

Florida Atlantic University

ARH 4100--Pre-Classical and Classical Art

Boca Raton Campus, Lectures – ED 116, MW 4:00-5:50 PM; credits - 4

Instructor – Dr. Brian E. McConnell; e-mail: mcconnel@fau.edu

Office – AL-136, Office Hours – Monday / Wednesday, 2:00-4:00pm and by appointment or chance.

Syllabus

Course Description

This course focuses on the art of the peoples and civilizations of the Ancient Near East and the Mediterranean through Late Antiquity. We shall take an in-depth look, in a way that one cannot in a broad survey course, at the range of art media and the historical circumstances that promoted and conditioned artists and craft-workers in ancient times. Attention will be focused on the archaeological context of ancient art and the way in which scholars analyze relevant archaeological information, as well as on the way in which ancient art has had an impact on the art of modern times. Pre-requisites: ARH 2050 and ARH 2051 or permission of the department.

Requirements

- a) in-class description assignment (10%)
- b) take-home verbal/graphic description assignment(15%)
- c) in-class mid-term examination (15%)
- d) take-home mid-term examination essay (15%)
- e) in-class final examination (25%)

Attendance and participation (including additional in-class and homework assignments) will be considered in the formulation of the final grade (20%). The specifics of letter-grading conform to general university standards.

Required Books

John Griffiths Pedley, *Greek Art and Archaeology*, Fourth Edition (here *Pedley*).

Nancy H. Ramage and Andrew Ramage, *Roman Art*, Fifth Edition (here *Ramage*).

(recommended) Marilyn Stokstad, *Art History, Portable Edition*, Third Edition, *Ancient Art* (available at Booksmart only; not campus bookshop).

n.b. The instructor reserves the right to change topics and/or supplement readings with reasonable notice.

Descriptive Essays

Verbal description is an important tool in studying the history of art. In our class, we shall test our ability to translate visual art into verbal form and vice versa through two exercises. The first is an in-class descriptive exercise that we shall discuss together (you may then revise your description at home and hand it in later). The second exercise is a take-home description that you will write anonymously and exchange with a classmate (the instructor will handle this) who, in turn, will make a drawing based on the initial description. The fun begins when you see just what your description brings to mind! Of course, each student will have the opportunity to revise his or her own description on the basis of what it did or did not yield in the classmate's drawing.

Attendance Policy and Useful Tips

Inasmuch as class attendance will be considered in the participation portion of the final grade, a sign-in sheet will be posted for selected classes. In order to be counted as present in class, you must sign this sheet (retroactive or joint signatures are not acceptable). Excused absences (for personal reasons or to represent FAU) must be communicated to the instructor in advance (except for exceptional circumstances) with appropriate documentation.

Statement of academic integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty.

For more information, see

http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf

Students with disabilities

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) located in Boca Raton - SU 133 (561-297-3880), in Davie - MOD I (954-236-1222), in Jupiter - SR 117 (561-799-8585), or at the Treasure Coast - CO 128 (772-873-3305), and follow all OSD procedures.

Note: In accordance with university policy, all cell phones and beepers must be turned off during class time.

Class Dates, Topics, and Assignments

I. Monday, August 23. Introduction.

II. Wednesday, August 25. Art and Humanity -- the appearance of Art as individual and social behavior; symbolism.

Reading: *lecture supplement*.

III. Monday, August 30. The basic media of Art in prehistory.

Reading: *lecture supplement*.

IV. Wednesday, September 1. **(in-class description exercise)** Art and Civilization in Early Mesopotamia; later civilizations in the Ancient Near East.

Reading: *lecture supplement*.

Monday, September 6. No class: Labor Day Holiday

V. Wednesday, September 8. **(take-home description exercise distributed)** The Art of Egypt I.

Reading: *lecture supplement*.

VI. Monday, September 13. The Art of Egypt II.

Reading: *lecture supplement*.

VII. Wednesday, September 15. **(take-home descriptions exchange)** Aegean Art in the Early and Middle Bronze Ages.

Reading: *Pedley, chapters 1-2*.

VIII. Monday, September 20. Art of the Aegean and Anatolia in the Late Bronze Age.

Reading: *Pedley, chapter 3*.

IX. Wednesday, September 22. **(description drawings due)** Art of the Bronze Age Elsewhere in the Mediterranean.

Reading: *lecture supplement*.

X. Monday, September 27. Greek Art of the Formative Archaic Period.

Reading: *Pedley, chapters 4-5*.

XI. Wednesday September 29. **(revised descriptions due)** Greek Art of the Archaic Period.

Reading: *Pedley, chapter 6*.

XII. Monday, October 4. Archaic Art in Etruscan Italy
Reading: *Ramage, chapter 1.*

XIII. Wednesday, October 6. Discussion and Review

XIV. Monday, October 11. **In-class Examination**

XV. Wednesday, October 13. **(take-home essay due)** Film: "The Rise and Fall of the Etruscans"

XVI. Monday, October 18. The Severe Style in Greek Art
Reading: *Pedley, chapter 7.*

XVII. Wednesday, October 20. Classical Greek Sculpture and Pottery
Reading: *Pedley, chapter 8.*

XVIII. Monday, October 25. Classical Athens – Topography and Monuments
Reading: *lecture supplement.*

XIX. Wednesday, October 27. Late Classical Sculpture
Reading: *Pedley, chapter 9.*

XX. Monday, November 1. Alexander the Great in Art
Reading: *lecture supplement.*

XXI. Wednesday, November 3. Hellenistic Art -- 'baroque' and 'rococo'
Reading: *Pedley, chapter 10.*

XXII. Monday, November 8. The Art of Late Classical Italy and the Roman Republic
Reading: *Ramage, chapter 2.*

XXIII. Wednesday, November 10. The *Princeps Augustus* and Art
Reading: *Ramage, chapter 3.*

XXIV. Monday, November 15. Roman Art in the First Century A.D.
Reading: *Ramage, chapters 4-5.*

XXV. Wednesday, November 17. Roman Art in the Second and Third Centuries A.D.
Reading: *Ramage, chapters 6-10.*

XXVI. Monday, November 22. Roman Art from the *Tetrarchy* Through the Age of Constantine.

Reading: *Ramage, chapters 11-12.*

XXVII. Wednesday, November 24. The Impact of Graeco-Roman Art in Asia.

Reading: *lecture supplement.*

XXVIII. Monday November 29. Discussion and Review

XXVIII. Wednesday, December 1. Discussion and Review.

Final Examination – Monday, December 6, 4:00-6:30PM.