

Department: ARTH

Course No: 137

Credits: 3

Title: Introduction to Art History I

Contact: Jean Givens

Content Area: CA1-Arts and Humanities

Catalog Copy: ARTH 137 Introduction to Art History I First semester, three credits. Survey of art and architecture from prehistoric times through the fourteenth century.

Course Information: A--Art History 137 surveys key monuments drawn from the ancient and medieval art and architecture of the Near East and Europe with several goals: to provide an overview to the social context of artistic production as well as a sampling of historical methods as applied to the study of art history.

B--Course requirements for ARTH 137 include three examinations and approximately ten unannounced in-class exercises.

--Exams are composed of short answer questions as well as identifications and responses to individual and paired images--the latter worth approximately two thirds of the points. There are no multiple choice or other computer-graded questions.

--The exercises highlight key information, and study skills. They are not marked; student responses are instead, discussed in class. Completion of all the exercises is worth extra credit bonus.

--Readings are drawn from one of several general art history textbooks intended for undergraduates, most often, Hugh Honour and John Fleming, *The Visual Arts, a History*. Students also read materials available in a photocopied packet of readings that includes journal article extracts, primary texts, and newspaper accounts of recent finds. Total reading for the semester = ca. 400 pages text readings, ca. 30 extracts drawn from primary texts, and 20 extracts from journal articles and other accounts.

C--Major themes include:

--the political and sacred functions of works of visual art,

--the impact of changing artistic technologies,

--the role of competition between artists,

-- the status of women in the production and consumption of the visual arts.

Meets Goals of Gen Ed: 137 meets at least three of the goals of UCONN's revised General Education program:

--It increases the student's awareness of their era and society by probing the origins of modern visual culture.

--It highlights the diversity of human culture and experience by demonstrating the various ways in which cultures through the fourteenth century restated deeply held social values by means of the visual arts and architecture.

--It helps students develop a working understanding of how they may continue to acquire knowledge (1) by developing the student's mastery of the analysis of form and content and also (b) by highlighting a range of approaches to the study of art's history.

CA1 Criteria: Art History 137 engages the comprehension and appreciation of the graphic art forms—specifically the historical study of visual art and architecture as produced between 30,000 BC and 1350 AD.

Role of Grad Students: Graduate students provide assistance to students in office hours, and they mark the examinations. They are supervised by the instructor of record, who in nearly all cases is a full-time member of the art history faculty.

Supplemental Information: The teaching methods in this class have been highlighted by the Institute for Teaching and Learning's television series: Focus on Teaching and Learning and it was published in the School of Education's access to teaching resources website available at <http://www.facultyware.uconn.edu> under instructional "freeware."