

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

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

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