



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

CL920 Survey of Western Art: Prehistoric to Medieval

Instructor Information:	Josh Ellenbogen Home Institution: University of Pittsburgh Email: jmellenb@gmail.com Office Hours: Determined by Instructor		
Term:	May 25, 2020 - June 19, 2020	Credits:	4 units
Class Hours:	Monday through Friday, 120 minutes per teaching day		
Discussion Sessions:	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 (with 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

Midterm Exam	40%
Final Exam	40%
Attendance and Participation	10%
Short Papers	10%

Short answers

In lieu of writing a long paper, students will need to write 4 short papers on reading assignments at various points in the term—these are marked on the syllabus, and the prompts for the short papers will be distributed in advance of the class sessions).

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 June 3, 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 June 17, 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

WEEK	Date	Lecture	Readings
1	Day 1	Course Introduction	Ernst Gombrich, "Meditations on a Hobby-Horse," 1-10; David Summers, Real Spaces (45-56); Irene Winter, "What/When is a Portrait?"; HW Janson, History of Art, 96-117 and 118-37
	Day 2	Ancient Origins (For this class, we will discuss Gombrich and Summers; Short Answer Due)	
	Day 3	Art of the Near East	
	Day 4	Egyptian Art (For this class, we will discuss Winter: Short Answer Due)	
	Day 5	Pre-Classical and Classical Greece	
2	Day 6	Late Classical and Hellenistic Art	Gardner's Art Through the Ages, chapter 5; Course Packet on Sacred Centers
	Day 7	Sacred Centers in the Ancient World (For this class, we will discuss the Course Packet on Sacred Centers; Short Answer Due)	
	Day 8	The Roman Republic	
	Day 9	NO CLASS: Reading Day	
	Day 10	Exam 1	
3	Day 11	Roman Imperial Art and Constantine	Gardner's Art Through the Ages, 182-245 and 246-64, Blair "The Mirage of Islamic Art"
	Day 12	Late Antique and Early Christian	
	Day 13	Byzantine Art and Architecture	
	Day 14	The Art of Islam	
	Day 15	Romanesque Art in Western Europe	
4	Day 16	The Gothic Style	Gardner's Art Through the Ages, 264-309 and Marilyn Stokstad, Medieval Art, 219-92.
	Day 17	The Proto-Renaissance	
	Day 18	Quattrocento Art in Italy (For this session, we will discuss Baxandall; Short Answer Due)	
	Day 19	NO CLASS: Reading Day	
	Day 20	The Final Exam	