Course Description and Goals

On February 15, 2015, the website Buzzfeed posted a quiz titled, “How well do you know art?” It asked such questions as: “True or False: Van Gogh was an Impressionist painter?” And, “Who painted the Last Supper?” A quick Google search will reveal the answers to these questions and many other facts about visual art, such as the year a certain painting was made, the person who commissioned a given building, or whether a print is an etching or an engraving. But art history is about more than names and dates; it is a way of looking at images and objects of all kinds, deciphering what they say about their given subjects, and understanding why they say those things—what personal, political, religious, or cultural demands the images or objects met. This course will introduce you to the meaning and significance of major works of Western art from the Renaissance to the present and empower you with the skills to develop such interpretations yourself. Ultimately, you will be able to ace a Buzzfeed quiz, but also (and much more importantly) walk the halls of any museum or open any magazine or newspaper and begin to decipher the messages and values that the images you see there communicate.
Course Requirements:

1) COMMUNICATION

A. Attendance and Participation
Attendance is required at every lecture and discussion section. Students are expected to arrive on time. In cases of religious observance, please notify your Graduate Instructor in advance of your absence and arrange to get notes from someone else in the class. More than one unexcused absence or continued lateness will adversely affect the attendance and participation grade. The University attendance policy can be found here: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences

Additionally, participation is an integral component of the course. Students are expected to take notes on lectures and engage in class discussions on the assigned readings and works at hand.

B. Electronics Policy
Cell phones and other electronic devices, including laptops, should be placed on silent and put away for the duration of lecture and section. Notes can and should be taken with pen/pencil on paper, which has been proven to be a more effective means of learning than taking notes by computer. With documentation from the Dean of Students Office, a waiver will be made to the laptop policy.

C. Email Policy
Please check your UF email regularly. Important information about assignments, meeting locations, etc. will be disseminated via section list-serves. You are automatically subscribed to the list-serve with your UFL email. In most cases, I respond to emails within 24-48 hours.

2) READING

a. The course textbook is:


It is required and can be purchased at the UF bookstore or online (just be sure to buy the correct edition—paperback is fine).

b. Except where noted in the course schedule, other required readings are available through Ares.

All readings should be completed in advance of the dates for which they are assigned. Bring hardcopies of the Ares readings to section. If your printing budget permits, I strongly encourage you to print the texts prior to reading them so you can underline, highlight, and jot down notes, thoughts, and questions with abandon.

3) WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: there are two writing assignments for this course, each approximately 3-5 pages in length. Both assignments are visual analyses of a work of art in the collection of the Harn Museum of Art. The first assignment will be on one of a selection of historical prints at the Museum; it is due on Tuesday, October 6th at noon. The second assignment will be on one of a selection of works of modern and contemporary art; it is due on Tuesday, November 24th at noon. The assignments will be submitted through Canvas by the time (and on the date) designated in the course schedule.
4) Exams: there will be a midterm exam and a final exam for this course. Both will consist of identifications, comparisons, and essays. They will draw upon the material covered in course lectures, discussion sections, and readings. The midterm will be in class on Thursday, October 15. A midterm review will take place in class on Tuesday, October 13. The final will be on December 14 and will be preceded by a final review on Tuesday, December 8.

Accommodations

Every effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. Students in need of disability accommodations should schedule an appointment with me as soon as possible. All accommodations requests must be accompanied by necessary documentation from the Dean of Students Office.

Course Resources

1) Canvas – slide lists and any other documents distributed in class will be posted on the course page.

2) Office Hours: I’m happy to meet with you during my office hours Wednesdays, 4pm-6pm in my office, FAC 121, to discuss any questions pertaining to the course content, reading assignments, writing assignments, or exams. Office hours don’t require an appointment; feel free to just drop by. If you’re unavailable at the designated time, just ask or email me, and we can arrange another time to meet.

Additionally, the course TA’s are happy to meet with you during their office hours in the FAC 118 (Salon):

Elizabeth Cerejido: Weds., 3-4pm
Mark Hodge: Mon., 11:45am-12:45pm

3) Academic Support

UF Teaching Center
https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/

UF Writing Studio
http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

University Counseling & Wellness Center
http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/

Grading

The final course grade is calculated as follows:

20% Attendance/Participation
20% Midterm Exam
20% Visual Analysis I
20% Visual Analysis II
20% Final Exam
To receive full credit, assignments must be turned in on time. Late assignments will only be accepted under special or extreme circumstances with valid documentation and, unless impossible, extensions must be arranged in advance. Without an approved extension, late assignments will be marked down 1/3 of a grade per day. No make-up exams will be given without documentation demonstrating that the scheduled exam date is impossible. In order to pass this course, all assignments must be completed. No exceptions.

All exams and assignments will be assigned letter grades. For letter grade definitions, see: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

As a matter of course, students are expected to abide by the University’s policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conduct related to the honor code. Full information regarding these policies is available at the following sites:

Academic Honesty: http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html#honesty
Honor Code: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php
Student Conduct: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php

**Important Dates at a Glance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues. October 6</td>
<td>Visual Analysis I due at noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. October 15</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. November 24</td>
<td>Visual Analysis II due at noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. December 14</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Course Schedule

### Week 1: The “Beginning”

**August 25**  
Introduction

**August 27**  
Proto-Renaissance Painting: Christian Ideals

Reading:

*Section: Looking at Art (2D)*

### Week 2: The Italian Renaissance

**Sept. 1**  
The Renaissance: Human Perspectives

Reading:

**Sept. 3**  
The High Renaissance: The Artist as Scholar

Reading:

*Section: Looking at Art (3D)*

Class meets outside at [location TBD]

Reading:

### Week 3: The Italian Renaissance/The Southern European Baroque

**Sept. 8**  
Renaissance Venice: Worldly Wonders

Reading:

**Sept. 10**  
Italy and Spain: Dramatic Displays

Reading:

*Section: Interpreting Art: Biography—Possibility and Peril*

Reading:

### Week 4: The Northern Renaissance and Baroque

**Sept. 15**  
Art and Devotion

Reading:
Sept. 17  Worldly Matters

Reading:

Section: Looking at Art: Print-making
Section meets at the Harn Museum of Art
Watching:

Week 5:  The Human Condition

Sept. 22  Dutch Masters: Rubens, Rembrandt, Vermeer

Reading:

Sept. 24  Rococo / The Enlightenment: Pleasure and Reason

Reading:

Section: Interpreting Art: The Viewer

Week 6:  Reason and Imagination

Sept. 29  The Academy and History Painting

Reading:

Oct. 1  Romanticism

Reading:

Section: Interpreting Art: Truths and Fictions

Week 7:  The Natural World

Oct. 6  Landscape as Escape

Reading:

***Visual Analysis I due on Canvas at noon***

Oct. 8  Class Cancelled

Section: Interpreting Art: Context

Week 8:  Midterm
Oct. 13  
Catch-Up and Midterm Review

[Oct. 14  
**Event of Interest:** Adrienne Kaeppler, Curator of Oceania, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, “Holophusicon, The Leverian Museum: An 18th Century English Institution of Science, Curiosity and Art,” Harn Museum of Art, 6pm]

Oct. 15  
Midterm

**Week 9:**  
Representing the Real

Oct. 20  
The Art and Science of Photography

Reading:

Oct. 22  
Realism: Modern Life on Canvas

Reading:

**Section:**  
Meet at the Harn Museum of Art

Reading:

**Week 10:**  
Vision and Visionaries

Oct. 27  
Impressionism

Reading:

Oct. 29  
Subjective States

Reading:

**Section:** Interpreting Art: Artists’ Writings

Reading:

**Week 11:**  
Modernity and Its Discontents

Nov. 3  
Modern Architecture

Reading:

Nov. 5  
Cubism/Dada/The Stieglitz Circle: Objects Undone

Reading:

**Section:** None – Happy Homecoming!
**Week 12:**  
**Art and Politics**

Nov. 10  
Envisioning Utopia

Reading:

Nov. 12  
Realism and Surrealism

Reading:

**Section:** Understanding Art: The Canon

**Week 13:**  
**Art and Culture**

Nov. 17  
Abstract Expressionism

Reading:

Nov. 19  
Pop and Its Predecessors

Reading:

**Section:** Interpreting Art: Art Criticism

**Week 14:**  
**Inside and Outside of the Box**

Nov. 24  
Minimalism/Performance Art/Conceptual Art

Reading:

***Visual Analysis II due on Canvas at noon***

Nov. 26  
Holiday

**Section:** None - Happy Thanksgiving!

**Week 15:**  
**Contemporary Concerns**

Dec. 1  
Post-Modernism: Art and Identity

Reading:

Dec. 3  
The Museum as Muse

Reading:

**Section:** Understanding Art: Museums
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Week 16:</strong></th>
<th>The “End”</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>Final Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 10</td>
<td>Reading Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dec. 14</strong></td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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