



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

CL920 Survey of Western Art: Prehistoric to Medieval

Instructor Information	Marcello Barison Home Institution: University of Chicago Email: marcello.barison@gmail.com Office Hours: Determined by Instructor		
Term	December 17, 2020 - January 8, 2021	Credits:	4 units
Class Hours	Sunday through Friday, 135 mins per teaching day		
Discussion Sessions	2 hours each week, conducted by teaching assistant(s)		
Total Contact Hours	64 contact hours (1 contact hour = 45 mins, 2880 mins in total)		
Required Texts (with ISBN)	The only required text is E. Gombrich, <i>The Story of Art</i> (London and New York: Phaidon, 1995). The instructor will then make available excerpts from many books, as well as scans of primary source documents and essays.		
Prerequisite	N/A		
<p>The course might be moved to online delivery due to COVID-19 pandemic. The anticipated date is November 6, 2020.</p>			



Course Overview

This course surveys the major developments in Western Art History from Paleolithic Art to Proto-Renaissance age. 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

Midterm Exam	40%
Final Exam	40%
Attendance and Participation	20%

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 answer a list of specific open questions that engage with the material presented in class.

Final Exam

This exam will ask students to identify and interpret the important works of art that we have discussed since the previous exam, define key terms that have informed our discussion, and answer a list of specific open questions that engage with the material presented in class

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

Date	Lecture	Chapter
Day 1	Why Art? Course Introduction	J. Berger, <i>Ways of Seeing</i> . L. Tolstoy, <i>What is Art?</i>
Day 2	Origins of Art Paleolithic Cave Painting	E. Gombrich, <i>The Story of Art</i> , 1-2. A. Leroi-Gourhan, <i>The Dawn of European Art: An Introduction to Palaeolithic Cave Painting</i> . G. Bataille, <i>The Cradle of Humanity: Prehistoric Art and Culture</i> .
Day 3	Neolithic Sculpture Interpretation and Meaning	G. Bataille, <i>Prehistoric Painting. Lascaux or the Birth of Art</i> . M. Gimbutas, <i>The Language of the Goddess</i> .
Day 4	In-class movie screening: W. Herzog, <i>Cave of Forgotten Dreams</i>	
Day 5	Indian Art	E. Gombrich, <i>The Story of Art</i> , 2-4. H. Zimmer, <i>The Art of Indian Asia</i>
Day 6	Egyptian Art	E. Gombrich, <i>The Story of Art</i> , 2-4.
Day 7	Art and Religion in the Ancient Greek World	E. Gombrich, <i>The Story of Art</i> , 2-4. R. Osborne, <i>Archaic and Classical Greek Art</i> .
Day 8	In-class movie screening: F. Fellini, <i>Satyricon</i> .	
Day 9	In-class Midterm Exam	
Day 10	Classical Greece Late Classical and Hellenistic Art	E. Gombrich, <i>The Story of Art</i> , 2-4. R. Osborne, <i>Archaic and Classical Greek Art</i> .
Day 11	Roman Republic and Roman Imperial Art	E. Gombrich, <i>The Story of Art</i> , 5. P. Zanker, <i>Roman Art</i> .
Day 12	Byzantine Art and Architecture	E. Gombrich, <i>The Story of Art</i> , 6.
Day 13	In-class movie screening: Robert H. Gardner, <i>Islamic Art: Mirror of the Invisible World</i>	
Day 14	The Art of Islam	E. Gombrich, <i>The Story of Art</i> , 7. R. Hillenbrand, <i>Islamic Art and Architecture</i> .
Day 15	Romanesque and Gothic Art in Western Europe	E. Gombrich, <i>The Story of Art</i> , 8-10.
Day 16	The Proto-Renaissance and Quattrocento Art in Italy	E. Gombrich, <i>The Story of Art</i> , 11-13. M. Baxandall, <i>Painting and Experience in Fifteenth-Century Italy</i> .
Day 17	In-class movie screening: A. Tarkovskij, <i>Andrey Rublev</i>	
Day 18	In-class Final Exam	