

LBCL295B - THE HISTORY OF ART

Liberal Arts College

Concordia University

Tuesday and Thursday 2:45-4:00 - RR-02

Dr. Vanessa Parent

vanessamackenzie.parent@concordia.ca

Office hours: Wednesdays 10am-1pm Room 03.02

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND REQUIREMENTS

In this class we look at the visual arts in their historical contexts and relate them to texts and ideas studied in other LAC classes.

The course's aims are as follows:

- to develop an understanding of the formal characteristics and language of art, and equip students with the methodological tools necessary to analyze, interpret, enjoy and write about architecture, painting, and sculpture.
- to familiarize students with the historical development of the visual arts of the Western tradition, from the Archaic Greek to the Postmodern periods, both in terms of the broad currents of that tradition and in terms of specific works. Emphasis will be placed on reading artworks as artifacts that provide important insights into the cultures that produced them.
- to introduce some of the literature in the field of Art History and criticism, and to explore some of the most influential theories and methodologies that have shaped the discipline of Art History.
- to develop skills in research and writing about artworks.

REQUIRED READING

LBCL 295: History of Art: Notes and Readings. This is a package of course readings that can be purchased in digital form from the Concordia Bookstore.

Note: There are also several survey Art History textbooks (e.g. Janson's History of Art) in the LAC Library and students are encouraged to consult these.

ATTENDANCE AND GRADING

Policy Regarding Absences

Participation in seminar discussion is essential at the Liberal Arts College. Therefore, a pattern of non-attendance in a course can result in a failing grade even if all papers and assignments are completed. A pattern of non-attendance is hereby defined as **four (4) absences per semester**. Faculty members will determine whether a failing grade should be awarded in a given case, taking

relevant circumstances into account. Students are expected to arrive on time and may be marked absent if they do not. Students should also keep in mind that absences will affect their participation grade.

Policy Regarding Late Work

Students have until class time on the due date to submit their assignments. All assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized by **one percentage point per day of lateness**, unless a medical note is produced. If you miss class on a day that a paper is due, your paper will be counted as late. Essay rewrites are not allowed, but students are encouraged to submit drafts in advance for comment and advice **no later than two weeks before the paper is due**. Students should keep copies of their essays on file. **Completion of all assignments is mandatory for students to receive a passing grade.**

A grade of “INC” (incomplete) will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, including medical reasons. Permission to seek a grade of “INC” must be granted by the faculty member. Any student with more than one “INC” in a semester must meet with the Principal of the College.

Final Examination

DO NOT make any end-of-term travel plans until **after** the Final Examination schedule has been finalized. You must be available to write the final examination at the time and on the day specified. **There will be no alternate examination.**

Plagiarism

In accordance with LAC and University regulations, plagiarism is strictly prohibited and will result in serious sanctions. These may include receiving a failing grade for the course. The definition of plagiarism can be found at the University’s Academic Integrity website: www.concordia.ca/students/academic-integrity/plagiarism.html

Use of Technology In Class

Text messaging, email, gaming, and any other non-class-related activity is **strictly prohibited** during class time.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

First Semester - Fall 2023

Formal Analysis Exercise # 1 (due 2 Nov.)	4 pages
Architecture Project (due 30 Nov.)	2 pages

Second Semester - Winter 2024

Research Paper Thesis Statement (due 1 Feb.)	1 page
Formal Analysis Exercise # 2 (due 22 Feb.)	4 pages
Second Semester Research Paper (due 4 Apr.)	10 pages
Final Examination (TBA)	

Grade Breakdown

Architecture Project	15%
Two Formal Analysis Exercises	30 %
Research Paper Thesis Statement	5%
Research Paper	20%
Final Exam	20%
Participation in Class Discussion	10%

SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS

First Semester - Fall 2023

Tue. Sept. 5: Introduction/Beginnings of the Classical Tradition: Ancient Greek Sculpture
 Thurs. Sept. 7: Ancient Greek Sculpture

Tue. Sept. 12: Art and Politics: Ancient Roman Sculpture
 Thurs. Sept. 14: Art and Politics: Ancient Roman Sculpture

Tue. Sept. 19: Laying the Foundations: Ancient Greek Architecture
 Thurs. Sept. 21: Building an Empire: Ancient Roman Architecture

Tue. Sept. 26: Painting the Ancient World
 Thurs. Sept. 28: Painting the Ancient World

Tues. Oct. 3: Early Christian Art and Architecture
 Thurs. Oct. 5: The Triumph of Latin Christendom: Romanesque Architecture

Tue. Oct. 10: **Mid-Term Break**
 Thurs. Oct. 12: **Mid-Term Break**
 Tue. Oct. 17: Portraying the Faith: Romanesque Sculpture
 Thurs. Oct. 19: Glorious Visions: The Gothic Cathedral

Tue. Oct. 24: Glorious Visions: Gothic Sculpture
 Thurs. Oct. 26: Medieval Painting: Manuscript Illumination

Tue. Oct. 31: From Gothic to Renaissance: Italian Painting in the 14th century
 Thurs. Nov. 2: Naturalism and Symbolism: Flemish Painting in the 15th century
Formal Analysis Exercise due

Tue. Nov. 7: Naturalism and Symbolism: Flemish Painting in the 15th century

Thurs. Nov. 9: Humanist Renewal: the Early Italian Renaissance

Tue. Nov. 14: Humanist Renewal: the Early Italian Renaissance

Thurs. Nov. 16: Humanist Renewal: the Early Italian Renaissance

Tue. Nov. 21: Wholeness and Harmony: The Italian High Renaissance

Thurs. Nov. 23: Wholeness and Harmony: The Italian High Renaissance

Tue. Nov. 28: Ancient Rome Reborn: Italian Renaissance Architecture

Thurs. Nov. 30: The Retreat from Harmony: Italian Mannerism
Architecture Project due

Second Semester - Winter 2024

Tue. Jan. 16: Baroque Art in Italy: Origins and Developments

Thurs. Jan. 18: Baroque Art in Italy: Caravaggio

Tue. Jan. 23: Baroque Architecture in Italy

Thurs. Jan. 25: Varieties of Art in Seventeenth-Century Europe: Landscape

Tue. Jan. 30: Varieties of Art in Seventeenth-Century Europe: Genre and Still Life

Thurs. Feb. 1: Eighteenth-Century Modernisms: French Rococo

Tue. Feb. 6: Eighteenth-Century Modernisms: English Portraiture and History Painting

Thurs. Feb. 8: Defining Romanticism: Francisco Goya

Tue. Feb. 13: The Romantic Movement: Landscape Painting

Thurs. Feb. 15: The Romantic Movement: Landscape Painting

Tue. Feb. 20: Realism: Gustave Courbet and the Painting of Modern Life

Thurs. Feb. 22: The Rise of Modernism: Édouard Manet
Formal Analysis Exercise due
Research Paper Thesis Statement due

Tue. Feb. 27: **Mid-Term Break**

Thurs. Feb. 29: **Mid-Term Break**

Tue. Mar. 5: Impressionism: Fetishizing the Eye and the I

Thurs. Mar. 7: Impressionism: Fetishizing the Eye and the I

Tue. Mar. 12: Post- Impressionism: Van Gogh and Expressionism

Thurs. Mar. 14: Post- Impressionism: Cezanne and the Characteristics of Modernism

Tue. Mar. 19: The Avant-Garde: Matisse and Fauvism

Thurs. Mar. 21: The Avant-Garde: Picasso and Cubism

Tues. Mar. 26: The Avant-Garde: Picasso and Cubism

- Thurs. Mar. 28: Pioneers of Abstraction: Kandinsky and Malevich
- Tues. Apr. 2: The Impact of the First World War: Dada and Surrealism
- Thurs. Apr. 4: Late Modernism: American and European Expressionism
Research Paper due
- Tues. Apr. 9: Late Modernism: American and European Expressionism
- Thurs. Apr. 11: Postmodernism: Painting and Sculpture

FINAL EXAM (TBA)

SOME USEFUL REFERENCE WORKS

Online Resources

- Acropolis Museum, Athens <https://www.theacropolismuseum.gr>
- Art Institute of Chicago <https://www.artic.edu/> Access to collections, articles, and videos.
- Athens, National Archaeology Museum <https://www.namuseum.gr/en/>
- Berlin, all museums <https://museumsportal-berlin.de>**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** Includes Altes Museum of Antiquities.
- British Museum, London <https://www.britishmuseum.org/>**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** Includes Parthenon Marbles.
- Catholic Encyclopedia online <https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia>
- Centre Pompidou, Paris <https://www.centrepompidou.fr/>**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** Modern and contemporary art.
- Concordia University Library Subject Guide <http://www.concordia.ca/library/guides/art-history.html>
- Getty Museums (all locations) <http://www.getty.edu/>**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** Access to library, archival holdings, research databases, Art History texts, and dictionary.
- Google Art Project <https://artsandculture.google.com> Access to most important museums, including tours, and recreations of cities of Antiquity.
- Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History <https://metmuseum.org/toah>
- Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna <https://khm.at>**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** Vast collection including antiquities, Baroque and Rococo art.
- Larousse Encyclopedie (voir sujets art, architecture) <https://larousse.fr/encyclopedia>
- London, National Gallery <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/>**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**
- Louvre, Paris <https://www.louvre.fr/en/>**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** <https://www.louvre.fr/en/moteur-de-recherche-oeuvres?tab=3#tabs> Access to all databases. Search in French; not all information is translated.

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City <https://metmuseum.org>

Metropolitan Museum of Art Publications <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/metpublications>

Montreal Museum of Fine Arts <https://www.mbam.qc.ca/en/> **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** A work in progress.

Musée d'Orsay, Paris <https://www.musee-orsay.fr/en/accueil.html?cHash=1030a57d48> 19th and early 20th century art.

Museum of Modern Art, New York City <https://www.moma.org/> Provides access, under “Research and Learning”, to archives, films, online courses, and dictionary.

Ottawa, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa <https://www.gallery.ca/> **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** Access to national databases, and research publications.

Oxford Art Online (via library.concordia.ca) Access to *Grove Art Online*.

Prado, Madrid <https://museodelprado.es> Vast collection including Brueghel, Goya Rubens, and Velazquez

Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam <https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en> Rembrandt and Dutch painting

Rome, all civic museums <http://museicapitolini.org/en/> **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** Searchable collections.

Tate Gallery (all locations) <https://www.tate.org.uk/> Access to a dictionary of art terms in addition to artists' biographies and information on works of art.

Uffizi Gallery, Florence <https://www.uffizi.it> **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** Access to digital archives and images.

Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam <https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en> **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** Access to his letters.

Vatican Museums <http://m.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani-mobile/en.html> Search for Raphael's Stanze and Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel (video & virtual tours).

Victoria and Albert Museum, London <https://www.vam.ac.uk/> Also information on materials and techniques.

Washington, National Gallery of Art <https://www.nga.gov/> **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** Extensive research material.

Books

Daniel Bouchard, Symboles dans l'art populaire (J-C Godfroy, 2017).

Herschel B. Chipp, Theories of Modern Art : A Source Book by Artists and Critics (1984).

Dictionnaire de la Connaissance de la Peinture (Larousse, 2012).

Delia Graze, Dictionary of Women Artists (1997).

Amelia Jones, ed., A Companion to Contemporary Art Since 1945 (2006).

James Hall, Dictionary of Subjects and Symbols in Art (Revised ed., 2007).

Charles Harrison, Paul Wood and Jason Geiger, eds., Art in Theory, 1648-1815 (2001), Art in Theory, 1815-1900 (1998), Art in Theory, 1900-2000 (2002).

Max Marmor and Alex Ross, Guide to the Literature of Art History 2 (2005).

Vernon Hyde Minor, Art History's History (2001).

Peter and Linda Murray, Penguin Dictionary of Art and Artists (1998).

Petit Larousse des Symboles (2011).

Petit Larousse de l'Histoire de l'Art (2013).

Thames and Hudson Dictionary of Art Terms (2003).

Simon Wilson and Jessica Lack, Tate Guide to Modern Art Terms (2016).