

Department of History
Art History Course Descriptions
Fall 2019

AAH 1101-001

History of Western Art: Ancient Mediterranean

T R 8:30-9:45 a.m.

Dr. Jeanne Brody

This survey of Western Art History covers painting, sculpture, and architecture, and decorative arts from prehistory to the Middle Ages. We will consider questions about the origins of art, how it was created, and its artistic techniques, themes, and styles. Special emphasis will be paid to how social, religious, and political climate affected all areas of art production. Through lectures and directed discussions, we will examine not only the linear history of art, but also how religions, governments, philosophers, cultures, and artists themselves expressed ideas through art, as well as how such imagery has been interpreted.

AAH 1102-001

History of Western Art: Renaissance to Contemporary

M W 3:00-4:15 p.m.

Dr. Kim Nastick

A survey of Western Art ranging from 16th century Renaissance painting to 21st century Contemporary painting and photography. Lectures and discussions about the formal qualities of works of art and the stylistic trends developed in different periods in the history of art. An emphasis on the social, political, religious, and philosophical contexts of art. A consideration, as well, of contemporary interpretative interests in race, class, colonialism, sexual and gender identities. Includes two visits to the Philadelphia Museum of Art to enjoy engaging and discussing selected works of art.

AAH 1103-001

Visual Arts in U.S. 1607-1876

M W F 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Dr. Mark Sullivan

A survey of painting, sculpture, and architecture created in the present day United States, from the founding of Jamestown to the great Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition.

AAH 1903-001

Internship Elective

TBA

Dr. Timothy McCall

AAH 2001-001

Medieval Art

T R 1:00-2:15 p.m.

Dr. Timothy McCall

This course presents an introduction to the vibrant and fascinating art and architecture of the Middle Ages, from the end of the Roman Empire through the Gothic period. We examine how architecture and the figural arts functioned in religious, political, and domestic life; we focus on the relationship between art and its historical environments, exploring the culturally diverse landscape of the Middle Ages through such contexts as crusades, pilgrimage, and courtly love. While focusing on Western



European (French, English, German, Spanish and Italian) artistic production, this course explores lands and cultures throughout the Mediterranean, and beyond. Particular emphasis is placed on the significance of visual materials within the context of the interactions, competition, and exchange among and between various religions and cultures: pagan cults, Latin Christendom, Greek Byzantium, and Islam. This class investigates art objects, monuments, and material culture in many media: from vibrant Byzantine mosaics to Spanish Apocalyptic manuscripts, from expansive, forest-like mosques to soaring Cathedrals, from Charlemagne's imperial palaces to serene Cistercian cloisters, from Islamic luxury metalwork to delicately carved Parisian ivories. Throughout the course, we critically examine the concept "Medieval": in the middle of what, and according to whom?

Attributes: Fine Arts



Modern Art

HIS 2004-001

T R 10:00-11:15 a.m.

Dr. Jeanne Brody

This class will look at painting, sculpture, and architecture from the 1880s through the late 20th century, emphasizing modern art's dependence upon and divergence from its historical roots as well as its present social significance. In our exploration of European avant garde movements such as Cubism, Expressionism, and Surrealism, as well as such American movements as Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art, we will also consider Modern Art's techniques, themes, and styles. Discussions will center on how modern art challenged art tradition while creating its own new archetypes, and how scholars continue to redefine modernity.

Attribute: Fine Art Requirement

Modern Architecture

AAH 2005-001

M W 1:30-2:45 p.m.

Dr. Mark Sullivan

Notable buildings and architects in the last 100 years: Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Sullivan, Antoni Gaudi, LeCorbusier, Mies van Der Rohe, Robert Venturi, I.M. Pei, Walter Gropius, Philip Johnson, Frank Gehry.

AAH 4010-001

Interpreting Art: Visual and Material Cultures

T R 2:30-3:45 p.m.

Dr. Timothy McCall

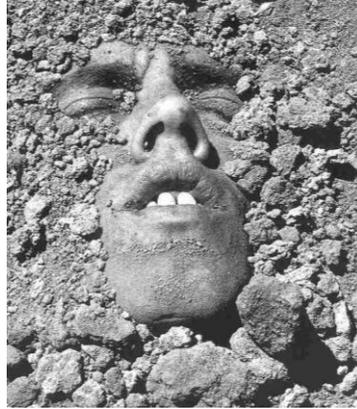
This seminar will introduce students to essential methodologies and controversies of Art History. We will investigate key concepts of art historical inquiry and more recent trends in art historical analysis, particularly the turn towards the study of Visual Culture and Material Culture. We will pay close attention to the intersections between visual representation and forms of power, and this course will give students the opportunity to critically examine the ideological frameworks and assumptions that underpin histories of art and images.

We will engage with a wide range of the viewpoints, concepts, and constructs that inform how we do our jobs as students and historians of art and visual culture. Topics will include, among others, Formalism, Gender and the Canon, Art and Politics, Portraiture, Activist Art, and

Museums and Power. Images surround us, and students in this class will learn to interpret, understand, and negotiate them in sophisticated ways.

This course will be a discussion based seminar, and we will cooperate with each other throughout the class by workshopping various writing assignments related to individual research projects. Students who are not art history majors are most welcome, though an interest in interpretation – historical, cinematic, or literary, for instance – is recommended, as would be an interest in images or visual culture.

Attributes: Fine Arts



AAH 5515-001
TBA
Dr. Timothy McCall

Independent Research