Brooklyn College

Fall 2019

**Art 1010**

**Introduction to Art History**

Instructor: Prof. Malka Simon

Lecture: Tues/Thurs 11-12:15 (Section TREA, code: 19517), room 3129 Boylan

Credits: 3

Office hours: Thursdays 12:30-1:30; other times by appointment in 5109 Boylan

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**Course Description**

This course will introduce students to major works of art from cultures around the world, spanning ancient to modern periods. We will focus on developing skills of formal analysis by closely studying works of painting, sculpture, and architecture. We will also discuss the objects chosen in their historical, political, sociological, and religious contexts in order to better understand their meaning and significance.

You can find all the material (syllabi, readings, assignments, etc.) for this Learning Community online at **art1010simon.blog.brooklyn.edu.** For easy access on your mobile device, you may wish to download the Wordpress app (though you can also view the site on your browser).

**Teaching Method**

This section of Art 1010 will use the Team-Based Learning (TBL) approach. TBL differs from traditional lecture courses. Students will be placed into teams at the beginning of the semester and, through a combination of individual preparation and team collaboration, will master the course material and develop skills of critical analysis and problem solving.

This course has been divided into five learning units (see schedule below). Each unit will consist of the following elements

Here are more details about the process:

Students are expected to complete the readings listed under “RAT material” (see schedule below). These readings present course material in a straightforward way and form the essential foundation for the later in-depth application activities. At the first class meeting of each unit, students will be given a Readiness Assurance Test (RAT). The RAT measures comprehension and mastery of the readings. RATs are closed book, multiple choice exams. Students first complete the Individual RAT (iRAT), then take the same multiple choice test with their team (this is the Team RAT, or tRAT). Both exams are submitted for credit. Teams will have the opportunity to submit an appeals form if they feel a question was unclear or its answer was open to interpretation. Finally, we will review any difficult concepts and I will provide necessary clarification before proceeding to the next phase.

Following the RAT phase, teams will complete a second set of readings pertaining to the Application Activities. These activities are designed to allow students to develop critical skills and find meaningful applications for the concepts pertaining to that unit.

**Readings**

There is no single textbook for this course. Most of the readings come from Smart History, an open access online textbook (smarthistory.org). Readings have been posted on the website for this course, pastinpresenttense.wordpress.com, either as web links or PDFs, under the “Art 1010” tab in the appropriate Unit folder. Note that some of the “readings” are short videos, and you are responsible for viewing them and should take notes on their content as you would for a written text. You should complete the readings before we begin each unit (readings labeled “application readings” can be completed after we have begun the unit, as that material will not appear on any of the RATs).

**Images**

The slide list for this course lists the images that you will be responsible for identifying on the quizzes, midterm, and final. All images discussed in class will be posted on the website for review.

When studying for the RATS, you should be prepared to identify the works you read about by title, artist, and date (where applicable). This information can be found in the reading, or for quick reference you can check the slide list for this course.

**Grading**

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| --- | --- |
| Individual Performance (50%) | Team Performance (50%) |
| iRATs (20%)Midterm (25%)Final (25%)Museum Paper (30%) | tRATs (30%)Team Midterm (30%)Final Peer Evaluation (30%)Participation and Attendance (10%) |

As you can see from the table above, your grade in this course will reflect both your individual performance and your team’s performance.

RATs will consist of five multiple choice questions that draw upon the reading material. You will be expected to know the major formal characteristics of the periods covered, representative works of art from these periods, basic descriptive terms, and significant historical events that influenced artistic production. You will usually be asked to identify at least one work of art from the readings. Unless otherwise noted, you should expect to take the RAT on the first date of the Unit (i.e. be prepared to take the RAT for Unit 1 on September 1; see schedule below for additional dates).

The midterm and final will cover material presented in the readings and discussed in class (mini lectures, application activities, etc.). Exams will combine multiple choice and essay questions. The final will not be cumulative.

The team midterm will take place following the individual midterm and will consist of short essay questions that you will answer as a team.

The team assignment will be completed during the field trip (see schedule below). You will be given more information closer to that date.

The museum paper will require a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Details will follow after the midterm.

You will evaluate the performance of your teammates in the middle and at the end of the semester, but only the final evaluation will count toward your grade. Details will follow.

Attendance is mandatory. In TBL, your presence is crucial to your team’s success. Take heed – chronic absences, or general lack of contributions to your team, will be reflected in peer evaluations! You have a responsibility to yourself AND your team to complete readings, participate in activities, and submit assignments in a timely fashion. More than two unexcused absences will result in a deduction from your overall grade. Chronic lateness will count as absences.

You must submit assignments on time. For every day an assignment is late, I will deduct half a letter grade or its equivalent (e.g. A 🡪 A-, A- 🡪B+, etc.). **If an assignment is more than 1 class session late, I will not accept it and you will not receive credit for your work**. Additionally, **I do not give makeup exams.** If you miss an exam or fail to submit an assignment, you will receive a grade of zero for the missing item, which will be factored into your average. If extraordinary circumstances arise, be prepared to provide documentation (police report, doctor’s note, death certificate, etc.). I will evaluate exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

**Extra Credit opportunity!** I encourage you to take pictures of artworks you encounter, outside of museums, around the city (murals, street art, buildings, random objects of interest). Post good examples to Instagram with the hashtag #bcart1010, along with a brief caption explaining why you found the image interesting and relevant. I will review your posts regularly and feature noteworthy photos in class for discussion. I will also post and tag my own pictures of objects you might find interesting; you can see some examples on my Instagram account (@professormalka). Students who post at least one image relating to each unit, accompanied by an explanation of the picture’s relevance to course material, will get 5 points added to their final course average.

Please keep in mind that the last day to withdraw from a class is Tuesday, November 5. If you have any concerns about your progress in this class, I encourage you to meet with me well in advance of this deadline in order to discuss your best course of action.

**A note on academic integrity:**

The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at this site: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies>. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member MUST report the violation.

**A note on the Center for Student Disability Services:**In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at 718-951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services please provide me with the course accommodation form and we will discuss your specific accommodation.

**Weekly Schedule**

The schedule below is subject to change. Any alterations to the schedule or readings will be announced in class.

iRATs and tRATs will be given in class on the first scheduled day of each unit. If you are absent on the day the RAT is given, you will get a score of zero for both the iRAT and tRAT.

Material for the RATs will come from the general readings. The RATs will not cover material from readings labeled “Application Readings.” Application reading material will form the basis of the application activities at the end of the unit, and you may wait to read them until after we have completed the mini lecture component of the unit.

Unless otherwise noted, the readings below have been taken from Smarthistory. Some readings have been taken from Khan Academy’s Art History site; these are denoted by a KA following the essay title. Links for all web content have been posted on our course website, and can also be found on smarthistory.org or khanacademy.org, under the Arts and Humanities tab. Readings that do not come from these websites will be posted as PDFs on the class website.

Titles followed by a (v) denote a video entry.

Additional readings may be assigned over the course of the semester.

August 27-29

Introduction

General readings: Introduction to Art Historical Analysis

How to do Visual (Formal) Analysis (v)

September 3-19

Unit 1: Foundations

Readings: Ancient Greece: An Introduction (KA)

 Marble Statue of a Kouros (New York Kouros) (v)

 Polykleitos, Doryphoros (Spear-Bearer) (essay and video)

 Nike (Winged Victory) of Samothrace (v)

Dying Gaul (v)

 Introduction to Ancient Rome (KA)

 Head of Roman Patrician

 Augustus of Primaporta (v)

Application Readings: The Parthenon (video and essay)

The Pantheon (v)

Excerpts from Vitruvius, *The Ten Books on Architecture*: “On Symmetry: In Temples and in the Human Body,” and “The Origins of the Three Orders and the Proportions of the Corinthian Capital.” (available on the website as a PDF)

**9/5 – Conversion Day, classes follow a Monday schedule**

September 24 – October 17

Unit 2: Mixing and Matching

Readings: Early Christianity, an introduction

Arch of Constantine

 Sarcophagus of Junius Bassus (essay and video)

 Early Christian Art and Architecture after Constantine

Basilica of Santa Sabina, Rome (essay and video)

 Hagia Sophia, Istanbul (essay and video)

 San Vitale and the Justinian Mosaic (essay and video) The Dome of the Rock

The Great Mosque of Cordoba

Application Readings: Iconoclastic Controversies

Additional readings TBA

**10/1, 10/8 – No classes**

**10/15, 10/22 – Class cancelled, makeup date TBA**

MIDTERM EXAM: OCTOBER 24 (individual), OCTOBER 29 (team)

October 29 – November 12

Unit 3: Rupture and Revival

Readings: Florence in the Early Renaissance

How Linear Perspective Works (v)

Linear Perspective interactive (KA)

Brunelleschi, Dome of the Cathedral of Florence (v)

Donatello, David (essay and video)

Masaccio, Holy Trinity (essay and video)

Michelangelo, David (v)

Michelangelo, Ceiling of the Sistine Chapel (essay and video)

Titian, Venus of Urbino (v)

Application Readings: Birth of the Gothic: Abbot Suger and the Ambulatory at St. Denis (v)

Cathedral of Notre Dame de Chartres, parts 1-3 (v)

November 14 – 26

Unit 4: Toward the Modern

Readings: Baroque Art, an Introduction

Bernini, Ecstasy of St. Theresa (v)

Bernini, St. Peter’s Square (v)

Caravaggio, Calling of St. Matthew (v)

Artemisia Gentileschi, Judith Slaying Holofernes (essay and video)

Peter Paul Rubens, Elevation of the Cross (essay and video)

Johannes Vermeer, The Art of Painting (v)

Velazquez, Las Meninas (v)

Application Readings: The Kingdom of Benin (KA)

Benin and the Portuguese (KA)

Benin Plaque: Equestrian Oba and Attendants

Hokusai, Under the Wave off Kahagawa (The Great Wave)

Monet, Water Lilies (v)

**11/28 – Thanksgiving Break**

December 3 – 12

Unit 5: The Modern World

Readings: Jacques-Louis David, The Death of Marat (essay and video)

 Manet, Olympia (v)

 Cezanne, The Basket of Apples

 Picasso, Les Demoiselles d’Avignon (essay and video) Matisse, The Red Studio (essay and video)

 Kandinsky, Improvisation 28 (v)

Application Reading: Walter Gropius, “Programme of the Staatliches Bauhaus in Weimar” (1919); “Principles of Bauhaus production [Dessau]” (1926)

**Final Exam (tentative): Tuesday 12/17, 10:30-12:30**