are strictly prohibited in Classrooms as per Health and Safety Laws.  
Students are not permitted to bring in any chemicals or cleaning fluids without the  
appropriate MSD sheets.**

**Course Coordinator: Mel Leipzig**

**Latest Review: Spring 2005**

**I. RATIONALE**

Man has always produced art, in a variety of forms, long before recorded history. Art has fulfilled many vital personal and social needs. Before language and writing were developed, the visual arts, and signs or symbols provided the most universally understood means for communication. Decorations and embellishments were produced to not only personalize and identify objects, but also to establish rank in society, ownership, quality and power. By studying the works of art of any period, we can better understand the life and culture of the people who produced them, or the patrons they served. The values of a society are often reflected in the styles and functions of the art which it produced. The serious student will learn how to identify the principle characteristics of the various periods and styles of art, and how the contemporary uses of art and design derive from the past.

**II. GENERAL COURSE GOALS**

After completing the course, the student should:

- A. Understand and use correct terms in describing and identifying art objects.
- B. Be able to describe correctly the materials or techniques used in producing paintings, sculpture, architecture, fabrics, crafts items, and other works of art and design.
- C. Be able to list, or describe with reasonable accuracy, the principle characteristics of any given work of art.
- D. Be able to identify the period in which a given work of art was produced, and describe some of the cultural aspects which prevailed at the time, for each of the following:

• Prehistoric	• Aegean	• Early Christian	• Carolingian
• Primitive	• Greek	• Byzantine	• Ottonian
• Egyptian	• Etruscan	• Migration	• Romanesque
• Mesopotamian	• Roman	• Irish	• Gothic

- E. Have developed a sense of aesthetics and an historical appreciation of art and the world cultures.
- F. Have developed a foundation for a continuing interest in art and art history.
- G. Have developed a better understanding of the contribution of all forms of art to human culture and the continuous value of supporting cultural pursuits.

**III. SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES**

For the successful completion of the course, the student is expected to:

- A. Attend all lectures or study the appropriate materials before the next meeting of the class.
- B. Read all text assignments as they occur.
- C. Participate in class discussions and slide presentation analysis.
- D. Study and be able to use new terms presented in lectures or textbooks.
- E. Answer tests or quizzes, with at least 70% accuracy, as they occur.
- F. Attend, if able, field trips.
- G. Produce an original 300-word essay on an assigned subject related to the course material. (This will be valued at 20% of the course final grade.)

#### IV. INSTRUCTIONAL MODES TO BE USED

- A. Two weekly meetings - 1 hour and 15 minutes each - 16 weeks.
- B. Assigned and suggested readings.
- C. Required and optional field trips.
- D. Lectures and group discussion.
- E. Films, slides, prints, etc.
- F. Essay assignment (see III. G above)

#### V. ATTENDANCE, EVALUATION AND GRADING

In a course of this nature, students must participate in order to have meaningful discussions. Therefore, it is the student's responsibility to attend all of the lectures and presentations, to maintain the assigned reading schedules, and to contribute to discussions whenever possible.

##### **Attendance**

If a student must miss a class meeting, he/she should notify the instructor, at the first opportunity, and is responsible for knowing the material covered in the interim, before attending the next session. The periodic quiz, given in class, cannot be taken at a later date. In cases of an unusual nature, or in extreme emergencies, reasonable provisions will be made for the makeup of a missed Midterm or Final Examination.

##### **Evaluation**

Evaluation of progress, and grades, are determined by the instructor, based upon the following considerations:

- a. Attendance at lectures and presentations. (20%)
- b. Results of periodic quizzes. (20%)
- c. Individual essays. (20%)
- d. Mid-term examination (20%)
- e. Final examination (20%)

##### **Grading** (See the College Catalog for grading policies.)

The Grade of "C" will be earned by students who demonstrate mastery of the essential elements of the material presented. Achievement will be demonstrated when all of the specific course objectives (A to G) are fulfilled with at least 70% accuracy

The Grade of "B" will be earned by students who demonstrate more than adequate mastery of the essential elements of the material presented and acceptable knowledge of the course content. Achievement will be demonstrated when all of the specific course objectives (A to G) are fulfilled with at least 80% accuracy.

The Grade of "A" will be earned by students who demonstrate more than adequate mastery of the essential elements of the material presented, show acceptable knowledge of the course content, and contribute to class discussions and analysis. Achievement will be demonstrated when all of the specific course objectives (A to G) are fulfilled with at least 90% accuracy.

The instructor will determine the final grades based upon the results of all of the written quizzes, examinations and essays, as well as his estimate of the quality of reports, the amount of participation in classroom discussions, and other contributions or efforts of students.

## **VI. VOCABULARY**

Many of the terms used in Art, or in describing Art, or the tools and techniques for producing Art, are unique. Some are so unusual that they are not part of everyday or common language. If you hear a word or phrase which is strange, or not clear to you, make a note of it, and ask for an explanation at an appropriate time in the discussion period.

# HISTORY OF ART 1

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### PART I - THE ANCIENT WORLD

#### WEEK 1

- Session 1: Prehistoric Art.**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.
- Session 2: Primitive Art.**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.

#### WEEK 2

- Session 3: Egyptian Art (Historical background).**
- Session 4: Egyptian Art.**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.

#### WEEK 3

- Session 5: Egyptian Art (New Kingdom and Akhneton).**
- Session 6: Mesopotamian (Historical background).**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.

#### WEEK 4

- Session 7: Mesopotamian (Sumerian through Persian, Sassanian).**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.  
Short quiz before lecture.
- Session 8: Aegean.**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.  
Short quiz before lecture.

#### WEEK 5

- Session 9: Greek Art (Historical background).**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.
- Session 10: Greek Art (Geometric and Classical Period).**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.

#### WEEK 6

- Session 11: Greek Art (Hellenistic).**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.
- Session 12: Etruscan.**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.  
Review work to date.

#### WEEK 7

- Session 13: Roman (Historical background).**
- Session 14: Roman.**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.  
Review work to date continued.

#### WEEK 8

- Session 15: MIDTERM EXAM.**
- Session 16: Early Christian.**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.

#### WEEK 9

- Session 17: Byzantine.**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.
- Session 18: Islamic Art.**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.

**HISTORY OF ART 1**  
**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**  
(cont'd)

**PART TWO - THE MIDDLE AGES**

**WEEK 10**

- Session 19: Dark Ages (Migrations and Irish Art).**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.
- Session 20: Carolingian and Ottonian Art.**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.

**WEEK 11**

- Session 21: Romanesque.**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.
- Session 22: Gothic Architecture.**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.  
Short quiz before lecture.

**WEEK 12**

- Session 23: Gothic Sculpture and stained glass.**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.
- Session 24: Giotto.**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.

**WEEK 13**

- Session 25: Siennese Painting.**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.
- Session 26: FIELD TRIP.**

**WEEK 14**

- Session 27: International Style.**
- Session 28: The Renaissance outside of Italy (Flemish Painting).**  
Lecture, slide presentation, discussion.

**WEEK 15:**

- Session 29: REVIEW.**

**WEEK 16**

**FINAL EXAM.**