



0501A335

Art History:

Renaissance to Modern Art in the West

Instructor: TBA

Time: October 19, 2026 - November 20, 2026

Office Hours: by appointment

Contact Hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Credits: 4

E-mail: TBA

Course Description

This course will provide an introduction to the field of art history by discussing the development of artistic production from the early Renaissance period to our own contemporary moment. Our lessons will deal with key issues in the history of art, including questions about what constitutes a “work of art” and how art has a history. We will discuss “art” in its broad definitions—its artists, media (painting, sculpture, architecture, printmaking, design, and the decorative arts), and institutions (from art academies, to museums, to exhibitions). We will learn how art’s history intersects with other social and cultural developments, such as religious practices and political movements. The course will engage with art history’s canons of objects and methods of inquiry in order to discover the dynamic boundaries of the field and its relevance for both life and art today.

Course Objectives

In this course, successful students will:

1. Learn to appreciate art and its role in history; gain knowledge specific to the disciplines of visual art, art history, and history
2. Discover the positive value of art in their lives and their community
3. Feel more comfortable visiting original art in museums and galleries
4. Enhance their speaking, writing, talking, and thinking skills in response to works of art develop a language of visual analysis in discussions of specific images and objects
5. Engage critically and creatively with art history as a field
6. Become familiar with the wide range of artists, styles, and artistic media across the centuries of artistic development
7. Foster cultural sensitivity and appreciation of diversity in light of studying art produced by humans from various times, places, and cultures
8. Hone critical thinking skills through the study of historical and aesthetic objects
9. Learn how works of art can embody social responsibility and ethical goals
10. Learn analytical skills that can be applied toward any visual image or object, making them more sensitive and sophisticated viewers

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Grading Policies

Quizzes (10 quizzes, 4% each)	40%
Reflection Paper	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%

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

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.

Course Outline

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

Module 1:

CH. 18, Fourteenth-century Art in Europe

- Why Does Art History Matter?
- Florentine Painting: Cimabue and Giotto
- Sienese Painting: Duccio

Quiz 1

Module 2:

CH. 20, Renaissance Art in Fifteenth-century Italy(1)

- Early Renaissance: The Rise of the "Artist" in Renaissance Italy

Quiz 2

Module 3:

CH. 20, Renaissance Art in Fifteenth-century Italy(2)

- High Renaissance: Michelangelo, Raphael, Leonardo, and Donatello
- "masters" of the Renaissance (the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles!)

Quiz 3

Module 4:

CH. 21, Sixteenth-century Art in Italy

- Northern Italy
- The Colorists of Venice
- Mannerism

Quiz 4

Module 5:

CH. 19, Fifteenth-century Art in Northern Europe

- Naturalism and Detail in Northern Painting and Printmaking
- Northern Renaissance
- Jan van Eyck, Rogier van der Weyden, Albrecht Dürer, Hieronymus Bosch

Quiz 5

Module 6:

CH. 22, Sixteenth-century Art in Northern Europe and the Iberian Peninsula

- Art and Architecture of the European court
- The Spanish Armada
- Formal Court Portrait
- Myth and Allegory: Peter Paul Rubens
- Court Portraits of Spain: Velazquez
- Court Artists and Portraits of France

Quiz 6

Midterm Exam

Module 7:

CH. 23, Seventeenth-century Art in Europe (1)

- Art and the Church: The Reformation and Baroque Art
- Baroque versus Renaissance
- Caravaggio and Bernini
- Martin Luther: Protestantism

Quiz 7

Module 8:

CH. 23, Seventeenth-century Art in Europe (2)

- The Dutch Golden Age and Tulip-mania
- Civic Pictures in the Dutch Republic: Rembrandt, Frans Hals
- Northern Baroque v. Southern Baroque
- Genre Painting: De Hooch, Vermeer

Quiz 8

Reflection Paper

Module 9:

CH. 30, 18th Century European and American Art

- Enlightenment Order and Rococo Splendor in the 18th Century
- The 3 R's: Revolution, Romanticism, and Realism
- Jacques-Louis David, Revolution, and Neo-Classicism
- From Neo-Classicism to Romanticism
- Napoleonic Spain: Goya
- England in the early 1800s: John Constable, J.M.W. Turner
- The Rise of Realism: Gustave Courbet, Millet

Quiz 9

Module 10:

CH. 31, Mid to Late Nineteenth Century Art in Europe and the United States

- The Making of a Modern World
- Academic Art and the Paris Salon
- Impressionism and the Art of Modern Life, Monet, Manet, Degas, Mary Cassatt, Renoir Neo-Impressionism: Seurat and Post impressionism: Van Gogh
- Northern France: Primitivism and Symbolism: Gauguin
- South of France: Cézanne
- Bridging High and Low: Cubism, Collage, Expressionism, Fauvism, Futurism, Dada and Avant-garde

CH. 32, Modern Art in Europe and the Americas

- International Modernism
- Art Between the Wars in Europe
- American Art and Abstract Expressionism
- Art Between the Wars in the Americas
- Postwar Art in Europe and the Americas
- Conceptual Art and Contemporary Art

Quiz 10

Final Exam