TAFTCOLLEGE

Art History (ARTH) C1100 Survey of Art from Prehistory to the Medieval Era (3 Units)
CSU: UC [formerly Art 1510; Art 1A; ARTH 1510]

Prerequisites: None

Co-Requisites: None

Advisories/Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for English C1000 Academic Reading and Writing strongly recommended

Hours and Units Calculations:
48 hours lecture. 96 Outside of class hours. (144 Total Student Learning Hours) 3 Units

Catalog Description:
This course introduces students to visual art and architecture from prehistory to the medieval era with a focus on art from Europe, North Africa, and the near East. The course will further consider global interactions involving these regions. C-ID ARTH 110

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Representative Texts, Manuals, OER, and Other Support Materials:

• Janson, H. W. History of Art, 8th edition. Pearson, 2021.

• Kleiner, Fred S. Gardner's Art Through the Ages: The Western Perspective, Volume 1, 16th edition.

Cengage. 2020.

• Kleiner, Fred S. Gardner's Art Through the Ages: A Global History, Volume 1, 16th edition. Cengage.

2019.

• Stokstad, Marilyn. Art History, Volume 1, 6th edition. 2022.

• Gustlin, Deborah and Zoe Gustlin, Libretexts, *Introduction to Art History*, A World Perspective of Art History, 2023

• Harris, Beth and Steven Zucker; and Various Authors, Smarthistory's (Khan Academy), 2025

• Kilroy-Ewbank, Lauren and Various Authors. Smarthistory Reframing Art History (global perspectives) open access. 2025

• Seymour, Michael and Various Authors, Met Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, 2022

• SmartHistory, Smarthistory OER Commons, 2021

Additional Required Materials: None

Course Objectives/Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify, examine, and assess representative works of art and architecture from prehistory to the medieval era employing appropriate art historical terminology.
2. Analyze works of art and architecture in terms of aesthetic, socio-political, religious, historical, technological, and cultural contexts in which they were created.
3. Develop critical thinking, information literacy, and problem solving through an engagement with art, architecture, artists, and patrons from prehistory to the medieval era.

Course Level Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:
1. Demonstrate the ability to identify and analyze the purpose, function, and style of artworks and architecture from the prehistoric through Gothic eras in various global cultures.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Develop an awareness of ways in which people through the ages and in different cultures respond to the world around them through artistic and cultural creations.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of human diversity and tolerance for different perspectives, ideas, and values.
3. Describe how through the arts, literature, philosophy, foreign languages, or religion reflect the historical, intellectual context and aesthetic tastes of various cultures using value judgments.

Course Scope and Content:

This course critically examines the art and architecture of the following periods with an integration of history, theory, aesthetics, and cross-cultural connections:
1. Prehistory, visual analysis before writing
2. Mesopotamia
3. Ancient Egypt
4. Ancient Aegean cultures
5. Ancient Greece
6. Etruria
7. Ancient Rome
8. Contextualizing Monotheism
   a. Judaism
   b. Early Christianity
   c. Early Islam
9. Byzantine
10. Medieval

Representative Assignments:

Reading Assignments

1. Preparatory Reading: Students may read Chapter 1 on Art in the Stone Age prior to class to prepare for class discussion in regard to the location of ancient works' origins and the materials that ancient artists used.

2. Supplemental Reading: Students may select a Greek deity of choice to research in the Grove Art Online database utilizing the college library website. The found literature may prepare the student for class discussion and possibly act as source material for future writing assignment(s).

Writing Assignments

1. Comparative Analysis: Students may select two works of art from the works covered in the Ancient Mesopotamian and Persian Art section of the reading and lecture, to discuss how these two works are the same (compare) and make observations about how they are different (contrast) using proper terminology to discuss the works in an essay format.

2. Contextual Analysis: Students may select a work of art from the works covered in the Art of the Roman Empire section of the reading and lecture, to discuss how the confines of time and place provide a contextual understanding of the selected work. Using proper terminology to discuss the works in an essay format students must consider aspects such as the social, economic, religious, gender and/or cultural influences of the society in which the work was created.

Out-of-Class Assignments

1. Museum Assignment: Students may visit a museum in their local areas to conduct research on a chosen work of art that reflects a time period and culture covered within the course content. Research then provides basis for a final written paper focusing on the aesthetics and criticism of the work's components.

2. Projects and presentations: Utilizing library and other art historical resources, students may complete a research project and present information on an art historical topic that relates to the content of this course.

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Required, reading in text
2. Other assigned readings
3. Thinking and writing critically on the essay assignment

Methods of Instruction:

1. Lectures with slides

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2. Class discussion
3. Assigned readings
4. Individual critical thinking and writing
5. Library research
6. Art museum visit

Methods of evaluation will include:
1. Written essays and/or research projects
2. Exam with essay component

Methods of evaluation may also include:
1. Discussions
2. Objective exams
3. Projects and presentations
4. Quizzes
5. Group Assignments
6. Museum Assignments
Methods of evaluation are at the discretion of faculty.

Supplemental Data:

TOP Code:	1002.00 Art
SAM Priority Code:	E: Non-occupational
Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable
Program Status:	1: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class
Basic Skills Status:	N: Not Applicable
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not Applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Course is not a part of a cooperative education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	No

Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	Yes
Discipline	Art History