

ART HISTORY 1010: Understanding Art
Online/Distance Learning

Winter 2015-16/Section 81

Professor Claudia Goldstein
119 Ben Shahn

tel.: 973.720.3286
e-mail: goldsteinc@wpunj.edu

Art Department Secretary: Tina Giraldi; 107 Ben Shahn; 973.720.2404; giraldit@wpunj.edu

****Syllabus and other course information available on Blackboard (bb.wpunj.edu)****

Course Description: A course for non-art majors addressing selected issues in the history of visual art. Emphasis is placed on visual literacy, teaching students how to speak, write, and think about art. Course content may address a variety of historical periods and visual media, including painting, sculpture, architecture, graphic arts, photography, and film.

****PLEASE NOTE: This course involves a minimum of one museum or gallery visit.**

Course Objectives:

- A. To engage students in active viewing and critical discussion about visual media, using both the vocabulary and concepts of the discipline.
- B. To introduce students to basic themes in the study of human artistic production and reception.
- C. To teach students to speak and write clearly and eloquently on any topic, using the visual arts as a means to that end.
- D. To have students observe and analyze original works of art for themselves.

Course Requirements:

- ◆ This course is conducted online, utilizing Blackboard, so you **MUST** be familiar with the basics of that application. You must also regularly check your **WPU email account**, as that will be the primary means of communication.

This class will be asynchronous, meaning that you will complete assignments at your own pace and upload them by the given deadlines. **Specific due dates and times are listed below.**

- ◆ **Required Textbook:**

Patrick Frank, *Prebles' ARTFORMS*, 11th edition (Prentice Hall, 2013). ISBN 978-0205968114. It is available for purchase at the University Bookstore and orderable online. **PLEASE NOTE:** you do not need to purchase the book with MyArtsLab.

- ◆ **Assignments:** Each assignment has a designated point value, and they are due by the dates indicated below. Written descriptions of each assignment will be posted under the Assignments Tab on Blackboard.

****PLEASE NOTE: All assignments are due by 11.59 PM (Midnight) EST.** For example, the assignment for Day 1 must be uploaded to Blackboard by 11.59 EST on Saturday, 12.26.14. Late assignments will lose ½ point per day.

- ◆ **Final Project:** 20 points (5-7 page paper, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman type; full description will be posted on Blackboard).

- ◆ **PROCEDURES:**

All assignments should be submitted as attached Microsoft Word files (**DO NOT use Pages or other software**). Files should be named in the following way: the first five (5) letters of the student's last name, dot, the course number, dot, section number, dot, the number of the day on which the assignment was given. **For example, Golds.ARTH1010.80.1.** This example reflects a student with the last name Goldstein, submitting for this course (ARTH1010, section 80), the assignment due on the first day of class. ****PLEASE NOTE: Do not use any special symbols (!, @, #, &, etc.) as Blackboard will not recognize them. If I cannot open the file, the assignment will not be counted as complete.**

To upload your files, scroll down the given assignment's page and look for the "Browse My Computer" button. When you click that, you will be taken to your hard drive and you can select the file that you have saved and upload it to Blackboard. **PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH YOUR ASSIGNMENTS TO AN EMAIL – IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO GRADE THEM THAT WAY. YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A GRADE FOR EMAILED ASSIGNMENTS.**

- ◆ **External Links:** Videos for the course are featured as a playlist called Understanding Art on my YouTube channel (ProfessorGoldstein), which you can access via the YouTube tab on Blackboard.

PLEASE NOTE! You will receive an F on anything you turn in that is plagiarized in any way. William Paterson's Undergraduate Course Catalog defines plagiarism as "the copying from a book, article, notebook, video, or other source material, whether published or unpublished, without proper credit through the use of quotation marks, footnotes, and other customary means of identifying sources, or passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, programs, and experiments of another, whether or not such actions are intentional or unintentional."¹ If you have willfully plagiarized – for example, if I find your text on the internet – you will not only receive an F on the assignment, you will also fail the course and be subject to disciplinary action from the University. Consider yourself warned.

- ◆ **Museum Visits:** You will be required to visit at least one museum or gallery in New York City during this Winter Session. Please begin planning for it now.
- ◆ **Readings:** Most of your written assignments are based on the assigned readings from the textbook. Please pace yourself and try not to read the chapter half an hour before the assignment is due. If you have questions about the readings, feel free to email me.
- ◆ **Disabilities statement:** If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of learning or other kinds of disabilities, please feel free to email me regarding your concerns.
- ◆ **Grading: 100 points total.** Your grade for the course will be determined by the amount of points you earn out of a possible 100. Each assignment has a point value, listed below. Adherence to directions for each assignment, correct formatting, proper spelling and grammar, the use of complete sentences,

¹ *Undergraduate Catalog 2008-2010* (Wayne, NJ: William Paterson University, 2008), 50.

meeting deadlines, and correct uploading and naming of files all contribute to your grade for each assignment.

- ◆ **Contacting me:** The best way to contact me is by email at goldsteinc@wpunj.edu. I will endeavor to get back to you the same day, or the next day at the very latest.

Readings, Assignments, and Deadlines:

DAY 1 (12.26) Introduction: What are the goals and procedures of this course?

- **Activities:** Log on to Blackboard
 - Read the course Welcome Letter
 - Download and print a copy of the syllabus
- **Assignment: (5 points, DUE BY 11.59 PM ON 12.26)**
 - Write a short personal introduction (1 page max) including the following information:
 1. your name, major, how long you have been at WPU and whether or not you are a transfer student
 2. your career aspirations
 3. your experiences with art and art history (have you taken other classes? Do you make art? Do you like art?)
 4. do you think society needs art? Why or why not?

DAY 2 (12.28) What is Art?

reading: Artforms Chaps. 1 & 2 “The Nature of Art and Creativity” and “The Purposes and Functions of Art”

Activities: view “What is Art?” on YouTube

Assignment: (10 points, DUE BY 11.59 PM ON 12.28)

- Write a 1-2 page paper on the following: based on what you read in Chapter 1, what are some of the functions of art? Choose two examples from the chapter that have different functions, and compare them. How do elements like size and materials affect the way a work of art functions?

DAY 3 (12.29) What is Formal Analysis?

reading: Artforms, Chap. 3, “The Visual Elements”

Activities: view “How to Look at Art – The Elements of Art” on YouTube

Assignment: (10 points, DUE BY 11.59 PM ON 12.29)

- Choose any work from the textbook, identify it by artist and/or title and date, and indicate the page number where it can be found in the textbook. Write a 1-2 page formal analysis. Describe your chosen work in as much detail as possible. How does your chosen work employ some of the elements of art? Give specific visual examples.

DAY 4 (12.30) Drawing, Painting, Printmaking

reading: Artforms, Chaps. 6, 7, 8

Assignment: (5 points, DUE BY 11.59 PM ON 12.30)

- Complete the drawing, printmaking, and painting worksheets on the Assignments Tab.

DAY 5 (1.2)

Photography & Sculpture

reading: Artforms, Chaps. 9 & 12

Assignment: (10 points, DUE BY 11.59 PM ON 1.2)

- Take a series of photographs of your daily life and choose the one that in your view has the best composition, use of color, and/or most interesting subject matter. Upload it to the Photograph Forum on the Blackboard Discussion Board. Please upload as a jpeg, using the same naming format as you would for an assignment.
- Make an assembled sculpture using any materials you have on hand. Upload it to the Sculpture Forum on the Blackboard Discussion Board. Please upload as a jpeg, using the same naming format as you would for an assignment.

DAY 6 (1.4)

Film

reading: Artforms, Chap. 10

Assignment: (10 points, DUE BY 11.59 PM ON 1.4)

- View all of your classmates' photographs on the Photograph Forum. Choose one and write a one-page description of it. How would you classify its subject matter (social realism, portraiture, landscape, etc.)? How does it use the elements of art to set tone and create mood?
- View all of your classmates' sculptures on the Sculpture Forum. Choose one and write a one-page description of it. What materials does it use? Is it representational? To which work(s) in Chapter 10 would you compare it, and why?
- View Eadweard Muybridge, "The Horse in Motion" on YouTube.

DAY 7 (1.5)

Is Architecture Art?

reading: Artforms, Chap. 14 "Architecture"

Assignment: (5 points, DUE BY 11.59 PM ON 1.5)

- Find an off-campus building that interests you and photograph it. Upload your photo to the Architecture Forum on Blackboard's Discussion Board.
- View *Amiens Cathedral Part II: Revelation* on YouTube
- Complete the Architecture Worksheet on the Assignments tab.

DAY 8 (1.6)

Art Through the Ages, Part I

reading: Artforms, Chap. 15 "From the Earliest Art to the Bronze Age" and Chap. 16 "The Classical and Medieval West"

Assignment: (10 points, DUE BY 11.59 PM ON 1.6)

- View "Cave Paintings" on YouTube
- Choose one image or object from Chapter 15 and one from Chapter 16 and write a short (1-2 pages) comparison. What has changed stylistically from one work to the other? How are they similar and different? What cultural changes do you think account for the stylistic change, if there is one?

- View *Acropolis Museum Girds for Battle over Marbles* and *Stephen Fry on Parthenon Marbles* on YouTube and write a one-paragraph response. Do you think the marbles should be returned to Athens? (NOTE: this paragraph can be included in the same Word document as the comparison assignment.)

DAY 9 (1.7)

Art Through the Ages, Part II

reading: Artforms, Chap. 17 “Renaissance & Baroque Europe” & Chap. 21 “Late Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries”

Assignment: (10 points, DUE BY 11.59 PM ON 1.7)

- Take a virtual tour of the Sistine Chapel on YouTube and write a one-paragraph response: http://www.vatican.va/various/cappelle/sistina_vr/index.html
- Write a short (1 page) comparison of two works, one from Chapter 17 and the other from Chapter 21. What similarities and differences do you notice? Pay special attention to materials used.

DAY 10 (1.8)

What is Representation?

reading: Artforms, Chap. 22, 23, 24

Assignment: (5 points, DUE BY 11.59 PM ON 1.8)

- View *Chuck Close: A Portrait in Progress*, on my YouTube channel (and on reserve at Cheng Library’s Media Services). Write a 1-page response and review.

DAY 11 (1.11)

What Does Art Really Look Like?

FINAL PROJECT Assignment (20 points, DUE BY 11.59 PM ON 1.11)

See Assignments Tab for full assignment. **THIS ASSIGNMENT REQUIRES A VISIT TO A NEW YORK CITY MUSEUM OR GALLERY.**