

ARH 102 – ART HISTORY II (4 credits)

Description

As a continuation of ARH 101 Art History I, this course embraces a panoramic view of art from the 15th century Renaissance to the mid 20th century. It is designed mainly as an introduction to the analysis and the critique of the work of art in its context. We will especially focus on Spanish art.

Objectives

- To learn to identify, analyze and appraise works of art
- To learn to research and write about art, and familiarize oneself with basic bibliography about Art History
- To develop criteria for the evaluation of works of art through visual memory, critical thinking and experienced aesthetic sensibility.
- To expand one's knowledge of the European and Western culture (and in particular Spanish culture) through the visual arts.

Course requirements

▪ Museum visits:

Group visits to museums are an integral part of the course. Students will meet the instructor at the museum entrance at scheduled class hours. You will receive a calendar along with this program during the first weeks of class.

▪ Attendance:

A minimum of 80% attendance will be required. From the third non justified absence, every other one will involve the loss of three points towards the final grade.

▪ Behaviour

Eating or drinking in class is not permitted, nor the use of any kind of electronic devices or laptops. You may ask for specific permission in case of need. Students are required to be on time in class. No students will be allowed to enter more than 10 minutes late.

▪ Required assignments:

- One analysis of a work of art
- One essay

Both relate and involve the research and study of original works of art, based on a specific bibliography as well as visits to museums, galleries and/or monuments.

▪ Participation:

Each topic will include class discussion and assignments. Participation in these discussions and assignments will be evaluated. Furthermore they will be part of the midterm and final grades.

Course evaluation

- Participation: 15%, including assignments and random quizzes
- Midterm exam: 25%
- Work of art analysis: 15%
- Essay: 15%
- Final exam: 30%

CONTENTS

1. A methodology to the analysis of art works. Art research and art criticism

2. Introduction to Renaissance

- General characteristics
- 1400. Florence and the Medici
- Giotto, Brunelleschi, Alberti
- Michelangelo, Raphael, Bramante and Leonardo da Vinci

3. The spread of Renaissance

- Italy: Milan, Florence, Pisa, Venice, Rome
- France: Art and Politics under Henri IV and François I. School of Fontainebleau
- Castles at the Loire Valley
- Northern Europe: Durer, Bruegel, Holbein, Van Eyck, van der Weyden, Bosch, van Eyck

4. Spanish Renaissance & Mannerism

- The Catholic Monarchs
- Titian
- The Monastery of El Escorial
- El Greco
- Berruguete, Yáñez de la Almedina, Sánchez Coello

5. Introduction to Baroque

- Baroque and Absolutism.
- Bernini and Borromini.
- Louis XIV, The Louvre and Versailles
- The Churriguera style.
- “Impassioned Baroque”
- Sculpture: Gregorio Fernández, Martínez Montañés

6. The Baroque Fiction

- Tenebrism and Caravaggio
- Rubens and Rembrandt
- Naturalism and Still lifes: Ribera and Cotán
- The School of Seville: Zurbarán, Murillo

7. Velázquez

- Life and work in Sevilla
- Portraits
- Mythological paintings

8. Luxury and Rococo

- Venice and Naples: Cortona, Tiepolo
- France: Watteau, Boucher, Fragonard
- Spain: Paret, Meléndez, Mengs

9. Goya

- Life and work until 1808
- The War of Independence. The prints
- The Black Paintings and last period: 1814 – 1828

10. Romanticism and Historicism

- Eclecticism in the 19th c. architecture
- British landscape: Turner, Constable
- French History painting: Delacroix, Géricault
- Realism: Courbet

11. Industrialism

- Architecture: the School of Chicago
- Symbolism
- Cézanne
- Manet
- Impressionism: Monet, Renoir, Rodin
- Postimpressionism: Gauguin, Van Gogh,
- Sorolla

12. Expressionism

- Matisse and “Les Fauves”
- German Expressionism. Die Brücke, Der Blaue Reiter. Munch
- “Dark Spain”: Regollós, Zuloaga
- Solana’s idea of Spain

13. Picasso

- “Analytic” and “Synthetic” cubism.
- Gris and Braque
- The decade of the 30s. Guernica
- Work after 1950

14. “Abstracted” and Abstraction

- Kandinsky
- Orfism: Robert and Sonia Delaunay, Kupka
- Suprematism and Constructivism: Malevich, Rodtchenko, Lizitsky
- Neoplasticism: Mondrian

15. Dada and Surrealism

- Dada: Duchamp, Picabia
- Surrealism: Breton, Magritte, Dalí, Buñuel
- Sculpture: Gargallo, González, Calder, Smith

16. Miró

- Surrealism
- The Constellations
- Abstraction

17. Informalism and American Abstract Art

- The School of New York: Gorky, Pollock, Rothko, Twombly
- Spanish art after the Civil war: Saura, Zóbel, Millares, Chillida, Oteiza
- European Informalism: Dubuffet, Tàpies

Films & documentaries

Artists’ lives and works as well as fictional stories will be screened and discussed or worked through different exercises in class.

Topics for assignments

1. Study of an art work: Introduction; Description; Analysis; Artistic and Historical Context; Interpretation; Conclusion (2000 words). Choose one work among the Thyssen or the Reina Sofía Collections, dated in between 1450 and 1950.

B. Essay: Title (statement), Introduction (intentions & plan of development), Development or Supporting paragraphs (2/3), Conclusions (4500 words). Choose one topic among the following:

- 1) The Royal Academy of “San Fernando”
- 2) The first photographers
- 3) The Royal Palace of Madrid
- 4) The Palace of La Granja in Segovia
- 5) 19th century Orientalism
- 6) Gauguin in Tahiti
- 7) “La España Negra”
- 8) Spanish art under Franco’s regime