

0501A335

Art History:

Renaissance to Modern Art in the West

Instructor: TBA

Time: Monday through Friday (June 29, 2026-July 31, 2026)

Office Hours: 2 hours (according to the teaching schedule)

Contact Hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Credits: 4

E-mail: TBA

Course Description

In this course, you will study the main movements and influential artists in Western art history from the fifteenth century to the twentieth century. Looking at major developments in painting, sculpture and architecture from the Renaissance to Modern art, you will become familiar with and be able to explain a number of regional styles and individual works. This course aims to provide you with an understanding of the historical framework of certain artistic movements and why they developed in their place and time. You will gain tools to analyze and understand iconography, color, perspective, form, etc., to take beyond the classroom into the visual world around you. Although we will be categorically and chronologically studying certain movements to provide a broad foundation of understanding, the course will ultimately attempt to show the flow between these styles and movements to see how the actions and reactions between subject and object make these works of art so unique and interesting.

Course Goals

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

- Explain the actions and reactions of major trends in Western art
- Differentiate fundamental characteristics of different artistic movements.
- Identify and describe a number of different artists and architects.
- Give a general overview of the historical context of certain artistic movements
- Explain the subjective/ objective characteristics of different artistic periods.
- Write critically about art

Required Texts

Reading materials will be provided by the course instructor.

Prerequisites

No prerequisites

Course Hours

The course has 25 sessions in total. Each class session is 120 minutes in length. The course meets from Monday to Friday.

Course Schedule

Please note that the schedule is meant to give an overview of the major concepts of this course. Changes may occur in this calendar as needed to aid in the student's development.

WEEK ONE

- Introduction to western art
- The Renaissances

- Baroque
- Quiz

WEEK TWO

- Rococo
- Neoclassicism
- Discuss readings and topic discussion
- Quiz

WEEK THREE

- Romanticism
- Realism
- Midterm Exam

WEEK FOUR

- Impressionism
- Art of XX century
- Discuss readings and topic discussion
- Review

WEEK FIVE

- Western Art in Museums
- Architecture in the 20th Century and Summary of Western Art
- Discuss readings and topic discussion
- Review
- Final Exam

Course Requirements

Attendance and promptness

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all material covered in class and otherwise assigned. Any unexcused absence will impact your grade.
- Arriving late or leaving early will be counted as half absences.
- Attendance is mandatory. Be on time and stay for the duration of each class. Any students with more than three absences will automatically fail the course.

Class participation and preparation

Attendance and active participation are important. It's best not to skip a class just because you didn't do the reading. You are still required to hand in things on time even if you don't show. Send your assignments via a class partner or put them in my box. Please be sure to communicate any absences with me. It might do you best to find appropriate documentation to cover your tracks. Please don't send any assignments by email. They won't be accepted.

Class participation involves volunteering answers and contributing to the class discussions. Inhibition is the enemy of language acquisition. Being prepared for class means that you demonstrate knowledge of assigned homework by participating actively in the discussions and turning in written homework upon request. Prepare the work assigned to a particular day the night before.

Grading Policy

- Presentation – 20%
- Four Essays – 40%
- Midterm – 20%
- Final Exam – 20%

Presentation: This will be a five-minute compare and contrast presentation on two works of art that we have not discussed in class but that are related to what we are doing in class (they should be from Western art and pertinent to our time period of study). When preparing your presentation, you should think about the skills of public

speaking (organization, eye contact, voice, tone, etc.) as well as the content about what you are presenting (you should cover the works' artist, the art movement(s) to which they pertain, the works' importance, describe in detail the works, and then explain how they are the same or different).

Essays: There will be 4 essays. They will be 2-3 pages each, double-spaced. You will compare three works of your selections that we have studied for the class (on the videos or in the assigned pages in the textbook). You must organize these essays accordingly with an introduction, body paragraphs that address different issues, and a conclusion.

Midterm and final: These will be given after units 3 and 6. These serve for you to synthesize and process what you have learned in the course. You may use your notes and textbook for this. More instructions will be on the exam when you receive them.

Grading Scale

The instructor will use the grading system as applied by JNU:

Definition	Letter Grade	Score
Excellent	A	90~100
Good	B	80~89
Satisfactory	C	70~79
Poor	D	60~69
Failed	E	Below 60

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in the class. It would be recorded each class and forms part of students' participation record. Students should inform the instructor at the earliest opportunity if they need to ask for a leave. All absences may have negative effect on students' final grades. Any students with more than three unexcused absences will automatically fail the course.

Academic Integrity

As members of the Jinan University academic community, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic coursework and activities. Academic dishonesty, includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e., misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or a substantially similar paper, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; or sabotaging other students' work within these general definitions. Instructors, however, determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties that range from the lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.