

Art 215: Art History: Prehistoric to Renaissance

Fall 2023 – Monday/Wednesday 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm

Professor: **Tamara Deane McElhannon**

Email: Tamara.McElhannon@reinhardt.edu

Textbook: **Art Through the Ages**

Objective:

Introduce students to the history, methods, and reasons for art-making from the Prehistoric to Renaissance eras.

We begin our journey at the end of the last ice age exploring prehistoric caves, then follow the growth of civilizations and their unique cultures defined by the art they left behind. We will follow a timeline that embraces a global approach.

1. **The Growth of Civilization:** Following the current historical timeline, we trace man's movement across the world as cave dwellers, hunters and gatherers, first settlements, and the creation of empires.
2. **Art and Its Influence on Culture:** First, we ponder the meaning of art and how its meaning shifts through history. We compare time periods and cultures and how visual imagery and text were used to communicate life in these communities, which were both unique and cross-cultural.
3. **Historical Artistic Methods and Styles:** Students work with historical methods of making art and engage in projects that compare styles of various cultures around the globe.
4. **Modern-day Reinterpretation - Final Project:** Students select and research a past work of art, looking for common connections that merge historical and modern cultural perspectives. Each student will craft a new work of art combining the old and new and write a short supporting paper outlining their ideas.

Supplies: Students will be responsible for their final project supplies as described above in #4.

Art supply stores:

[Hobby Lobby \(best prices\)](#) – 2243 Cumming Hwy, Canton, GA 30115, (770) 721.7110

[Michaels Arts & Crafts](#) – 1445 Riverstone Pkwy Ste 100, Canton, GA 30114, (678) 493.0984

[Blick Art Materials](#) – 1165 Woodstock Rd Suite 830, Roswell, GA 30075, (770) 993.0240

Projects: *Additional exercises/projects may be added*

Pre-history art:

Mysteries in Stone - Using simulated wall segments, use charcoal and earth tone Conté crayons to draw animals, patterns, and people in the style seen on prehistoric cave walls, rock carvings, and passageways worldwide.

Great civilizations:

Write like an Egyptian: Papyrus Scroll – Write your name in hieroglyphics on papyrus and create a small Egyptian illustration that will be rolled up into a scroll.

Asian textile & artistic philosophy:

Drape Yourself in Art: Shibori - Shibori is a Japanese resist hand-dyeing method. The resulting patterns are often emblematic of Japan's appreciation of the beauty of imperfection – known locally as wabi-sabi.

1000's of years of painting – still with us:

Michelangelo's legacy – painting frescos: Ever wonder how the Sistine Chapel was created? Fresco is a technique of mural painting on freshly laid plaster. We'll explore this on a smaller scale to see if we can paint like Michelangelo.

Midterm/Final Project:

Modern-day Reinterpretation of Art - Research a past work of art/civilization, find a connection, and merge historical and modern cultural perspectives. Combine the old/new as an art object: painting, sculpture, collage, etc. Write a short supporting paper outlining your idea. **Midterm** – Review concepts and sketches. **Final** – Turn in the final art object.

Grading Criteria:

- **Projects** – 100 pts each, letter grade – 4 projects per semester (*number may vary*) – 400 pts **(60%)**
- **Midterm and Final** – 125 pts each, letter grade – 250 pts **(40%)**
- **Exercises** – TBD – exercises will be scattered throughout the course, most earning **complete/incomplete (25pts)**
- **Project Grades on Canvas** – On/before the deadline – **Step 1:** The instructor reviews your original work in class. **Step 2:** Photo upload of project/exercise to Canvas. You will receive a grade once complete.
- **Instructor assessment** – Grades may be adjusted higher or lower based on the instructor's subjective evaluation of effort/contribution, class engagement/attendance, and following directions/clean-tidy project hand-ins.
- **Deadlines** – Each day past the deadline (for two days only) will result in **losing one letter grade**. After two days, the assignment is considered closed, and submissions will not be accepted.
- **Extensions/Excused Absences** – Given only due to illness, family crisis, or legal issues. Documentation from a **medical/legal professional** or **RU administrator** must be submitted to the instructor before an extension will be granted. **Athletes** must contact me directly with the event, date, and coach's information.
- **Attendance** – Not attending class can result in missing critical information needed to complete a project correctly – your grade will reflect this. It is up to you to stay current on missed class instruction. Some information can be found on Canvas and under Notifications/Assignments.

- **Grading:**
- **A** = Superior completion of grading criteria – 100-90
- **B** = Above average completion of grading criteria – 89-80 pts.
- **C** = Average completion of grading criteria – 79-70 pts.
- **D** = Below average completion of grading criteria – 69-60 pts.
- **F** = Failure to complete the grading criteria below – 59 pts. or less

Canvas:

- Assignments, Notifications, and PDF Class Presentations are available on Canvas.
Note: This is not comprehensive information and should not be relied upon to replace classroom instruction.
- Each day past the deadline (for two days only) will result in **losing one letter grade**.
After two days, the assignment is considered closed, and submissions will not be accepted.
- Upload your unique project and **double-check the upload** before submitting. An upload under your name that is not your work will result in an automatic F. NO exceptions.
- Grades on Canvas – On/before the deadline: **Step 1:** Instructor reviews your original work in class.
Step 2: Photo upload of project/exercise to Canvas – all pages. You will receive a grade once complete.

Special Notice:

- **Extra credit** – is optional and determined on an individual basis. All work must be completed and turned in by the deadline. No deadline extensions on extra credit projects.
- **Athletes** – If you miss a class due to an out-of-town sport, you must contact me directly with the event, date, and coach's information.