

ART 881
SEMINAR: ANCIENT ART HISTORY

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Erica S. Bittel, Ph.D.

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Schmidt Foundation Center for Art and Design, Room 217

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Office Hours:

M / W / F: 8:00 – 10:15 am

T / Th: 9:00 – 10:00 am

Appointments by request.

COURSE INFORMATION:

This course is a survey of major works of ancient art, dating from approximately 30,000 BCE to 400 CE, and will include all forms of art, with a focus architecture, painting, and sculpture, along with the formal analysis of the artwork. As a foundation for interpreting these works, emphasis will be placed on the social, religious/spiritual, and political contexts in which artists worked and various stylistic vocabularies were developed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Recognize the types and styles of art from each period, from Prehistoric art through Etruscan and Roman art.
- Assess the relationship between the development of major art styles and movements and the political, social, and intellectual ideas of ancient civilizations and the associated periods.
- Identify the influences of both past and contemporary art on the evolution of art from each ancient civilization and the associated periods.
- Analyze and evaluate ancient visual material while employing descriptive, conceptual, and appropriate vocabulary.
- Evaluate the various theories of art historians, critics, and philosophers concerning the artistic developments of the ancient civilizations and associated periods.

COURSE RESOURCES:

Art History – Ancient Art

by Marilyn Stokstad and Michael W. Cothren

Publisher: Pearson Education, Inc.

ISBN: 978-0-205-87376-0

0-205-87347-2

Alte Pinakothek (Munich, Germany): <https://www.pinakothek.de/en/visit/alte-pinakothek>

Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago, Illinois): <https://www.artic.edu/>

Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/renaissance-reformation>

Louvre (Paris, France): <https://www.louvre.fr/en>

Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York City, New York): <http://www.metmuseum.org>

Museo del Prado (Madrid, Spain): <https://www.museodelprado.es/en>

Museum of Fine Arts (Boston, Massachusetts): <http://www.mfa.org>

Smithsonian: <http://www.si.edu>

UNESCO World Heritage: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/158/>

World Monument Fund: www.wmf.org

EVALUATION AND GRADING:

All grades, including extra credit, will be posted on Blackboard.

Grading will be based on the accuracy of responses to examination questions, substance, clarity, and quality of written work, and the effort made to learn the material and contribute in a positive way to your personal success in the class. An Incomplete (or "I") grade will only be given in extreme cases and at the discretion of the instructor.

2 Exams (100 points each)	200 points
Discussion / Participation	100 points
Abstract Proposal	50 points
Annotated Bibliography	100 points
Research Paper Introduction	50 points
Research Paper	300 points
Final Exam	200 points

Total: **1000 points**

Grading Scale:

100 - 90 = A

89 - 80 = B

79 - 70 = C

69 - 60 = D

59 - 0 = U

ATTENDANCE:

This course is asynchronous and is, in part, guided by your own independence and motivation. Therefore, because the study of art history requires familiarity with a large number of images and concepts, it is imperative that students follow the syllabus, keep up with the readings from the textbook as well as the readings assigned on a weekly basis, and be sure to review the PowerPoint lectures (found on Bb) for images and key terminology.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

All assignments must be your own work! Visual and/or written plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students are encouraged to read FHSU's Academic Honesty Policy, which is found in the University Catalog and online at:

https://www.fhsu.edu/academic/provost/handbook/ch_2_academic_honesty/

SPECIAL LEARNING CONDITIONS / ACCOMMODATIONS:

Fort Hays State University, in accordance with The Americans With Disabilities Act, provides assistance and resources for students with disabilities. The Student Accessibility Services office is located within Health and Wellness Services in the Fischli-Wills Center for Student Success, Room 301, 785-628-4401. This is the appropriate office for students, faculty or staff to contact to verify and notify the University of a student's documented disability. After verification of a documented disability, the Student Accessibility Services office will initiate a request for services. Students should contact the instructor within the first two weeks of class if they require special accommodations for test taking, carrying out assignments, or any other need for assistance.

TITLE IX:

FHSU is committed to fostering a safe and productive learning environment. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex, gender, and gender identity are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. This includes all

types of gender and relationship violence, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. If you wish to report an incident or have questions about school policies and procedures regarding Title IX issues, please contact Laurie Lerrick, University Compliance Officer and the FHSU Title IX Coordinator, at lelerrick@fhsu.edu or (785) 628-4175. The Compliance Officer can help connect you to campus and outside resources, discuss all of your reporting options, and assist with any concerns you may have.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES:

- FHSU Tiger Tech: <https://www.fhsu.edu/tigertech/>
- Tebo Library: <http://www.fhsu.edu/library>
- Writing Center: <https://www.fhsu.edu/writingcenter/index>

TIMELINE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Timeline is subject to modification; review and exam dates will be decided as a class.

Exam dates will be scheduled ten days to two weeks in advance (details will be provided via Blackboard Announcement).

Week 1 (January 20):

Introduction

Chapter 1 – Prehistoric Art

“The Paleolithic Period”

Week 2 (January 27):

Chapter 1 – Prehistoric Art, continued

“The Paleolithic Period”

Week 3 (February 3):

Chapter 1 – Prehistoric Art, continued

“The Neolithic Period”

“New Metallurgy, Enduring Stone”

Week 4 (February 10):

Chapter 2 – Art of the Ancient Near East

“The Fertile Crescent and Mesopotamia”

“The Hittites of Anatolia”

Week 5 (February 17):

Chapter 2 – Art of the Ancient Near East, continued

“Neo-Babylonia”

“Persia”

Week 6 (February 24):

Chapter 3 – Art of Ancient Egypt

“Early Dynastic Egypt”

“The Old Kingdom”

“The Middle Kingdom”

Week 7 (March 3):

Abstract / Proposal due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026.

Chapter 3 – Art of Ancient Egypt, continued

“The New Kingdom”

“The Third Intermediate Period”

“Late Egyptian Art”

Week 8 (March 10):

Chapter 4 – Art of the Ancient Aegean

“The Bronze Age in the Aegean”

“The Cycladic Islands”

“The Minoan Civilization on Crete”

“The Mycenaean (Helladic) Culture”

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Week 9 (March 17):

SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Week 10 (March 24):

Annotated Bibliography due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, March 24th, 2026.

Chapter 5 – Art of Ancient Greece

“The Archaic Period”

“The Emergence of Greek Civilization”

“Greek Art”

Week 11 (March 31):

Chapter 5 – Art of Ancient Greece, continued

“The Early Classical Period”

“The High Classical Period”

Week 12 (April 7):

Research Paper Introduction due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, April 7th, 2026.

Chapter 5 – Art of Ancient Greece, continued

“The Late Classical Period”

“The Hellenistic Period”

Week 13 (April 14):

Chapter 6 – Etruscan and Roman Art

“The Etruscans”

“The Romans”

Week 14 (April 21):

Chapter 6 – Etruscan and Roman Art, continued

“The Republic”

“The Early Empire”

Week 15 (April 28):

Research Paper due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, April 28th, 2026.

Week 16 (May 5):

Week 17 (May 12): FINALS WEEK