

Department of History
Undergraduate Art History Program Course Descriptions
Fall 2020

AAH 1102-001

History of Western Art: Renaissance

T R 8:30-9:45 am

Dr. Jeanne Brody

This survey of Western Art History covers paintings, printmaking, sculpture, and architecture from the Renaissance period to the present. We will consider questions about how art is created, and its artistic techniques, themes, and styles. Special emphasis will be paid to the effects of social, religious, and political climate on artists and their art production. Through participation in directed discussions, students will examine not only the linear history of art, but also how the church, governments, philosophers, and artists themselves expressed ideas through art, as well as how such imagery has been interpreted by both historical and modern scholars using different methodologies.

Attributes: Fine Arts Requirement

AAH 1103-001

Visual Arts in U.S. 1607-1876

M W F 1:30-2:20 pm

Dr. Mark Sullivan

A survey of art and artists in America, from the founding of Jamestown to the Centennial Exhibition of 1876 in Philadelphia. The focus will be on how American art of that period mirrors the many social changes that took place in American life during that time frame. Among the artists under discussion will John Singleton Copley, Benjamin West, Charles Willson Peale, Gilbert Stuart, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Cole, and John James Audubon (to name only a few).

Attributes: Fine Arts Requirement

AAH 1903-001

Internship Elective

TBA

Dr. Tim McCall

Attributes: Fine Arts Requirement

AAH 2000-001

Ancient Art

T R 1:00-2:15 pm

Dr. Tina Bizzarro

This course explores the visual culture of the ancient societies of the Near East, Egypt, the Aegean, Greece, Etruria, and Rome—from the pyramids of Giza through the highly individualized and realistic late imperial portraits of the ancient Romans. We will examine art of all mediums—painting, sculpture, architecture, and minor arts—of these ancient societies that formed the basis of the Western cultural tradition, our **classical** legacy. We will excavate the ancient **classical tradition** which underlies our universities' general education course selections, our ideas about government and society, our cities' infrastructure and layouts, our concepts of literature and the arts, our sense of the Beautiful, and much, much more. The classical tradition is, indeed, our "gold standard." First and foremost, you are invited to enjoy these many monuments of the ancient world. In addition, you will leave this course with a good sense of the chronology and artistic production of the cradle of western civilization, an interest in museums, and an appreciation for and love of the **art of the ancient world**.

Attributes: Fine Arts Requirement

AAH 2003-001
T R 10:00-11:15 am

Age of Rembrandt and Bernini

Dr. Jeanne Brody

In her introduction to our textbook, Ann Sutherland Harris asks why so many exceptional artists emerged to transform the visual arts during the artistic period called The Baroque. During this semester, we will attempt to answer this and other questions relative to this international style. This course analyzes key monuments and art historical trends from the late 16th century to the mid-18th century. This era of roughly 150 years produced some of the most varied works of painting, sculpture, and architecture, relating to a renewed Catholic Church responding to the spread of Protestantism, as well as artists' own reactions to new conditions of artistic production, patronage, subject matter, religion and wealth. The focus of our exploration will be on the art of Europe, with a particular emphasis on Italy, Spain, and the Netherlands. Attention will be paid to a variety of art forms, including painting, sculpture, and architecture. We will also investigate art historical approaches to the Baroque period which look beyond biographical study of artists such as Bernini, Caravaggio, Rembrandt, Gentileschi, and Leyster.

Attributes: Fine Arts Requirement

AAH 2009-001
M W F 11:30-12:30 pm

Contemporary Art

Dr. Mark Sullivan

A survey of painting and sculpture as it has been practiced around the world for the last 40-50 years. The goal will be to appreciate that art not only as an expression of the artist's individual personality, but also as an expression of the culture in which that artist lived or is living. Much of the course will be devoted to work done by artists who, not so long ago, would have been seen as outside the canons of art history (i.e., as "others").

Attributes: Cultural Studies, Fine Arts Requirement

AAH 3009-001
T R 11:30-12:45 pm

Topic: Portraiture

Dr. Mark Sullivan

Portraiture is one of the least studied and most enigmatic categories of the visual arts. Historical and religious art, figurative and landscape art, still-life and genre painting, as well as sculpture, have all been studied in great detail in the past, but portraiture has not. Perhaps this is because portraiture is often thought to be purely representational, or "documentary," and not particularly creative. In this course, we shall see that portraiture is far more than a simple record of a sitter's appearance.

We shall trace the history of portraiture from the ancient world to the work of contemporary artists such as Jeff Koons and Tracey Emin. We will consider such topics as: the definition of a portrait; the functions of portraiture in society; power and status as projected in portraiture; group portraiture; self-portraiture; and how portraiture has been affected by modern art and photography.

Attributes: Fine Arts Requirement

AAH 4010-001
T R 2:30-3:45

Interpreting Art

Dr. Tim McCall

This seminar introduces 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 turns towards the study of Visual Culture and Material Culture, and recent activist interventions in museum culture and exhibition programming. We will pay close attention to the intersections between visual representation and forms of power. This course,

moreover, 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 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. Students who are not art history majors or minors 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 Requirement, Writing Enriched

AAH 5515-001

TBD

Dr. Tim McCall

Independent Research