

**ARTH 2500**  
**Introduction to the History of Art and Visual Culture**  
University of Utah, Spring 2025  
ONLINE • 3 Credit Hours

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**Course Description:**

This course introduces the discipline of art history through a variety of cultural and geographic perspectives. Rather than offering a comprehensive narrative that attempts to document centuries of artistic production, we instead focus on key histories, sites, and objects that allow us to explore significant themes and concepts that have challenged cultures over time. We will explore defining issues such as the respective roles of tradition and innovation in the production and appreciation of art; the relation of art and visual culture to its broader intellectual and historical contexts; the role of display and exchange in creating meaning in art; and the changing concepts of the artist, style, and art itself.

**Course Outcomes and Objectives:**

By the end of this course, students will:

- Be introduced to a diversity of cultural artifacts, visual images, and visual representation in varied historical periods and cultural/geographical contexts.
- Learn the appropriate vocabulary and critical tools for discussing and writing about art and visual culture.
- Relate specific works of art and visual culture to their cultural, historical, and social contexts.
- Gain familiarity with a broad range of historical and methodological issues, drawn from ancient history to modern times.
- Develop the tools to analyze the social, cultural and aesthetic work performed by diverse objects and media.

**Course Requirements:**

**Survey Quizzes** **20%**  
*Weekly quizzes on survey learning materials*

**Weekly Spotlight Exercises and Live Discussions** **45%**  
*Spotlight Exercises: eight times per semester, participation in an asynchronous spotlight exercise and threaded text discussion of the exercise*

*Live Video Discussion Participation: twice per semester, participation in a synchronous (a.k.a. live) video conference discussion with 4-6 students and the course instructor.*

**Part I, II, and III Exams** **35%**

**Grading Scale:**

A	100% - 94%
A-	93.9% - 90%
B+	89.9% - 87%
B	86.9% - 84%
B-	83.9% - 80%
C+	79.9% - 77%
C	76.9% - 74%
C-	73.9% - 70%
D+	69.9% - 67%
D	66.9% - 64%
D-	63.9% - 60%
E	59.9% - 0%

**University Policies:**

Current University Policies can be found here: <https://cte.utah.edu/instructor-education/syllabus/institutional-policies.php>

## PRELIMINARY COURSE SCHEDULE

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*Note: in addition to the due dates listed below, each student will sign up for and participate in two live online discussions, offered at varying times and days to accommodate student schedules.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### MODULE 1: COURSE OVERVIEW AND ORIENTATION

*Syllabus Quiz and Video Introduction due Friday January 10*

#### MODULE 2: CLOSE LOOKING AND APPROACHES TO ART

*Survey Quiz due Tuesday January 14*

*Spotlight Discussion due Thursday January 16*

*Peer replies due Friday January 17*

### **PART I:**

#### MODULE 3: REPRESENTING THE PAST, SHAPING THE PRESENT

*Survey Quiz due Tuesday January 21*

*Spotlight Discussion due Thursday January 23*

*Peer replies due Friday January 24*

#### MODULE 4: THE SILK ROADS

*Survey Quiz due Tuesday January 28*

*Spotlight Discussion due Thursday January 30*

*Peer replies due Friday January 31*

#### MODULE 5: MEDIEVAL MATERIALITY ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN

*Survey Quiz due Tuesday February 4*

*Spotlight Discussion due Thursday February 6*

*Peer replies due Friday February 7*

#### MODULE 6: PART I EXAM

*Essays #1 & #2 due Friday February 14*

### **PART II:**

#### MODULE 7: PORTUGUESE CONTACTS & EXCHANGES

*Survey Quiz due Tuesday February 18*

*Spotlight Discussion due Thursday February 20*

*Peer replies due Friday February 21*

#### MODULE 8: PAINTING AND POLITICS AT THE MUGHAL COURT

*Survey Quiz due Tuesday February 25*

*Spotlight Discussion due Thursday February 27*

*Peer replies due Friday February 28*

MODULE 9: EMPIRES AND THEIR ENDINGS

*Survey Quiz due Tuesday March 4*  
*Spotlight Discussion due Thursday March 6*  
*Peer replies due Friday March 7*

MODULE 10: MODERN ART, COLONIALISM & PRIMITIVISM

*Survey Quiz due Tuesday March 18*  
*Spotlight Discussion due Thursday March 20*  
*Peer replies due Friday March 21*

MODULE 11: PART II EXAM

*Essays #1 & #2 due Friday March 28*

**PART III:**

MODULE 12: LATIN AMERICAN MODERNISMS

*Survey Quiz due Tuesday April 1*  
*Spotlight Discussion due Thursday April 3*  
*Peer replies due Friday April 4*

MODULE 13: ART IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

*Survey Quiz due Tuesday April 8*  
*Spotlight Discussion due Thursday April 10*  
*Peer replies due Friday April 11*

MODULE 14: RESPONDING TO TRADITION

*Survey Quiz due Tuesday April 15*  
*Spotlight Discussion due Thursday April 17*  
*Peer replies due Friday April 18*

MODULE 15: PART III EXAM

*Essays #1 & #2 due Wednesday April 30*