



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

CL920 Survey of Western Art: Prehistoric to Medieval

Instructor:	Prof. Josh Ellenbogen	Email:	jmellenb@gmail.com
Home Institution:	University of Pittsburgh	Office:	505 Main Bldg
Office Hours:	TBD		
Term:	27 May – 27 June, 2019	Credits:	4 units
Classroom:	TBD	Teaching Assistant(s):	TBD
Class Hours:	Monday through Thursday, 3:20 pm-5:20 pm		
Discussion Session:	2 hours each week, conducted by teaching assistant(s)		
Total Contact Hours:	66 contact hours (1 contact hour = 45 mins, 3000 mins in total)		
Required Texts (w/ ISBN):	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.		
Prerequisite:	N/A		



Course Overview

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.

Grading Policy

Paper	20%
Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%
Attendance and Participation	10%

Paper: Students will need to write a short 3-4 page paper due July 23 that will ask them to consider the key theoretical texts we have examined in relation to the historical materials we have covered. The assignment will be distributed on July 16.

Mid-term Exam: 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.

Final Exam: 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.



Grading Scale

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

WEEK1		
Day	Lecture	Reading
Day 1	Course Introduction	Ernst Gombrich, "Meditations on a Hobby-Horse," 1-10; David Summers, <u>Real Spaces</u> (45-56); HW Janson, <u>History of Art</u> , 96-117 and 118-37
Day 2	Ancient Origins	
Day 3	Art of the Near East	
Day 4	Egyptian Art	
WEEK 2		
Day 5	Archaic and Pre-Classical Greece	<u>History of Art</u> , H.W. Janson, 139-49 and 150-203; <u>Course Packet on Sacred Centers</u> , 1-11
Day 6	Classical Greece	
Day 7	Late Classical and Hellenistic Art	
Day 8	Sacred Centers in the Ancient World	
WEEK 3		
Day 9	Mid-term Exam	
Day 10	The Roman Republic	<u>Gardner's Art Through the Ages</u> , 182-245 and 246-64
Day 11	Roman Imperial Art and Constantine	
Day 12	Late Antique and Early Christian	
WEEK 4		
Day 13	Byzantine Art and Architecture (Paper due)	<u>Gardner's Art Through the Ages</u> , 264-309 and Marilyn Stokstad, <u>Medieval Art</u> , 219-92.
Day 14	The Art of Islam	
Day 15	Romanesque Art in Western Europe	
Day 16	The Gothic Style	
WEEK 5		
Day 17	The Proto-Renaissance	<u>Gardner's Art through the Ages</u> , 530-47; Baxandall, <u>Painting and Experience in Fifteenth Century Italy</u> , 29-57
Day 18	Quattrocento Art in Italy	
Day 19	Reading Day	
Day 20	Final Exam	