1.2: Introduction to Art
3 hours; 3 credits

Introduction to art emphasizing visual literacy in an historical context. Major works of art and architecture drawn from a wide range of world cultures and periods from ancient times to the present will be explored. Texts, readings, and syllabi may vary somewhat among sections. (Not open to students who are enrolled in or have completed Art 1.1, 1.3, 2.3 or 2.4, or Core studies 2.1).

Prerequisites: None

Common Goals addressed by Core Course:

1. To express one’s thoughts orally and in writing with clarity and precision (OARM goal 11).

2. To understand the arts, histories and cultures of the past as a foundation for those of the present (OARM goals 3, 4).

3. To understand the necessity for tolerance and to appreciate individual and social diversity, as well as differences of race, class, and gender (OARM goals 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 31).

Objectives of Core Course:

1. Students will be able to recognize and analyze the differences among the major periods, artists, genres, and theories of western art (from OARM Goals 3–4)

2. Students will develop a familiarity with the art and broader cultural background of several non-western traditions (from OARM Goal 19).

3. Students will write clear, analytical papers (from OARM Goal 11).

Outcomes for this Core Course:

1. In class discussions and on tests, students identify works of art of major periods, artists, and genres of western art and analyze their differences.

2. In class discussions and on tests, students identify works of art from several non-western traditions and discuss their broader cultural background.

3. On an assigned topic, students write well-organized analytical papers, including precise thesis statements, well-constructed arguments and thoughtful conclusions, cleanly written and error-free.
Methods of Assessment:

1. Students are asked to identify works of art shown to them by period, artist, and genre; in comparisons, they are furthermore asked to list major similarities and differences between the two works and to articulate how each is characteristic of the period in which it was created.

2. Students are asked to identify the culture and period of non-western works of art and to articulate the unique characteristics of that culture. Given a comparison, they will be able to articulate similarities and differences as well as interconnections with western artistic traditions.

3. Students are asked to write papers on an assigned topic, and the clarity, organization, and writing of the papers is evaluated.

Course Outline:

The order of units (e.g. Egyptian art, Islamic art) may vary among faculty members, but all will be covered. The sample topics may likewise be rearranged and adapted from one faculty member to another. The readings correspond to Gardener's *Art through the Ages*, 12th edition, but can readily be adapted to other textbooks.

Weeks 1-3: ANCIENT ART
   1. Introduction: visual literacy; methods of art historical analysis: formal analysis, iconography, art in its cultural context (class, gender, religious background, etc.).
   2. Major themes of ancient art: idealization and realism; abstraction and naturalism; sacred space and sacred architecture; art and politics; retrospection and innovation.

Sample readings:
Week 1: Egyptian art: Chapter 3, p. 31-54
Week 2: Greek art: Chapter 5, p. 105-166
Week 3: Roman art: Chapter 10, p. 247-300

Weeks 4-7: MEDIEVAL ART
   Major themes: the shift from polytheism to monotheism and the rise of Christianity and Islam; liturgical practices in the formation of architecture; word and image; critical analysis of the terms "western" and "non-western;" idolatry, aniconism and iconoclasm.

Sample readings:
Week 4: Byzantine art: Chapter 12, p. 325-56
Week 5: Islamic art, Chapter 13, p. 357-81
Week 6: Romanesque art: Chapter 17, p. 447-78
Week 7: Gothic art: Chapter 18, p. 479-520
Week 8: AFRICAN ART
   1. The early contacts between modern Western artists and African art, and how they shaped the West's initial perceptions of African art.
   2. The actual philosophical and aesthetic background of African art.
   3. Selected areas of African art and their relationship to the social structures and philosophical ideas from which they emerged.

Sample readings:
Chapter 15, p. 409-20 or Chapter 32, p. 941-61

Week 9: ART OF THE AMERICAS
   Major themes: sacred and civic architecture of the Americas; imperial, royal, and elite patronage; art and religious narrative.

Sample readings:
Art of the Americas: Chapter 30, p. 903-20

Weeks 10-11: RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE ART
   Major themes: the revival and dissolution of the classical style; the birth and development of the major genres in European art; the rise of the merchant class as the patrons of art; the evolution of the artist from craftsman to genius.

Sample readings:
Week 10: Renaissance art: Chapter 20 or 21 or 22, p. 545-688
Week 11: Baroque art: Chapter 24, p. 689-748

Week 12: ASIAN ART
   Major themes: text and image in Asian aesthetics; competing faiths; artistic interconnections among eastern and western traditions.

Sample readings: Chapter 6, p. 167-90; or Chapter 7, p. 191-216; or Chapter 8, p. 217-32; or Chapter 25, p. 749-63; or Chapter 26, p. 763-76; or Chapter 27, p. 779-96

Weeks 13-14: MODERN ART
   Major themes: birth of a new formal language; rise of abstraction; changes in patronage; politics and dissent; urbanism; new ideas in psychology and science and their impact on the visual arts; multiculturalism

Sample readings:
Week 13: Impressionist and post-Impressionist art: Chapter 29, p. 853-902
Week 14: Modern and contemporary art, Chapter 33, p. 961-1030, or Chapter 34, p. 1031-91

Method of Evaluation:
Paper 20-35%
Midterm 25-35%
Final Exam 30-35%
Participation and Attendance 0-10%
The percentages vary by instructor. Each instructor will include an exact breakdown in his or her syllabus distributed to students during the first week of classes.

**Bibliography:**
*Gardener's Art Through the Ages, 12th Edition*

or H. W. Janson, *History of Art, 6th Edition*

or Marilyn Stokstad, *Art History, 2nd Edition*

**Objectives:**

By course-end, successful students will be able to:

1. Recognize and analyze the differences among the major periods, artists, genres, and theories of western art.

2. Develop a familiarity with the art and broader cultural background of several non-western traditions.

3. Write well-organized analytical papers, including precise thesis statements, well-constructed arguments and thoughtful conclusions, cleanly written and error-free.