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**Course Syllabus:** Survey of World Art (VCU ARTF 105 & 106)

**Instructor:** Kori Mosley

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**Course Description:** This two-semester course is a comprehensive introduction to the global history and development of painting, sculpture, architecture, and related visual arts. Exploration of world cultures through visual, contextual, and comparative analysis will allow students to understand the nature of art, art making, and our responses to it. Part I: Prehistory through the Middle Ages; Part II: Renaissance through the present.

**NOTE:** *Although similarities to the AP Art History curriculum will naturally exist, this course is not designed as preparation for that exam.*

**Primary Textbook:** Stokstad, Marilyn and Michael Cothren, *Art History*, 5th edition, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Education, Inc, 2014.

**NOTE:** *The textbook will be loaned to each student for the duration of the school year. It has an electronic component, which can be accessed via an assigned username/password. This is a large, beautifully illustrated, and very expensive book. Students should plan on keeping it safely at home. Use of the textbook will be supplemented with additional readings, lectures, discussions/activities, videos, and on-line assignments.*

**Course Objectives:**

- Identify pivotal works of art (title, artist, date, medium, country of origin), which are most representative of their societies/time periods
- Investigate the social, political, religious and artistic context in which works of art were created in order to assess the impact on their audience
- Justify attribution of unknown works of art based on the study of specific exemplars and their characteristics/iconography/context
- Use concepts and vocabulary of the field to enhance meaningful observation, analyzation, interpretation, and judgment of works of art
- Connect “world history” and “art history,” in order to more fully comprehend the scope and sequence of a global timeline
- Understand the role that patrons, collectors, museums, and galleries play in creating, preserving, and promoting art history

**Workload and Expectations:** *This is a reading/writing-intensive, college-level class and students are expected to exhibit the required work ethic and commitment. A basic understanding of world history as well as research methods and procedures is assumed. In order to cover the course material in the time allotted, this class will move at a very fast pace and material not covered in class will need to be reviewed independently via the textbook or other supplied resources. A strict*

reading/preparation schedule and effective methods for learning image identification (flash cards, etc.) will be essential. Readings and related assignments should be completed prior to each class, in order to facilitate the effectiveness of in-class activities and to assure sufficient learning and achievement on quizzes/tests/exams. Academic studies will be augmented with studio art experiences and field trips to museums and galleries whenever possible. Students should be prepared to visit local art museums and galleries on their own.

**Assessments and Grading:** Grades are calculated using the grading categories below plus exams. A final exam will be given at the end of each semester and will count as 20% of the overall grade. Final grades will be submitted to VCU, becoming a permanent part of your official transcript. This course uses a 10 point grading scale (90 - 100 = A, 80 - 90 = B, 70 - 80 = C, etc.).

- **Quizzes (20%):** Weekly quizzes based on assigned reading and class content should be expected. Most quizzes are given on-line ([quia.com](http://www.quia.com)) but this may vary, depending on specific content and the desired academic outcome. Quizzes will serve as preparation for comprehensive tests and for the final exams, which are cumulative.
- **Tests (30%):** Comprehensive tests will be given, typically 3X throughout the semester. These tests will build upon previously quizzed material and will help to prepare students for the final exam. Tests will also likely be given through [quia.com](http://www.quia.com) but, like quizzes, this may vary.
- **Research Presentation (30%):** This semester project will allow students to dig deeper into a specific area of interest or one that is deemed a necessary aspect of the curriculum. Presentation formats may be set by the teacher or may vary to suit individual learning styles but will all contain a teaching component so that each class member learns from the others.
- **Participation (20%):** 100% engagement in all class activities is essential for success in this course. In-class and homework assignments will vary and may include but are not limited to: additional reading assignments, written reflections, written critiques, museum/gallery visit reports, preparatory assignments, timeline activities, research, etc.

**Late policy:** As a general rule, late work is not accepted. Unless prior permission has been granted for a really good reason, do not expect any exceptions to this rule. It is your responsibility to manage your time and to complete your work by the deadline. Deductions of late points (vs. a 0) will be left to the discretion of the teacher on a case by case basis. At the very least, a drop in a letter grade should be expected.

*NOTE: Technology glitches should not be used as an excuse for late work. These things happen, it is true. However, if you are completing your work in a timely and proactive manner, then you should have time to troubleshoot most problems.*

**Absences:** It is essential to be in class; missing discussions, visuals, videos, and lectures is detrimental to your understanding of the material and to your ability to keep up with the work. In the case of illness or emergency, it is your responsibility to (1st) check the web site, (2nd) ask a classmate about missed work, activities, and notes, and then (3rd) ask the teacher when it does not interrupt class time.

**Make up work:** Overdue work should be turned in immediately upon your return. If an assignment can be submitted electronically, prior to your physical return to class, then you should take

advantage of that option. If you missed a test or a quiz, you are required to make it up on the next day that you are at school but outside of class time. The teacher will not follow up with you re: completion of make up work.

### **Expectations for an Effective Classroom Environment:**

- 1) Be prepared and on time for class. *Have what you need and be in your seat and ready to work as soon as class starts. If you are in a first block class, you are to respect both the moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance.*
- 2) Do not chit-chat during instruction. Ever. *At a basic level, it is simply rude to talk over the teacher or your classmates. Further, you will be disrupting instructional time.*
- 3) Respect the people in and the contents of the classroom. *Learning takes place best in an atmosphere of respect, trust, and cooperation - let's make it so.*
- 4) Use the classroom sign-out book appropriately and infrequently. *Only sign out when absolutely necessary; Do not sign out at the start of class or at any time during instruction (this includes videos). If you are out of the room during a fire drill or other emergency, meet up with the class in the designated spot or find an administrator to report to.*
- 5) Maintain 100% focus and effort at all times. *Phones should be silenced and put out of sight unless being used for a class assignment with teacher permission. If using a computer to take notes, assure that you are on task at all times.*

### **Necessary class materials :**

- Three ring binder for this syllabus and related syllabus review, notes, handouts, etc..
- Pencils, pens, and loose leaf paper for daily notes and writing activities
- The online components of this class will require that students have a computer with reliable internet access. If this is a problem, please let the teacher know immediately.

**Weekly Schedule:** As much as possible, Tuesdays and Thursdays will be used as instructional days. This is the time when we will cover most of the material in lecture, discussion, and class-activity format. The shorter classes on 8-period Fridays will be reserved for tests, quizzes, reading/research, and special activities. This schedule is subject to change.

In general, course content will be presented in the order in which the textbook is organized. Essentially, you will be reading/we will be reviewing one chapter per week. The resulting pace is extremely quick. This schedule is subject to change and adjustments will be made as needed. Please refer back to Workload and Expectations to help develop a study strategy.

[Please check the website for weekly agenda, homework, learning objectives, study guides, supplemental information/resources, deadlines, etc.](#)

### **Annual Art Department Events and Special Opportunities:**

- **Walking Field trips:** Since we are in close proximity to beautiful neighborhoods, historic architecture, and art galleries we will take “walking field trips” as time allows. These trips will not

cause you to miss other classes (you will need to walk fast, since tardiness is not an option). One permission form will cover all scheduled and spur-of-the-moment walks and will also include permission to ride the activity bus, should it and a driver be available.

- **Field Trip to Washington, D.C.:** On December 4th, the Art Dept. will take its annual all-day field trip (8:00 - 6:30 pm) to Washington D.C.. We will visit the National Gallery, the Hirshhorn Museum, the Freer/Sackler Galleries, and/or other important art resources that are essential to the curriculum. **Please put this date on your calendar now and plan to attend.** Additional field trips will be planned as possible.
- **Youth Art Month Exhibit:** March is “Youth Art Month” and we celebrate it in a big way by hosting an art exhibit to showcase work from each student artist. The exhibit will open on March 11th and additional details will be announced closer to the event. ***Art History students have not participated in the past....might this be the year for a change?***
- **Lunchtime Lectures:** These lectures are arranged by the Art Club and sponsored by the Visual Arts Boosters. Exposure to people working in the field of art helps students to better understand the role of artists in past and present times and the myriad art-related career possibilities. While this is a mandatory experience for all studio art students, art history students may earn extra credit for attendance and submission of a written report. The speakers and dates will be announced as soon as they have been scheduled.
- **Art Club:** The Art Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Any student is welcome to join if they feel that they can make the commitment to attend all meetings and contribute to the organized activities. Dues are \$7.00. The first meeting for the 2015/16 school year is scheduled for Sept. 22nd. Those interested in the National Art Honor Society (NAHS) are highly encouraged to join the Art Club.
- **pARTnerships:** Thanks to the VAB, art students may apply for specialty classes taught off campus and at significantly reduced price. If chosen via application, students are only responsible for \$25.00 towards total class costs. Classes vary each semester and accepted students are expected to attend all classes and should be prepared to share their learning outcomes with the Art Club and the VAB.
- **Travel:** The Art Dept. arranges travel opportunities whenever possible. Domestic and international trips are proposed and, with enough participation, can take students to the country’s and the world’s greatest museums and archaeological sites. This year.....Chicago? NYC? Philadelphia? Stay tuned for more information....

**1) Review and annotate the syllabus, 2) Share it with a parent/guardian, 3) Initial below**

Student initials here: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/guardian initials here: \_\_\_\_\_ (thank you!)

**This syllabus is to remain in your art notebook for reference and review throughout the year.**