

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
CIVILIZATION SEQUENCE PROGRAM

CVSP 150

ART APPRECIATION FOR FRESHMAN (3 CR)

1. Course Learning Outcomes

This course offers a fundamental overview of art and its development in the western world. It suggests to the students a basic definition of art through exploring the prerequisites of the artistic process and offers a basic knowledge of the visual components and design elements in art. It also provides the students with a chronology and brief description of the main art periods and movements in the west starting from "Prehistoric Art" all the way to "Contemporary Art".

The main purpose of the course is to expose students to the different approaches to art that have existed over several key periods in art history. There will be some emphasis on the visual language of contemporary and postmodern cultures as one way of understanding the art of the past both, in concept and in practice. At the end of the course, each student should be able to:

1. Exhibit a basic knowledge of artistic tools and terminology
2. Exhibit a basic knowledge of the different art periods and movements
3. Develop his/her ability to appreciate and interpret a given work of art

2. Resources Available to students

Textbook

But is it Art, Cynthia Freeland, Motherwell, First Ed. 2000

Additional Sources

1. Art Fundamentals, Otto Ocvirck, Robert Bone, Robert Stinson, Philip Wigg. WCB publishers. 6th ed. 1990.

2. History of art, H.W. Janson and Anthony F. Janson, Thames and Hudson. 5th ed. Revised, 1997.

3. A compilation of several articles and excerpts prepared by instructor.

3. Grading Criteria

Class participation 150 PTS

Research paper 250 PTS

Project 250 PTS

Final exam 350 PTS

TOTAL 1,000 PTS

4. Schedule

Week 1 Towards a Definition of Art

The Creative Process
Imagination
Creativity
Talent and Training
Taste and Audience
Art Media

Week 2 The Visual Elements

Space
Line

Week 3 The Visual Elements

Shape
Form

Week 4 The Visual Elements

Color
Light
Texture

Week 5 The Visual Elements / Elements of Design

Harmony
Balance
Composition

Week 6 Interpretation and Appreciation

Week 7 Interpretation and appreciation

Week 8 Art Periods/Styles and Movements

Prehistory
Ancient civilizations: Mesopotamian, Egyptian

Week 9 Art Periods/ Styles and Movements

Ancient Civilizations: Aegean, Mycenaean, Minoan,
Greek
Etruscan, Roman

Week 10 Art Periods/ Styles and Movements

Early Christian
Byzantine

Week 11 Art Periods/Styles and Movements

The Middle Ages: Medieval (Dark Ages, Carolingian,
Ottonian), Romanesque, Gothic
Islamic

Week 12 Art Periods/Styles and Movements

Renaissance
Baroque
Rococo

Week 13 Art Periods/Styles and movements

Neoclassicism
Romanticism
Realism
Impressionism
Post Impressionism

Week 14 Art Periods/Styles And movements

Twentieth Century Art: 1900 - 1950

Week 15 Art Periods/Styles and Movements Twentieth Century Art

Twentieth Century Art: 1950 - Present

5. Course Policy

Each session will consist of a lecture followed by a discussion period based on previously assigned readings. Throughout the course, a variety of educational exercises will be conducted as an integral part of the learning process in order to help the students discover, "by doing", the subject matter of a specific session. The use of aids such as films, slides, sound recordings, music and actual works of art will be used to supply the students with a vivid visual illustration of the course's content. Occasional visits to art galleries and events will also be scheduled.