



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

CL920 Survey of Western Art: Prehistoric to Medieval

<b>Instructor Information:</b>	TBD		
<b>Term:</b>	December 16, 2019 - January 7, 2020	<b>Credits:</b>	4 units
<b>Class Hours :</b>	Monday through Friday, 160 mins per teaching day		
<b>Discussion Sessions:</b>	2 hours each week, conducted by teaching assistant(s)		
<b>Total Contact Hours:</b>	64 contact hours (1 contact hour = 45 mins, 2880 mins in total)		
<b>Required Texts (with ISBN):</b>	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.		
<b>Prerequisite:</b>	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.

## Learning Outcomes

On completion of this subject students should

1. Ensure mastery of the historical materials it surveys;
2. Place a premium on the acquisition of certain skills;
3. Understand the fundamentals of visual analysis;
4. Hone the 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 3-4page 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



**Class Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
Day 1	Course Introduction	Ernst Gombrich, “Meditations on a HobbyHorse,”1-10; David Summers, Real Spaces (45- 56); HW Janson, History of Art, 96-117 and 118-37 Read: How To Read Novels 21-35 Read: Emma, Chapter One and Two Read: “Contextual Analysis
Day 2	Ancient Origins	
Day 3	Discuss formal strategies for reading literature and In class exercise on “narrative voice.”	
Day 4	Watch: Clueless (1994)	
Day 5	Archaic and Pre-Classical Greece and Classical Greece	History of Art, H.W. Janson, 139-49 and 150- 203; Course Packet on Sacred Centers, 1-11
Day 6	Late Classical and Hellenistic Art	
Day 7	Sacred Centers in the Ancient World	
Day 8	The Roman Republic	Gardner’s Art Through the Ages, 182-245 and 246-64
Day 9	Roman Imperial Art and Constantine	
Day 10	Late Antique and Early Christian	
Day 11	Byzantine Art and Architecture (Paper due)	Gardner’s Art Through the Ages, 264-309 and Marilyn Stokstad, Medieval Art, 219-92.
Day 12	The Art of Islam	
Day 13	Romanesque Art in Western Europe	
Day 14	The Proto-Renaissance	Gardner’s Art through the Ages, 530- 47; Baxandall, Painting and Experience in Fifteen Century Italy, 29-57
Day 15	Quattrocento Art in Italy	