



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

CL920 Survey of Western Art: Prehistoric to Medieval

Term: July 3 – August 3, 2017

Instructor: Prof. Josh Ellenbogen

Home Institution: University of Pittsburgh

Email: jmellenb@gmail.com

Class Hours: M-Th, 120 minutes each day (2,400 minutes in total)

Office Hours: 2 hours each week

Discussion session: 2.5 hours each week

Total Contact Hours: 66 contact hours (45 minutes each, 3000 minutes in total)

Credit: 4 units

Course Description

This course surveys the major developments in Western Art History through the Middle Ages. In addition to familiarizing students with the primary historical developments in the visual arts during this period, the course also addresses some of the most significant conceptual questions that the use of images during this span of time confronts: What were the purposes of images understood to be? How did they feature in religious practice? Why were they sometimes seen as dangerous? What role did images play in mobilizing social energies? How were they imagined to relate to theoretical or scientific knowledge? While dedicating much attention to the history of images itself, the course also situates that history in relation to broader developments in social, intellectual, and cultural history.

Course Goals

While the course will focus on ensuring mastery of the historical materials it surveys, it will also place a premium on the acquisition of certain skills. Above all, the course will seek to instruct students in the fundamentals of visual analysis (how do we talk significantly about images?), as well as hone their skills in historical and critical reading.

Required Text

There is no single required text. The instructor will place excerpts from many books, as well as scans of primary source documents and essays, online on reserve.



Grading Policy

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4.0
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3.0
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2.0
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1.0
≤59	F (Failure)	0

Course Schedule

WEEK 1

July 3 Course Introduction

July 4 Ancient Origins

July 5 Art of the Near East

July 6 Egyptian Art

Readings for the Week:

Ernst Gombrich, "Meditations on a Hobby Horse," David Summers, Real Spaces (selections), History of Art, H.W. Janson (selections)

WEEK 2

July 10 Archaic and Pre-Classical Greece

July 11 Classical Greece

July 12 Late Classical and Hellenistic Art

July 13 Sacred Centers in the Ancient World

Readings for the Week:

History of Art, H.W. Janson (selections); Course Packet on Sacred Centers

WEEK 3



July 17 Exam I: This exam will ask students to identify the important works of art that we have discussed to this point, define key terms that have informed our discussion, and write two essays that engage with the central ideas of the class. I will circulate, on July 13, four essay questions for which students will prepare, and I will select two on which students will actually write. The exam will take ninety minutes.

July 18 The Roman Republic

July 19 Roman Imperial Art and Constantine

July 20 Late Antique and Early Christian

Readings for the Week:
Gardner's Art Through the Ages (selections)

WEEK 4

July 24 Byzantine Art and Architecture

July 25 The Art of Islam

July 26 Romanesque Art in Western Europe

July 27 The Gothic Style

Readings for the Week:
Marilyn Stokstad, *Medieval Art* (excerpts), Gardner's Art Through the Ages (selections)

WEEK 5

July 31 The Proto-Renaissance

August 1 Quattrocento Art in Italy

August 2 Reading Day

August 3 Exam II: This exam will ask students to identify the important works of art that we have discussed since the previous exam, define key terms that have informed our discussion, and write two essays that engage with the central ideas of the class. I will circulate, on July 27, four essay questions for which students will prepare, and I will select two on which students will actually write. The exam will take ninety minutes.

Readings for the Week:

Gardner's Art Through the Ages (selections)