

## ARH 101 – ART HISTORY I (4 credits)

### Objective

The aim of this course is to make you familiar with important monuments of Western art (including architecture, murals, mosaics, ceramics, stained glass, painting, sculpture, book illumination, and decorative art) produced from the period before recorded history until the dawn of the Renaissance, around 1400. Two observations will be fundamental to our investigations.

The first is that *art history involves the study not simply of images but of actual objects*, many of which still survive. A work of art has a physical presence, and its appearance is shaped in large measure by the material from which it was made and the techniques used to fashion it.

The second observation has to do with *the relationship between art and culture*: Art does not simply (or passively) *reflect* a given culture, but rather *actively participates in its formation and development*. A work of art, then, cannot be fully understood or appreciated without considering its *social, religious, political, and intellectual context*.

### Requirements

**Exercises & Exams.** There will be a total of 5 short exercises during classes with no previous notice. Some of these exercises will require you to describe works of art, either from direct observation or from memory. Others will require you to write about the work analyzing what is presented to you in relation to its context. These will count for the participation grade. The midterm and final exams will include essay questions that require you to compare diverse works of art, as well as to analyze works that you will have to discuss and identify to the best of your ability.

**Papers.** You will be required to submit two short papers, approximately four pages in length (1000 to 1500 words). The first paper will require you to choose an art work from the Prado Museum, among the works dated between 1100 and 1400 from its Permanent Collection, and analyze it. In the second you will respond critically to a piece of scholarship in the form of an essay.

➤ **PAPER 1: Analysis of an art work (1000-1200 words).** Describe, relate and contextualize & interpretate one art work you will choose and then assigned at the beginning of the semester.

➤ **PAPER 2: Topic Essay (1200-1500 words).** Title, introduction, 2/3 supporting paragraphs, conclusion on a topic chosen from the list below:

1. *Hispania: The Iberian Peninsula at the time of the Roman Empire*
2. *Muslim, Hebrew and Christian co-habitation at the time of Al Andalus*
3. *Monastic orders: Origins and development*
4. *Mediterranean cultures, arts and civilizations at the turn of our era*
5. *Pilgrims and Pilgrimages to Santiago and Rome: Past and Present*
6. *European cities at the time of cathedrals*

Attendance and Class Participation. An 80% of class attendance is required. From the third non-justified absence, every other one will involve the loss of three points towards the final grade. Your participation in this class is essential. Preparing your own bibliography for each class and then reading it is required because it provides information and ideas important to participate and interact in class discussions and therefore, students are expected to attend every class. If you have done the required bibliographic research and reading and have devoted just a few minutes to thinking about the questions and topics, you should be prepared to participate in class discussions.

Screening. Various documentaries on Egyptian World, Greek Antiquity, Roman Empire... and films such as "Quo Vadis".

Course Book & Bibliography. There is no course book for this class. Therefore you are required to do your own bibliographic research (see above) for each class topic **prior to each class**, at the library, Suffolk on-line library and at the Internet. Thus, you will be fully prepared for examinations. Start making a vocabulary list from the list of class contents, then compose your own chronology of Mediterranean Civilizations and third a list of movements and artists. This will help you to understand and perfectly follow each of the classes.

Museum Visits. MOST OF WEDNESDAY CLASSES will take the form of museum field trips. In order to take profit of Madrid's rich cultural patrimony and legacy, regular classes will be held in museums. Students are expected to be ON TIME at museum entrances holding their student cards either from university of origin or from SUMC, as well as to take notes during visits and an active participation.

**PLEASE CHECK ALL DATES AND MUSEUM SITES ON THE MUSEUM FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE & CALENDAR YOU WILL RECEIVE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER.**

### Grading

*Exams:* Midterm (20%) + Final (25%) = 45%

*Papers:* Analysis (20%) + Topic (20%) = 40%

*Participation:* 15%

**Special Note.** If you are a student with a documented disability and wish to request a reasonable accommodation for this class, please see me immediately. Keep in mind that reasonable accommodations are not provided retroactively.

### **Contents of classes**

#### *1. Introduction*

- Art as Object
- Art and Culture
- Art and Archaeology

#### *2. Art Before Recorded History*

- European prehistoric cultures
- Paleolithic: Lascaux & Altamira Caves.
- The Venus figures
- Mesolithic and Neolithic : megaliths. Stonehenge & the Carnac region

#### *3. The Ancient Near East, I*

- Akkadian and Sumerian cultures
- Nabuchadnezzar & Babylone
- Palaces & Ziggurats

4. *Ancient Near East, II: Assyrian, Neo-Babylonian and Persian Art*

- Mesopotamia
- Ashurbanipal, Cyrus & Cambyses II
- The Zoroastrian religion
- Persian weaving, painting, ceramics & miniature
- Persian architecture: Susa & Persepolis

5. *The Art of Early Dynastic Egypt*

- Religion and Dynasties
- Mastabas & Pyramids
- Early Dynastic Period: Saqqarah & Gizah

6. *Ancient Egypt: The Middle and New Kingdoms*

- Middle Kingdom: Thebes, Abydos & Al Fayyoun
- New Kingdom: Abou Simbel & Valley of the Kings
- Persian domination and ptolemaic dynasty

7. *Aegean Art Before the Greeks Cycladic, Minoan, and Mycenaean Art*

- The art of the Cyclades
- Minoan palaces. Painting, metal work and ceramics at Crete
- Mycenaean cities: Tiryns, Thebes & Athens

8. *The Art of Ancient Greece*

- Mythology
- Geometric & Archaic Styles
- Architecture and Sculpture: The Acropolis and the Parthenon

9. *Late Classical and Hellenistic Art*

- Alexander the Great
- Athens & Sparta

10. *Etruscan and Early Roman Art*

- Viterbo & Tarquinus

11. *The Art of the Roman Empire*

- Republican and Imperial Cities. Rome, Nîmes & Mérida
- Pompei & Herculaneum
- Architecture, Sculpture, Public Works and related arts in Hispania

12. *Late Imperial and Early Christian & Byzantine Art*

- Constantine. Rome and Ravenna
- Constantinople, Justinian, and the Art of the Byzantine Empire
- Middle & Late Byzantine Art: Icons and Iconoclasm

13. *The Art of the Carolingian, Ottonian and Goths Empires*

- The fall of the Roman Empire and the Germanic invasions
- Merovingians, Carolingians, Ottonians
- Visigoths in Hispania: Toledo

14. *Islamic Art in Europe*

- Ummayyad and Abbasid dynasties
- Islamic Empire and its spread through the Mediterranean
- Al Andalus, Taifas Kingdoms and the Christian Reconquest: Medina Zahara & La Alhambra

*15. Romanesque Art*

- Illuminated manuscripts
- First Romanesque Art in Catalonia: Tahüll
- Cluny's rayonnance: monastic orders and abbeys
- Saint James Pilgrimage to Compostela

*16. Gothic Art*

- The International Style in Sculpture
- Manuscripts, metal works and tapestries
- Architecture in France, Italy and England
- Spain and the Catholic Monarchs

*17. Cities and the modern state*

- Paris, London, Milan & Barcelona