

Course Syllabus
2017 – 2018

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Course Description:

The AP Art History course is a con-credit course that is equivalent to a two-semester introductory college course that explores topics such as the nature of art, art making, and responses to art. By investigating a specific image set of 250 works of art characterized by diverse artistic traditions from prehistory to the present, the course fosters in-depth, holistic understanding of the history of art from a global perspective. Students become active participants in the global art world, engaging with its forms and content, as they experience, research, discuss, read, and write about art, artists, art making, and responses to and interpretations of art.

Course Syllabus:

AP Art History Course Content Functions and effects of art are the focus of the AP Art History course. Students consider influential forces like patronage, politics, class, belief, gender, and ethnicity in their analysis of art forms. Students explore a specific set of 250 works of art in 10 content areas beginning with art from global prehistory and ending with global works from the present.

Gallery 1

The analysis of art, the formal examination of art and architecture, and the difference between aesthetics and art history are introduced. Students learn what makes a successful response by exploring how to successfully answer and write to a short and a long prompt. The skill of reading, interpreting, and correlating a floor plan with its corresponding structure sets a foundation for the course. Students start their art historical studies in Global Prehistory.

Gallery 2

Art of the Indigenous Americas as one of the oldest artistic traditions, origins, the influence of colonization, and overarching stylistic traits are explored within the Chavin, Mayan, Olmec, Teotichucán, and Mexica. Cultural misconceptions are addressed as causes of misconceptions about other cultures. Key differences between art of Ancient America and Native North America regarding dating, environment, cultural continuity, and sources of information are analyzed.

Gallery 3

The arts of West, Central, South, East, and Southeast Asia are explored through the lens of Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. Shared spiritual development, spiritual release, and religious methodologies will be examined within the context of contrasting religious practices, rituals, and iconoclasm.

Gallery 4

The cultures of the Pacific are analyzed through the indigenous materials used in art, their utilitarian objects, and symbols of power and authority. Students will gain an understanding of how power and authority is represented within the Pacific and paralleled with cultures of the Indigenous Americas, Early Europe, and Eastern Asia.

Gallery 5

The cultures of the Ancient Near East—Sumerian, Akkadian, Neo-Sumerian, Babylonian, Assyrian, Neo-Babylonian, and Persian—chronologically lead students understanding of geographical and cultural

distinctions. Followed by the examination of the kingdoms of Egypt for students to have a geographical base to better explore the contemporary art of Africa. African art is examined through the participatory nature of art, ritualistic purpose, and cultural distinctions within multiple groups of people.

Gallery 6

The foundational influence of the Cycladic, Minoan, and Mycenaean cultures is examined to understand their influence on Greek civilization and artistic development. Greek art is examined holistically, analyzing sculpture, architecture, and painting as evidence and a reflection of cultural evolution. Etruscan culture, art, and civilization are addressed as an influential culture that reflects influence from Greek culture and a contributor of stylistic characteristics to Greek culture. Rome is analyzed through changing architectural and sculptural depictions as a visual representation of the current empire and cultural changes.

Gallery 7

Byzantine, Romanesque, and Gothic Christian and Jewish religious iconography is explored to understand the cultural context of each religion and, subsequently, how patronage manifests the increase of pilgrimage, narrative art, and architectural innovations.

Gallery 8

The Renaissance reintroduces concepts from Antiquity and lays the foundation for students to understand the changes within art and architecture as representations of cultural and religious fluctuation. Art representative of Northern and Southern distinctions is analyzed to determine the varied contextual influences. As Baroque reinstates some Renaissance ideals, it also rejects the idealistic elements of the period as the Mannerists did. The Industrial Revolution led to the age of exploration, giving rise to the Enlightenment and Neo-Classicism.

Gallery 9

The rapid succession of art periods known as the "isms" in the 19th and 20th centuries were a reaction and a rejection of the previous one. Artists gravitated to new roles in society, leading to artistic movements with diverse styles. The "isms" encompass Realism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Symbolism, Expressionism, Cubism, Suprematism, Constructivism, Abstraction, Dadaism, Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, Performance Art, and Environmental Art.

Gallery 10

Students explore the appropriation of culture and/or sacred objects, the representation of architecture as a city's aspiration, diversity of media, and the combination of traditions within themes that embody contemporary art's global interconnectedness.

AP Art History Exam:

All students are required to take the AP Art History Exam in May of 2018. Students demonstrate achievement of AP Art History learning objectives by applying their art historical knowledge and skills to address course content. The exam format includes one section of 80 multiple choice questions over 60 minutes for 50% of the exam score (Part A is approximately 8 sets of questions based on color images and Part B is approximately 35 discrete multiple-choice questions); one section of 6 free response questions over 120 minutes for 50% of the exam score); one section of essay questions (Part A is two 30-minute essay questions and Part B is four 15-minute essay questions).