

AP Art History

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Organization of the Course:

AP Art History is a year long course. We meet three times a week. Frequent local museum visits (with or without the class) are encouraged.

Course Description:

AP Art History is a chronological survey of art largely from the European tradition, but we will also examine a variety of works from cultures and traditions around the world. We will be evaluating art from pre-historical times to the present. AP Art History is a course that requires a great deal of maturity, responsibility and self-motivation. The material is complex and challenging. I applaud you for choosing to take this rigorous course, because you will be challenged academically, intellectually and emotionally. The history of art provides a unique glimpse into the human experience. You will see representations of humankind's darkest fears and most fervent beliefs, as well as artists' conceptions of ugliness, violence, inhumanity, beauty, dignity and truth. I am confident that at the end of the year you will feel that your hard work and effort was worthwhile. Art History will open the entire visual world to you in ways that will enhance the rest of your life.

Learning Outcomes:

Art History is a discipline that embraces and challenges students' intellectual skills.

Outcomes of this Course:

- o **Critical Thinking Skills:** We will learn to observe, analyze, compare, contrast and use concrete evidence to make informed judgments about art and architecture.
- o **Cultural Literacy:** Art is a reflection of its historical time. As a result, we will learn how to examine the values and concerns of the people who created works of art by examining art from specific periods and places.
- o **Visual Literacy:** We will learn the formal language of the visual arts in order to discuss and evaluate art and architecture.
- o **Understanding Media & Method:** We will evaluate works of art by learning about the materials from which they were made and the methods employed by the artists.
- o **Understanding Works Within Their Historical Context:** We will learn how to analyze the functions of art within social, political and religious contexts. Where a work of art is located, the way it is made, the reasons it looks the way it does and the way it functioned within any given culture are important to any analysis of art history.

The AP Art History Exam:

The 2010 AP Art History Exam will be on Wednesday, May 12th. You can receive college credit for passing the AP Art History Exam. Almost all colleges and universities will now grant twelve credit hours or eight semester hours towards satisfying the undergraduate liberal arts requirement. For more information, visit: www.apcentral.collegeboard.com.

Textbooks, Supplies & Reading Materials:

Gardner's *Art Through the Ages*, 11th Edition is the main text for this course. We will also use additional books, articles, journals, films, maps, photos and other materials to supplement our learning. In addition, you will be required to have the following:

- o Three-ring binder to organize handouts, lined paper, pens and pencils
- o 4 x 6" index cards to create image cards and notes.

Grading Policies:

Your energy, presence and daily preparation will contribute to the quality of our experience this year together. It is critical for you to come prepared to discuss the readings or materials for that day. Your grade will be based on your effort, growth, participation and quality of work.

You will be graded on the following:

- o Assignments & Projects (50%)
- o Tests & Quizzes (25%)
- o Class Participation & Preparation (25%)

Behavior Expectations & Classroom Conduct:

o **Respect:** It is very important for me to create a positive environment for learning. As a result, it is critical to show respect for ourselves and others. We are a community of learners and disrespect of me and/or other students will not be tolerated. Disrespect will result in immediate dismissal from class and a parent teacher meeting.

o **Attendance:** The most important thing you can do to ensure your success in any class is to be in class every single day. You need to come to class ready to learn and engage in our class activities. Time is critical in this class. Several absences, excused or unexcused, will mean you are missing essential background material and class discussion. More than two absences each quarter will impact your ability to keep up in this class and impact your academic participation grade.

o **Make-up Work:** When you are absent from class, you are responsible for finding out what you missed.

Make-up work must be turned in with a make-up work form. You have one week after returning from an absence to make-up any missing assignments or projects. Exceptions will be made for special circumstances or long-term illnesses.

o **Late Work:** You are expected to complete homework, assignments and projects on time. Due dates are listed on the course schedule and announced regularly in class. You should also keep track of upcoming due dates in your planners. Late-work will not be accepted without one of your late-work passes.

o **Homework:** AP Art History is challenging and taught at a rapid pace. You should plan on studying/reading AP Art History every night.

o **Electronic Devices & Other Nuisance Items:** Items that distract learning are not allowed in class. As per school policy, any electronic devices (cell phones, MP3 players, IPODS, hand held games, student lap top computers, etc.) will be confiscated if not turned off and put away (out of sight) during class.

o **Plagiarism & Cheating:** It is very important for you to make every effort to give credit when using other people's ideas and words. If you have questions about plagiarism you should see me. The penalty for plagiarism and/or cheating is an "F" on the assignment and parents will be contacted. Further action may also be taken by the administration.

