

**Framingham State University**  
**Syllabus**  
**ARTH 270 History of Art I**

**General Information:**

Semester: Summer 2018(July 2<sup>nd</sup>,2018-August 3<sup>rd</sup>,2018)

Credit: 4

Teaching Hours: 50 Hours

Time: 2 hours/day Mon-Fri

Professor Name: Blake J. Ruehrwein

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Home Institution: Framingham State University

This course offers a survey of art and architecture of the ancient world, with particular emphasis on Egyptian, Greek and Roman cultures, and medieval Europe, with a special focus on the Romanesque and Gothic styles. The course will consider works and movements in architecture, sculpture, and painting. The principle aims of the course are to introduce the vocabulary and tools necessary for analyzing visual art and to convey an understanding of art through its relationship to changing social and cultural trends.

Course Textbook and Documents:

The required textbook for this course is Fred Kleiner's *Gardner's Art through the Ages: A Global History, Vol. 1* (15<sup>th</sup> edition.) If you order the book online or used (which can save you money), please make sure that you are getting the correct book, as there are multiple editions and versions of the *Gardner's* textbook. The correct book has a landscape painting with birds on the cover. Course exams will test you on images covered both in class and illustrated in your textbook. Images shown in each class will be available online via Blackboard Learn, under "Content."

Grading and Assignments:

Your grade in this course will be a combination of two non-cumulative exams and two written assignments, each worth 20% of your final grade. Participation in class discussion counts for the final 20% of your grade. Attendance and participation in class is thus both critical to your grasp of the material and to your final grade. Late papers delivered without a valid excuse will incur a penalty of half a grade per day. The first writing assignment will exercise your skills of close looking and individual interpretation as you respond to a series of prompts related to ancient works of art from Greece and China. This assignment will test your ability to describe and interpret what you see. The second written assignment will take the form of a more traditional art historical paper (approx. 3 pages) as you formulate a thesis regarding whether or not a given work is typical of its historical period. This assignment will analyze your understanding of the historical periods of art that we will study in this course, as well as your ability to convincingly support your thesis.

Class Meetings and Assignments

Week 1(7/2-7/6)

Class 1: Introduction: What is Art History? (read: *Gardner's* pp. 7-13)

Class 2: Prehistoric Art (read: *Gardner's* pp. 15-28)

Class 3: Ancient Mesopotamia (read: *Gardner's* pp. 31-50)

Class 4: Ancient Egypt (read: *Gardner's* pp. 55-80)

Class 5: Minoans and Myceneans (read: *Gardner's* pp. 83-100)

Week 2(7/9-7/13)

Class 6: Geometric and Archaic Greece (read: *Gardner's*, pp. 104-122)

Class 7: Classical and Hellenistic Greece (read: *Gardner's*, pp. 123-160)

Class 8: First paper due; American Art Before 1500 (read: *Gardner's* pp. 508-523, 532-536)

Class 9: Etruscans and Roman Republic (read: *Gardner's* pp. 508-523, 532-536)

Class 10: Roman Empire (read: *Gardner's* pp. 195-228)

Week 3(7/16-7/20)

Class 11: Pompeii and Roman Painting (read: *Gardner's* pp. 186-194)

Class 12: Midterm exam

Class 13: (Teach Your Professor) Chinese Art

Class 14: Temple visit

Class 15: Byzantium (read: *Gardner's* pp. 256-282)

Week 4(7/23-7/27)

Class 16: The Medieval Problem (read: *Gardner's* pp. 312-320)

Class 17: Charlemagne and the Ottonians (read: *Gardner's* pp. 321-336)

Class 18: Medieval Manuscripts and Tapestries (read: Metropolitan Museum essay, "The Art of the Book in the Middle Ages")

Class 19: Romanesque (read: *Gardner's* pp. 338-368)

Week 5(7/30-8/3)

Class 20: Second paper due; Gothic (read: *Gardner's* pp. 372-390, 399-402, 407-408)

Class 21: Late Medieval Sculpture (read: *Gardner's* pp. 372-379, 386-391, 406-407)

Class 22: Stained Glass and Reliquaries (read: *Gardner's* pp. 341, 362, 381-387)

Class 23: Late Medieval Italy (read: *Gardner's* pp. 415-424)

Class 24: Review

Class 25: Final exam