

## Syllabus

**Course Info:** Section 16780, Online  
**Dr. Martina Hesser:** [hesserma@lavc.edu](mailto:hesserma@lavc.edu)  
**Office Hours:** Mondays, 12 - 1 pm PST online. Please, use the CHAT feature in Canvas.

### What is *Prehistory to Gothic*?

This course is a survey of the visual arts. Students learn about the different aesthetic approaches, philosophies, and regional and cultural contributions the visual arts field has on societies. Students also learn about different media and art professions.

### What are *Student Learning Outcomes*?

Upon successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Analyze visual images in terms of design principles
2. Evaluate visual images by identifying their formal and illusionistic relationships
3. Compare and contrast the historical, political, social, and psychological orientations of art
4. Evaluate the diverse techniques of art used in two- and three-dimensional media
5. Compare and contrast the stylistic characteristics of certain visual artifacts in terms of historically significant movements and schools
6. Formulate a personal understanding of the visual arts as consumers, custodians, and creators of visual culture.

### How does this class work?

Lectures are delivered as video links over the Canvas platform. The video lectures can be watched as often as you like. They have to be watched at least once.

Watching video lectures once is my way of checking student attendance. Please, take notes during lectures and study them before taking the exams.

Students are also encouraged to use my own website: [www.martinahesser.com](http://www.martinahesser.com) and read the blog. You can also follow me on Instagram under art.facts.

We will use slides and digital images in this course. There will be a high degree of student involvement in this course. We will conduct quizzes, readings and museum/gallery visits.

The subjects and material covered in this course may sometimes be of such a nature as to be offensive to your personal beliefs. Politics, religion, sexuality and morality have often been the content of artists' efforts and will be discussed openly and in a mature manner with no intent to create a hostile environment.

### What is *Canvas*?

All course material is available to students on Canvas.

### What resources do I need?

#### ATTENTION:

Textbooks for this class are recommended. I'm trying to keep the cost for students as low as I can. If you still wish to read a textbook parallel to this class, please use one of the following options:

Kleiner, Fred S. Gardner's Art through the Ages – The Western Perspective. vol. 1, 15<sup>th</sup> edition. Belmont, C.A.: Thomson Wadsworth, 2016 (ISBN: 1305633946).

#### OR:

Kleiner, Fred S. Gardner's Art through the Ages – The Western Perspective. Vol. 1, 16<sup>th</sup> edition. Belmont, C.A.: Thomson Wadsworth, 2020 (ISBN: 978-0357439241).

Students may also use older (and/or cheaper) editions to save money.

### What will I have to get done?

200 Points possible

15 quizzes each worth 10 points: 150 points.

Museum Paper (MP): 30 points

Museum Field Notes (MFN): 20 points  
200 points

Some extra credit assignments, marked as (EXC).

There is NO Final Exam in this class!

**Please, refer to the schedule for due dates of assignments.**

### How does grading work?

This course is graded on a traditional percentage scale: 90-100% is an A; 80-89% is a B; 70-79% is a C; 60-69% is a D; 59% and below is an F.

ATTENTION: The percentages displayed in the Canvas system are NOT accurate. Since I give certain extra credit assignments available to all, students can reach more than 200 points in this class. All points above and beyond 200 are regarded as true extra credit. Example: All assignments add up to 200 points, some extra credit assignments are also available. De facto, students might reach as many as 210 points. If I were to use 210 as final score, to get an A in this class would be 90%, and would mean, students would have to have 189 points or more. I do not do that. I use the point scale seen bellow. This works in the students' favor. Students are therefore encouraged to keep track of their points, rather than percentages.

Final grades are calculated as follows:

**A = 180-200 points; B = 160-179 points;  
C = 140-159 points; D = 120-139 points;  
F = 119 or less.**

Grade interpretation as follows:

A=excellent; B=good; C=satisfactory;  
D=passing, less than satisfactory;  
F=failing.

### How do exams/quizzes work?

We will conduct ONE unit/quiz per week (see schedule). Participation is mandatory

to pass this class. Each week assignments open on Mondays and are due by SATURDAYS 11:59 pm. Students have ONE attempt to take the quiz! Quizzes are open book and time limited.

During the quizzes students will be tested on the reading material and lecture content. Quizzes will include image identification, brief analysis, terminology and short essay questions. Quizzes may also include information not available in the textbook, but only in our video lectures.

ATTENTION: Students are responsible for their IT equipment. Students HAVE TO make sure their computers and internet connection are in working condition.

### What about late work?

All students are required to take all quizzes as well as complete the Museum Assignments and any homework assignments on time. Students are responsible for their electronic equipment and its proper functioning.

Late work is an automatic ZERO on the assignment and cannot be made up at a later time. I do not guarantee the receipt, acknowledgement, or consideration of any assignments handed in late or via inappropriate channels.

Example: Museum Papers or portions thereof that are emailed to me will NOT be considered. Museum Papers HAVE to be handed in via Canvas.

### Is there *Extra Credit*?

Some assignments are for Extra Credit. They are marked (EXC).

Every once in a while, mostly towards the end of the class, I am asked if there is another way to accumulate extra credit. This means that the student is now willing to make an extra effort. If this extra effort had been exhibited early on in the semester, extra credit would not be

needed at the end of the term. I therefore encourage you to start studying right away. No exceptions!

### **What is the *Museum Paper* (MP)?**

**The Museum Paper is due by MAY 1, 2023, 11:59 pm PST.**

You will receive a detailed hand-out about this assignment, however, there are some things to keep in mind:

- The Museum Paper must be completed according to the handout guidelines.
- A photograph of the art work is required.
- The art work selected must be from the approved list of museums for this semester.
- College-level writing proficiency is expected for all reports; all sources must be properly cited. Plagiarism, inadvertent or intentional, may earn the student a zero on the assignment and may result in a failing grade in this course. Plagiarism, which includes the omission of even one citation, will severely penalize the student's grade and may result in a failing grade in this course.
- You are strongly encouraged to have somebody proof read your papers.
- Late work will not be accepted. Students will have to contact me immediately in case of emergency.
- Submission of museum papers will be electronically via Canvas by the due date. Log into Canvas, go to Museum Paper and follow the instructions.

### **What are the *Museum Field Notes* (MFN)?**

In preparation for your Museum Paper, you will fill in MUSEUM FIELD NOTES. Please, download the form, fill it out as best as you can. This will help you sort your thoughts before you write the Museum Paper.

This form must be typed and then uploaded. Please, do not submit handwritten forms!

**The Museum Field Notes are due by MAY 1, 2023, 11:59 pm PST.**

### **How does *Class Participation* work?**

Participation is mandatory to pass this class. The final grade in this class will be affected by active participation as follows: After three missed quizzes (excused or unexcused!) or one unit of unwatched video lectures you may be dropped from this class without prior notice. Students are required to watch the video lectures for the respective units.

It is the student's responsibility to drop all classes in which s/he is no longer attending. Failure on the student's part to do so may result in an "F" for the final course grade. It is the instructor's discretion to withdraw a student after the add/drop deadline due to excessive non-participation.

Students are responsible for all announcements and material covered in class.

### **Other Information**

#### **Cheating and Academic Fraud:**

Academic fraud is a serious violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Academic fraud includes, but is not limited to cheating. Students caught cheating, misrepresenting facts, lying about research, locations of artworks, etc. will be reported to the Dean's Office. Cheating is the copying of any test or quiz question or problem, or work done in a class that is not the student's own work. It also includes but is not limited to giving or receiving unauthorized assistance during an examination whether it was intentional or not. Obtaining or distributing unauthorized information about an exam before it is given is also cheating, as is using inappropriate or

unallowable sources of information during an exam such as cutting-and-pasting information from the internet or personal notes as answers or portions of answers. **Cut-and-pasted answers handed in during assignments will be visible for the instructor as plagiarized content.** All writing assignments will be checked electronically for plagiarism. Students handing in assignments, tests and/or quizzes that show plagiarized content or deliberately misrepresent facts will receive a zero on the assignment.

**Attention:** During assignments (quizzes, homework, discussion boards, etc.) students are asked to type their answers into the answer field in their own words. No references, quotes or links are needed to convey your point. Think of it this way: You're sitting in my office, I ask a question, you answer. You don't get to pick up a book, computer or phone to search for an answer. Any references will be viewed as consulting outside sources during a test situation and lead to an automatic zero on the assignment.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Cheating and plagiarism (using as one's own ideas, writings or materials of someone else without acknowledgement or permission, cutting and pasting material from ANY source, etc.) can result in any one of a variety of sanctions. Such penalties may range from an adjusted grade on the particular exam, paper, project or assignment to a failing grade in the course. The instructor may also summarily suspend the student for the class meeting when the infraction occurs, as well as the following class meeting.

### **Computer Skills:**

Students are expected to have a basic familiarity with computer terms and use word processing, document manipulation, spreadsheets, email, and online services.

### **Homework and Study Skills:**

Your success is important to me, as I know is to you. If you need help, or are having difficulty with the course or the assignments, please contact me right away. For a three-credit, semester-length course, a rule of thumb is that a student would spend six to eight hours outside of class studying each week. Here are some tips to help you:

- Read the assignment **before** class. Take note of the readings.
- Take notes during the lectures and review them along with the reading after class.
- Get a study-buddy or form a study group. Prepare practice exams. Review exams.
- Follow instructions for assignments and contact me if you need help.

### **What is wrong with this email?**

To: [hesserma@lavc.edu](mailto:hesserma@lavc.edu) 01/29/2023  
Fr: [spongebob@yahoo.com](mailto:spongebob@yahoo.com) 01:13 am  
Re: \_\_\_\_\_

hey, i missed class today – did i miss anything important???? r u passing out the study guide soon? can u tell me when the test is – i lost my syllabus  
thanx, bob

Please, use proper English and salutations when addressing me in your emails. Thank you!

**This syllabus and reading schedule may be subject to change! Good luck!**

## Schedule (revised)

Required reading assignments for

Kleiner, Fred S. Gardner's Art through the Ages – The Western Perspective. vol. 1, 15<sup>th</sup> edition. Belmont, C.A.: Thomson Wadsworth, 2016 (ISBN: 1305633946).

You may use an older or newer edition. Note that if you choose to do so, page numbers might differ.

Reading assignment due dates:

| <b>WEEK start Date</b> | <b>Content</b>  | <b>DUE DATES</b> |
|------------------------|---|------------------|
| <b>Week Start</b>      | <b>Unit</b>   | <b>Due Date</b>  |
| <b>W 1</b> Feb 6       | <b>Unit 1:</b> Syllabus Review and Class Introduction.<br>Art in the Stone Age, <u>Gardner</u> , ch. 1, p. 14-29. | <b>Feb 11</b>    |
| <b>W 2</b> Feb 13      | <b>Unit 2:</b> Art in the Stone Age, <u>Gardner</u> , ch. 1, p. 14-29.  | <b>Feb 18</b>    |
| <b>W 3</b> Feb 20      | <b>Unit 3:</b> Ancient Mesopotamia & Persia, <u>Gardner</u> , ch. 2, p. 30-53.                                    | <b>Feb 25</b>    |
| Feb 19                 | <u>Last day to add the class, last day to drop without a "W".</u>   |                  |
| <b>W 4</b> Feb 27      | <b>Unit 4:</b> Egypt, <u>Gardner</u> , ch. 3, p. 54-81.   | <b>Mar 4</b>     |
| <b>W 5</b> Mar 6       | <b>Unit 5:</b> The Prehistoric Aegean, <u>Gardner</u> , ch. 4, p. 82-101.   | <b>Mar 11</b>    |
| <b>W 6</b> Mar 13      | <b>Unit 6:</b> Ancient Greece, <u>Gardner</u> , ch. 5, 102-161.   | <b>Mar 18</b>    |
| <b>W 7</b> Mar 20      | <b>Unit 7:</b> Ancient Greece, <u>Gardner</u> , ch. 5, 102-161.   | <b>Mar 25</b>    |
| <b>W 8</b> Mar 27      | <b>Unit 8:</b> The Etruscans, <u>Gardner</u> , ch. 6, p. 162-175.   | <b>Apr 1</b>     |
| <b>W X</b> Apr 3       | <b>Spring Break</b>   | <b>Apr 8</b>     |
| <b>W 9</b> Apr 10      | <b>Unit 9:</b> The Roman Empire, <u>Gardner</u> , ch. 7, p. 176-229.  | <b>Apr 15</b>    |
| <b>W 10</b> Apr 17     | <b>Unit 10:</b> Late Antiquity, <u>Gardner</u> , ch. 8, p. 230-255.   | <b>Apr 22</b>    |
| <b>W 11</b> Apr 24     | <b>Unit 11:</b> Byzantium, <u>Gardner</u> , ch. 9, p. 256-283.  | <b>Apr 29</b>    |
| <b>W 12</b> May 1      | <b>Unit 12:</b> The Islamic World, <u>Gardner</u> , ch. 10, p. 284-309.   | <b>May 6</b>     |
| <b>May 1</b>           | <b>Museum Paper due. No late work accepted!</b>   |                  |
| <b>May 1</b>           | <b>Museum Field Notes due. No late work accepted!</b>   |                  |
| <b>May 7</b>           | <u>Last day to drop the class with a "W".</u>   |                  |
| <b>W 13</b> May 8      | <b>Unit 13:</b> Early Medieval Europe, <u>Gardner</u> , ch. 11, p. 310-337.                                       | <b>May 13</b>    |
| <b>W 14</b> May 15     | <b>Unit 14:</b> Romanesque Europe, <u>Gardner</u> , ch. 12, p. 338-371.   | <b>May 20</b>    |
| <b>W 15</b> May 22     | <b>Unit 15:</b> Gothic Europe, <u>Gardner</u> , ch. 13, p. 372-409.<br>This class does not have a final exam.     | <b>May 27</b>    |

**Good luck!!!!**