

Department of History
Art History Course Descriptions
Fall 2022

AAH 1101-001

History of Western Art: Ancient to Medieval

T R 4:00-5:15 p.m.

Dr. Aliza Benjamin

This course is an introductory survey of the major monuments in Western painting, sculpture, and architecture, from pre-history to the Proto-Renaissance. Works and styles will be examined for their formal characteristics, but also as expressions of concurrent social, political, economic, scientific, religious, and philosophical developments. Students will be introduced to images and objects in terms of their circumstances of production, cultural context, style, function, and creator. Over the course of the semester, you will become familiar not only with the works themselves and the characteristics of the major periods of art production, but also with the terminology, methods, and goals of art history, while developing critical thinking skills.

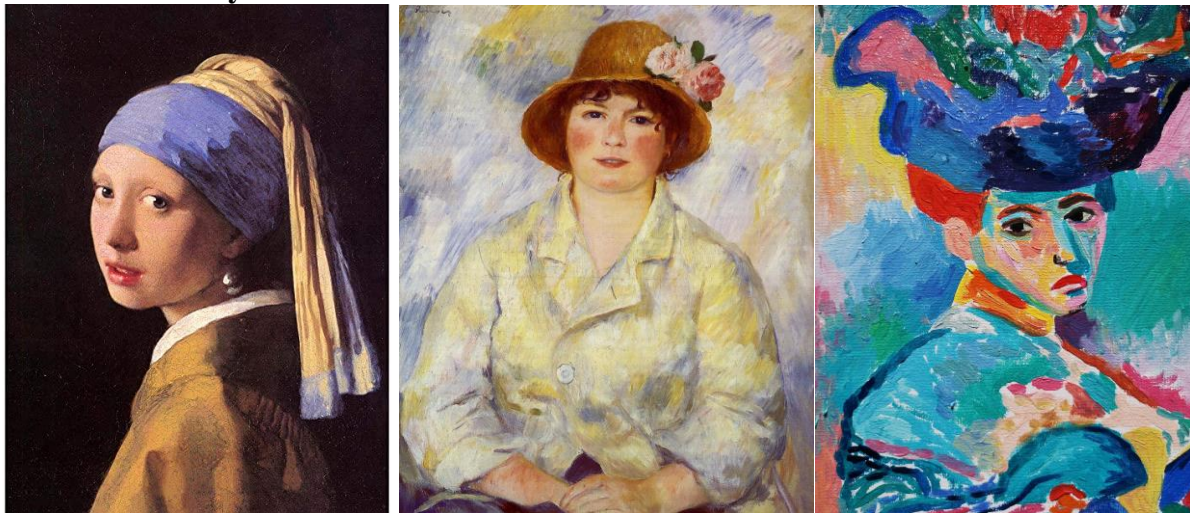
Attributes: Fine Arts Requirement

AAH 1102-001

History of Western Art: Renaissance to Contemporary

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

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. We will also contemplate art issues that frequently come up in world news, including cultural appropriation and questions of ownership, and destruction of artifacts.

Attributes: Fine Arts Requirement

AAH 1903-001
TBD
Dr. Tim McCall

Internship Elective

AAH 2001-002
T R 11:30-12:45 p.m.
Dr. Tina Bizarro

Medieval Art

Have a look at the art, institutions, and practices of the Middle Ages—from the Fall of Rome to the beginning of the Italian Renaissance in Western Europe. We will examine its architecture, sculpture, painting, and minor arts. This course will emphasize the transformative power the Middle Ages had on Antique culture and probe medieval manifestations in modern culture, in film, television, and fashion, for example. Why do medieval monuments, and fantasies – such as castles, dragons, knights in shining armor, and damsels in distress – continue to haunt us and provide us with potent icons and optics for popular culture.

Attributes: Fine Arts Requirement

AAH 2004-001
T R 10:00-11:15 a.m.
Dr. Jeanne Brody

Modern Art

This class will look at painting, sculpture, architecture, and other media from the 1880s through the late 20th century, emphasizing modern art's dependence and divergence from its historical roots as well as its present social significance. We will explore European avant garde movements such as Cubism, Expressionism, Dada, and Surrealism, as well as such American and International movements as Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, Conceptual Art, and Feminist Art. We will also consider how art is conceived and created along with artistic 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 define modernity.

Attributes: Fine Arts Requirement



AAH 2009-DL1
R 8:00-9:30 p.m.
Dr. Aliza Benjamin

Contemporary Art

This course will provide a study of the dramatic shift in the form and content of visual art from the end of World War II to the present. Within a lecture/discussion format, this course investigates issues of significant artistic and cultural concern beginning with post-War art in

America. The course also explores the art of women and other traditionally marginalized cultural groups and the return to figuration in art in the avant-garde of the eighties and nineties.

Restrictions: College of Professional Studies Only.

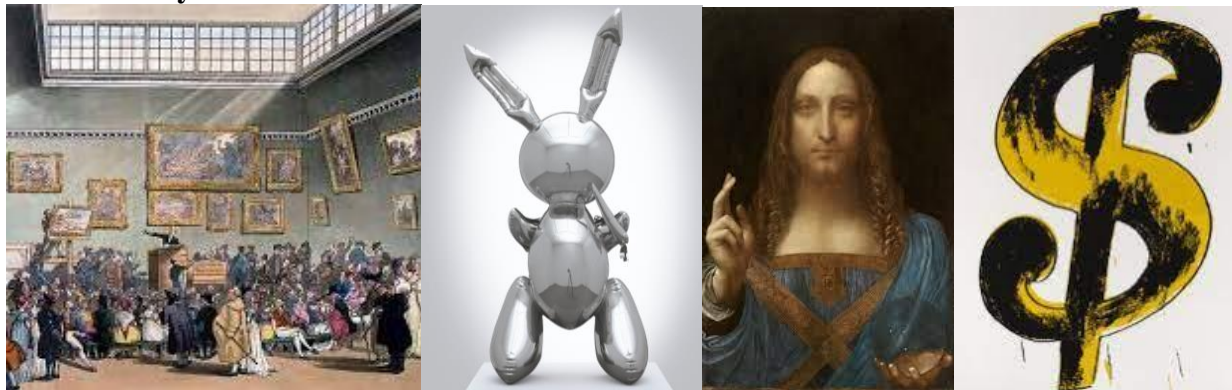
Attributes: Cultural Studies, Distance Learning, Fast Forward Course, Fine Arts Requirement

AAH 3009-001

MW 4:45-6:00 p.m.

Dr. Brian Seymour

Topic: History of the Art Market



This course will survey a history of the western art market from the 1400s to the present day, with an emphasis on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. We will consider the wider economic and political forces that have shaped various art markets over the past 600 years, along with detailed investigations of key artists, patrons, collectors, scholars, dealers, auctioneers, and museum professionals who have a stake in the ever-climbing prices of the contemporary art market.

Attributes: Fine Arts Requirement

AAH 3009-H01

T R 2:20-3:45 p.m.

Dr. Tim McCall

Material Culture & Art

This Honors seminar is an exploration of Material Culture through the lens of Art History and the recent ‘material’ turn in the Humanities. We cast our gaze on material culture and art long ignored by Art History – for instance the so-called decorative arts, plus a broad range of objects generated by and for the non-elite. This course engages with museum studies as well, and we consider the ways that objects are made, and displayed. We investigate various raw materials (and their cultural meanings), and we think through concepts such as materiality, stuff, fashion, things, and commodities to consider how objects and matter act and what sway they have on our lives. We will see that material culture does not merely reflect or illustrate history, but shapes it, and today activates and negotiates social networks and relations. We make things, but things make us.

We will examine how objects act (what agency they possess), what meanings we grant to or associate with them, and what demands they make on us. This course gives students the opportunity to critically examine the ideological frameworks and assumptions that underpin histories of art, objects, and things. Class readings range widely, both geographically and chronologically. Students are encouraged to apply lessons from the class to the historical materials, places, and problems that most interest them intellectually, and to engage both with

today's material culture and with that of the past. We will study, view, handle, and write about material culture of all sorts – from stuff in your dorm room to objects displayed in the Philadelphia Museum of Art – and we will speak to scholars and museum curators who do as well.

Attributes: Fine Arts Requirement, Honors Seminar

AAH 4010-001
M W 3:20-4:35 p.m.
Dr. Brian Seymour

Interpreting Art



Prerequisite: At least one prior Art History Course.

Attributes: Fine Art Requirement, Writing Enriched Requirement

AAH 5515-001
TBD
Dr. Tim McCall

Independent Research

Must be an Art History Major.