

**ART HISTORY 106  
HISTORY OF WESTERN ART**

**BULLETIN INFORMATION**

ARTH 106: History of Western Art (3 credit hours)

**Course Description:**

The visual arts from the Renaissance to the present

**SAMPLE COURSE OVERVIEW**

This is a lecture/discussion class on the subject of Western painting, sculpture, and architecture from the Renaissance to the present. We will be tracing the broad developments in those media as manifest in the work of its leading movements, artists, and architects. Individual works will be examined for what they tell us about the artists who made them, the patrons who commissioned them, and the cultural circumstances they addressed. Our discussions will be guided by the following definitions of art and art history:

1. Art is the class of man-made objects with *an extra-utilitarian function*.
2. Art History is *informed speculation* on the production and reception of artworks, with a focus on how they functioned or were meant to function for their makers and/or users within their original contexts: biographical, social, and/or artistic.

**ITEMIZED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of ARTH 106, students will be able to:

1. Communicate in writing their understanding of the major developments in European art from the Renaissance to the present.
2. Communicate in writing their understanding of the functional meanings of a representative sampling of European art and architecture since the Renaissance.
3. Demonstrate a more extensive art vocabulary in order to express ideas about art with greater expertise, precision, and comprehension.
4. Demonstrate and understanding of the rudiments of visual analysis and be able to communicate that in writing

**SAMPLE REQUIRED TEXTS/SUGGESTED READINGS/MATERIALS**

All reading assignments, which will be made in class, will be from Marilyn Stokstad, *History of Art*, vol. 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, available at the USC Bookstore.

**SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAM**

- 1. Exams:** There will be **two exams** in this class and a **final**. Each exam (including the final) will consist of two parts:
  - a. Name and term identifications

b. Image identifications and discussions.

The names and terms for which you will be responsible will be clearly identified in class and listed on Blackboard. The images for which you will be responsible will also be clearly identified in class and listed on Blackboard. All of these images will be found in the textbook, identified below. For the images you will be expected to know the artist, title, approximate date (period dates are fine), the category or categories to which the work belongs. You will also be expected to discuss the given work's thematic and stylistic meaning and the function for which it was apparently produced, which is to say: who was it made for and what it was meant to provide for that viewer or those viewers.

- 2. Writing Assignment:** You will be required to write a 400-600 word visual analysis of a single work at the Columbia Museum of Art done after 1400. Note: This is not a research paper, although research might help you to better see the work. The assignment asks you to pretend that you are describing the work for someone who does not know the work and cannot get a reproduction. At the end of your paper you should speculate on whom it was for and what it was meant to do to or for them.

**SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE WITH TIMELINE OF TOPICS, READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS/PROJECTS**

<b><u>Week 1:</u></b>	Early Northern Renaissance
<b><u>Week 2:</u></b>	Later Northern Renaissance
<b><u>Week 3:</u></b>	Proto-Italian Renaissance
<b><u>Week 4:</u></b>	Early Italian Renaissance
<b><u>Week 5:</u></b>	cont.
<b><u>Week 6:</u></b>	High Italian Renaissance
<b><u>Week 7:</u></b>	Later Italian Renaissance
<b><u>Week 8:</u></b>	Venetian Renaissance
<b><u>Week 9:</u></b>	Italian and Spanish Baroque
<b><u>Week 10:</u></b>	Dutch, French, and British Baroque
<b><u>Week 11:</u></b>	Rococo, Neoclassicism and Romanticism and Anti-Rococo
<b><u>Week 12:</u></b>	Realism to Impressionism
<b><u>Week 13:</u></b>	Post-Impressionism to Cubism
<b><u>Week 14:</u></b>	Dada to Pop
<b><u>Week 15:</u></b>	Postmodernist currents in art and architecture