NEW Flexible Format
Introduction to Art History 01:082:105

NEW!!! NEW!!! NEW!!!
This class allows you to examine the foundation of the Western artistic tradition in a flexible format. What does this mean? This means the two, weekly course lectures are recorded so you have the option of attending them in person or watching them on-line when you have the time. Or even better: you can do a combination of the two. It’s up to you. When you register you will also sign up for a "recitation," a one-hour discussion section that meets in person. The recitation expands on and allows a discussion of the materials presented in lecture by also including art objects not seen in lecture. In the discussion section, you will investigate these objects in detail in a small classroom environment. Another benefit of the flexible format is that it allows you to register for an additional class that meets at the same time as the lecture portion. It’s easy to do.

Just email Dean Lenore Neigeborn: neigeborn@sas.rutgers.edu or stop by any SAS academic office to override any scheduling conflict.

Requirements include
1) mandatory recitation attendance, 2) two short papers,
3) a midterm hour exam; and
4) a final exam.

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This course presents an introductory overview of the history of Western art from antiquity to the late medieval period. It considers the achievements of great civilizations ranging from Egypt to the Holy Roman Empire, and focuses on a diversity of cultural and religious traditions, including, Byzantine, Islamic, and Jewish. The class examines a wide array of objects, including statues of gods and emperors, reliquaries containing saints’ bones, Greek temples and Gothic cathedrals, early synagogue decoration, devotional manuscripts, and gold-gilded altarpieces.

Emphasizing significant stylistic movements in Western Europe, this course lays the groundwork for more advanced art history courses by introducing visual analysis and other interpretative tools of art historical research. Students will also learn how the visual products of a culture relate to historical circumstances, societal values, and shifting personal and collective identities. The skills developed in this class provide important tools for navigating and interpreting media and visual representation in the twenty-first century.

Students will attend weekly lectures team-taught by two full-time faculty members and a discussion section led by a teaching assistant, write two short papers, and take two exams.

STUDENTS WILL ALSO VISIT THE ZIMMERLI MUSEUM TO LOOK AT SPECIFIC OBJECTS AND BE INTRODUCED TO THE COLLECTIONS AND RESOURCES OF THE MUSEUM BY A CURATOR.