INTRODUCTION TO ANCIENT ART AND ARCHITECTURE

ARTH 209. McGill University, Fall Semester 2010. Tuesday/Thursday, 8.35-9.55, Arts W-215

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10.00-11.00 and 14.00-16.00 (or by appointment) in Arts W-240
Teaching Assistant: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course offers an introduction to the major artistic monuments of the ancient world from the Ancient Near East and Egypt through the civilizations of Greece and Rome and beyond. Lectures focus on works of art and architecture from these diverse cultures providing insight into the specific historic contexts in which they were produced and the particular civic, religious and political functions they served. Textbook readings will be supplemented with a series of culturally and historically specific case studies and primary sources as a means of providing exposure to a wide variety of material within a critical framework. Students will develop skills in visual literacy and gain a basic understanding of the methods and aims of art historical study.

The course will include visits to McGill’s Redpath museum and the Musée des Beaux-Arts.

COURSE EVALUATION AND REQUIREMENTS
Final course evaluation will be based the following criteria:

- Test I on Tuesday of Week 6 (October 5): 20%
- Test II on Thursday of Week 12 (November 18): 30%
- Research Assignment Part I due at the end of Week 13: 20%
- Research Assignment Part II due at the end of Week 14: 30%

Completion of all course requirements is mandatory. Failure to complete both tests plus both parts of the research assignment will result in a failing grade. This means missing one component will result in a failing grade, no matter the numerical average of the other components.

TESTS. The two in-class tests, covering material from the lectures and readings, consist primarily of slide identification and essay questions in addition to objective questions (i.e. those concerned with such facts as monument names, sites, dates, and historic periods, etc). Study guides will be posted on WebCT. The dates of the tests are non-negotiable. A make-up test will only be offered if a student provides written medical documentation within 48 hours of the missed test.

RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT. The two-part research assignment consists of a two-page visual analysis of a specific work of art in a Montreal area collections (Part I) and an annotated bibliography of a separate work of art illustrated in the textbook (Part II). Detailed instructions will follow, including the list of approved monuments. Late assignments will be penalized by 5% per day unless a doctor’s note is given. Doctor’s notes must be received within 3 days of the due date.

ATTENDANCE. It is your responsibility to acquire notes from a classmate for classes you miss.
COURSE WEBSITE. A copy of the syllabus, important announcements, course readings, study guides, study images, and other resources will be posted on the course website. It is critical that you consult the WebCT course site regularly for course announcements and updates.

COURSE MATERIALS. The textbook for this course is *Gardner’s Art Through the Ages*. Because this standard survey text used in many different introductory courses, it is available in multiple formats. The following edition, a slim volume which focuses ancient art alone, has been ordered for purchase in the McGill bookstore:


You may also use volume one of the following larger versions, which cover ancient through medieval art and architecture:


Please be aware that the pagination differs between the “Western Perspective” and the “Global History.” In the syllabus, page numbers from both editions are given as follows: “*Gardner’s Western Perspectives/Antiquity*” for both the abbreviated and the lengthier Western Perspective series and “*Gardner’s Global*” for the global edition.

If you would like to use any edition other than those listed above please consult the copies on reserve in the library to verify that they present the same information. It is your responsibility to verify page and figure numbers for different editions.

In addition to the textbook, other readings will be available online from the WebCT course site.

UNIVERSITY NOTICES
In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

L’université McGill attache une haute importance à l’honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/integrity).

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.
**COURSE SCHEDULE:** Weekly Lecture Topics, Reading Assignments, and Due Dates.

**Please be sure to check the course web site frequently for announcements and updates**

**Week I. Overview of the Ancient Mediterranean**
Thursday, September 2. Introduction and Course Overview
Please spend some time with the following online resources to orient you to the course material:
- Metropolitan Museum of Art Timeline of Art History: [http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/intro/attr/04sm.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/intro/attr/04sm.htm)
- Smarthistory timeline: [http://smarthistory.org/](http://smarthistory.org/)
- BBC program on the History of the World in 100 Objects: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/)

**Week II. Form, Style and Interpretation of the Pre-historic (September 7 & 9).**
Required Reading:
- *Gardner's,* introduction and chapter one (Art Before History)
  - *Gardner's Western Perspectives/Antiquity,* xix-xxxi and 1-14.

**Week III. The Ancient Near East (September 14 & 16)**
Required Reading:
- *Gardner’s,* chapter two (The Ancient Near East)
  - *Gardner’s Western Perspectives/Antiquity,* 19-36.
- Excerpt from *Gilgamesh.* (WebCT)

Web resources:
- Interactive plan of the palace of Ashurnasirpal II at Nimrud ([http://www.mesopotamia.co.uk/palaces/explore/exp_set.html](http://www.mesopotamia.co.uk/palaces/explore/exp_set.html))
- Persepolis images from the Oriental Institute Photographic archive ([http://oi.uchicago.edu/OL/MUS/PA/IRAN/PAAI/PAAI_Persepolis.html](http://oi.uchicago.edu/OL/MUS/PA/IRAN/PAAI/PAAI_Persepolis.html))
**Week IV. Ancient Egypt** (September 21 & 23)

Required Reading:
- *Gardner’s*, chapter three (Egypt Under the Pharaohs) through the Middle Kingdom
- Excerpt from the *Book of the Dead* (WebCT)

Web resources:
- Djoser complex with clickable plan ([http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/arth/zoser/zoser.html](http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/arth/zoser/zoser.html))
- Sculpture of Menkaure and his Queen ([http://witcombe.sbc.edu/menkaure/](http://witcombe.sbc.edu/menkaure/))
- Giza and Luxor QTVR Panoramas ([http://guardians.net/egypt/cj98/pans/panindex.htm](http://guardians.net/egypt/cj98/pans/panindex.htm))

**Week V. Ancient Egypt: King Tut and the Amarna Period** (September 28 & 30)

Required Reading:
- *Gardner’s*, chapter three (Egypt Under the Pharaohs) New Kingdom and Beyond
  - *Gardner’s Western Perspectives/Antiquity*, 53-64.
- Howard Carter and A.C. Mace, *The Tomb of Tutankhamun: Search, Discovery and Clearance of the Antechamber* (Duckworth, 1923 [2003]), 178-88. (WebCT)

Class on Thursday, September 30, will meet in the Redpath Museum for a conversation with Barbara Lawson, Curator of World Cultures. We will meet on the third floor of the museum ([www.mcgill.ca/redpath](http://www.mcgill.ca/redpath)).

**Week VI (October 5 & 7)**

**Tuesday, October 5. Test I**

Thursday, October 7. Research tools for Ancient Art History

Instructions for the research assignment will be discussed in detail in class on Thursday, October 7. Jennifer Garland, Liaison Librarian for the Blackader-Lauterman Library of Architecture and Art, will offer a short presentation on the key art historical research tools resources necessary for the research assignment.

**Week VII. The Pre-historic Aegean and Archaic Greece** (October 12 & 14)

Required Reading:
- *Gardner’s*, chapter four (Pre-historic Aegean) and the beginning of chapter five (Ancient Greece)
  - *Gardner’s Western Perspectives/Antiquity*, 67-82 and 86-104.
  - *Gardner’s Global*, 81-96 and 99-118
Week VIII. The Classical Ideal (October 19 & 21)
Civic Ritual: the Acropolis and the Panathenaia/and Hellenistic Dynamism
Required Reading
  • Gardner’s, chapter five (Ancient Greece) Late Classical and Hellenistic
    o Gardner’s Western Perspectives/Antiquity, 104-140.
  • Excerpt from Book X of Plato’s Republic (WebCT)
  • Rachel Kousser, “Destruction and Memory on the Athenian Acropolis,” Art Bulletin 41/3 (2009), 263-82. (WebCT)
Web resources:
  • Acropolis images (http://www.stoa.org/athens/sites/acropolis.html)
  • Metis QTVR Panoramas of ancient Greek sites including Aegina, Athens, and Delphi (http://www.stoa.org/metis/cgi-bin/cat)

Week IX. Greece to Rome: Etruscan Art and Architecture (October 26 & October 28)
Required Reading
  • Gardner’s, chapter six (The Etruscans)
    o Gardner’s Western Perspectives/Antiquity, 143-54.
    o Gardner’s Global, 223-234 (note: chapter 9 = Etruscans in this edition)

Week X. Ancient Rome: Republic and Pompeii (November 2 & 4)
Required Reading:
  • Gardner’s, chapter 10 (Roman Empire),
    o Gardner’s Western Perspectives/Antiquity, 158-174.
    o Gardner’s Global, 238-253.
  • Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, “Reading the Roman House,” in Houses and Society in Pompeii and Herculaneum (Princeton, 1994), 3-16. (WebCT)
Web resource:
  • BSR Pompeii site (http://www.proxima-veritati.auckland.ac.nz/insula9/index.html)

Week XI. Imperial Rome: Images and Empire (November 9 & 11)
Required Reading:
  • Gardner’s, chapter 10 (Roman Empire),
    o Gardner’s Western Perspectives/Antiquity, 174-196.
    o Gardner’s Global, 254-276
  • Excerpt from the Res gestae divi Augusti (Web CT)
  • Paul Zanker, “Conflict and Contradiction in the Imagery of the Dying Republic” in The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus (University of Michigan, 1990), 5-31. (WebCT)
Web resources:
  • Interactive Roman Forum (http://dlib.etc.ucla.edu/projects/Forum/timemap)
  • The Ara Pacis (http://www.bluffton.edu/~sullivannm/italy/rome/arapacis/arapacis.html)
Week XII (November 16 & 18)
Tuesday, November 16. Catch up and review
Thursday, November 18. Test 2

Week XIII. Special Topics in Ancient Art and Architecture (November 23 & 25)

In lieu of regularly scheduled lectures this week, we will break into smaller groups and visit the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montréal for a conversation with Dr. John Fossey, Curator of the Mediterranean Archaeology Collection.

- Location: Michal and Renata Hornstein Pavilion/Liliane and David M. Stewart Pavilion, 1379 Sherbrooke St (http://www.mbam.qc.ca/en/renseignements/adresses_acces.html)
- Further details will follow.

Part I of assignment due by Friday, November 26

Week XIV. Later Antiquities (November 30 and December 2)
Tuesday, November 30. Late Antiquity
Required Reading:
- Gardner's, chapter 10 (Roman Empire), 196-206.
Web resources:
- Arch of Constantine (http://www.bluffton.edu/~sullivanm/italy/rome/archconstantine/arch.html)

Thursday, December 2 (last class). The Ancient World Today
Required Reading:
- Virtual Museum of Iraq: http://www.virtualmuseumiraq.cnr.it/prehome.htm
- Christopher Hitchens, ed., The Elgin Marbles: Should They Be Returned to Greece? (Verso, 1997). (WebCT)

Part II of assignment due by Friday, December 3