

Lucy Blake  
Ass't professor, art history  
WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE  
Art 101, Section 8029, Summer 2015

## **SYLLABUS\_ ART HISTORY 1\_Ancient to Renaissance Art**

The syllabus is a "contract between the faculty member and her students, designed to answer students' questions about what will happen should they fail to meet course expectations."

### **1. COURSE CONTENT**

Art 101 considers the visual arts of ancient civilizations, with particular emphasis on the cultures that contributed to the Roman Empire and the European middle ages. We include Asia and pre-contact America as comparative material.

### **2. ABOUT THE "TEXT"**

We will use the Internet instead of a textbook. The quality of material available online has guided the choice of art works included in the course. The specific web pages you need to read are linked in the modules; if you find better material online, please contribute to the annotated Weblibliography in the discussion area.

### **3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS**

Please carefully review the ETUDES system requirements (see Welcome Letter). Make sure you have configured your computer correctly before the course starts.

### **4. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

The faculty of West Los Angeles College identifies specific Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for every course. This course should help you master these skills; you will be practicing them in the discussions and in any of the extra-credit museum workshops that you are able attend. These are things a student should be able to do after the course is over.

#### **Art 101's Course SLOs are:**

*Deconstruct the impact of a work of art in terms of its appearance.*

*Relate an ancient Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Greek, Roman or medieval work of art to the culture in which it was created.*

**West's Institutional SLOs**--what we think intend student be able to do once they graduate. Art 101 is intended to particularly support three of these:

#### **Critical Thinking**

*Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences. Throughout the course, each of us will pause to identify our individual responses to works of art, and explain them to each other through visual analyses of the art.*

#### **Aesthetics**

*Use multiple modes of inquiry and approaches to experience and to engage with the arts and nature; develop and express personal creative visions throughout all aspects of ones life. Our major modes of inquiry are stylistic analysis and the comparison of various historical situations in their impact on art. Our approaches to the experience of art will include reading about it and comparing what we read to pictures of the art, and writing to each other about what we see on the web and in museums.*

#### **Cultural Diversity**

*Respectfully engage with other cultures in an effort to understand them.*

## **5. TIMING**

This online class covers the same material that a face-to-face class covers in a full-length semester (16 weeks). BUT YOU'LL BE DOING IT IN 6 WEEKS!! Thus, a student should expect to spend many more hours on the class each week, which will mean working most days.

## **6. QUIZZES**

There will be 19 “open-book” quizzes, several every week except for the last two days of the term. There will be true/false, matching and multiple-choice questions, all drawing on factual information in assigned websites.

You can treat the quizzes like guided reading, if you like—read with the quiz open answer the questions as you encounter the facts on the assigned websites. (Use two browsers if you do this this--Firefox for ETUDES, and Internet Explorer or Safari for the websites.)

**7. DISCUSSIONS :** The discussions are the heart of the course, the place you practice critical thinking most directly. You will post at least twice for each module, and read what others have posted. I will not post very often--generally only if issues of fact arise. There will be two prompts to respond to in each module, except for the last module. I'll almost always be asking you to point out something you can see in an image. (A Prompt is the subject or question to be responded to.)

Responses to Discussions (DQs= Discussion Questions)- must be posted within THREE days of its opening. This gives time for cross-conversations.

**8. MUSEUM SCHEDULE:** These extra-credit museum visits are scheduled for specific hours on various Saturdays. If you cannot make the scheduled tour, it can be done independently of the group. That's why they are extra-credit. (and that's a “SelfieVisit”) (Visit + accompanying work can be worth up to 50 points)

**Saturday, June 27, meet at 10:30 a.m. @ Urban Lights outside LACMA**

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (11:00 - 12:30)

(Ancient Egyptian, Assyrian, Persian, and Medieval into Renaissance)

**Saturday, July 11, meet at 10:30 @ bottom of amphitheater**

Getty Villa, Malibu (11:00 - 12:30)

(Ancient Greek and Roman sculpture & architecture, tour w/ Museum Educator)

## **9. DEADLINES:**

This class moves fast. I don't give extensions, because if you fall behind, there's no time to catch up. The deadlines are firm.

Observational and Reflective Discussions are due by 11 PM three days after they open.

Quizzes are due by 11 PM before the end of the seventh day they are open. I can open work early for student who have personal or work time conflicts. This means that you need to tell me before your work is due, not afterwards. For other emergencies, student should do extra-credit assignments to make up for lost points.

## **10. Instructor Response Policy**

If you have a question for me, please post it to the “Questions” in the Discussion area. If your question is of a personal nature (which you do not want your fellow students to see), send me a “Private Message.”

I will respond to you often much sooner. In exceptional circumstances we can schedule communication via email: lucyblakestudio@gmail.com

## 11. Drop Policy

If you choose to drop the course, it is your responsibility to do so before the official drop dates listed below. You will not be automatically excluded for lack of participation.

Last day to drop w/ a refund:	June 19, 2015
The last day to drop without a "W":	June 19, 2015
The last day to drop with a "W":	July 6, 2015
File Pass/no Pass	June 19, 2015

## 12. GRADING SCALE:

344 + = A

306 -- 343 = B

267 - 305 = C

229 - 265 = D

fewer than 229 = F

---

QUIZZES = 190 points

DQs = 57 points

Discussion QUALITY = 135 points

DQ (XCredit) could go to 190 points

Museum workshops (XCredit) may go up to 50 points

Webliography (XCredit) may go up to 90 points;

(Contribute an annotated entry to our list of websites useful for Art 101. Up to three webliographic contributions are each worth up to 30 points of extra credit. A complete contribution gives the exact location of the web page, an account of its usefulness and of its reliability.)

Participating in a discussion gains you 1.5 points. In addition, you will pick out the three best postings you have made during the term and I will base your discussion grade on them, with a maximum of 45 points per posting. You will copy/paste your best Discussions into the essay folder in AT&S.

There is a Discussion Grading Rubric in Resources.

## 13. PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism, the presentation of someone else's words or ideas in such a way that a casual reader would think they were yours, is penalized by the subtraction of the points the assignment could have been worth (that is, 10 points in a discussion, 30 in the webliography). Note that that is worse than a zero. It is your responsibility to understand what plagiarism is, as defined by Indiana University

## 14. Special Needs

If you are a student with a disability and require accommodations, please send me a Private Message. The sooner I am aware of your eligibility for accommodations, the quicker I will be able to assist the Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSP&S) Office in providing them. The DSP&S Office provides special assistance in areas including: registration assistance specialized tutoring, academic and career guidance counseling, instructor liaison, special instruction and testing assistance. The summer of 2014 however I cannot open any quizzes or Discussion Questions EARLY.