European Art and Architecture: Discovering the Greatest Artists and Masterpieces in Spain, France, Italy, and Greece (architecture emphasis)

Introduction

From the Greco-Roman period to today, the great capitals of Europe have been the center of different artistic styles. From the Coliseum in Rome, to the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, to the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the development of Western Art has been concentrated in Europe. Leading European museums, such as the Louvre, the Pinacoteca di Brera in Milan, or the Vatican museums, have amassed over the centuries the most impressive collections of paintings and sculptures.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of ancient sites and the pictorial traditions that developed in different countries of Europe. Paintings, sculptures, buildings, and urban planning will be analyzed from a historic and social point of view. Students will consider the circumstances that helped develop different styles in art and architecture in Europe in general, and in Spain, France, Italy, and Greece in particular. A broad range of subjects will be covered, including the study of Roman antiquity and Gothic cathedrals, the ideas that propelled the creative period in Florence and Rome during the Renaissance, the analysis of important artistic movements such as Romanticism, Symbolism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, and Surrealism, and the importance of artists such as Mondrian and Picasso.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize different artistic styles
2. Understand the circumstances that helped to develop these styles
3. Become familiar with names and places related to art history and architecture
4. Identify characteristics of Greco-Roman art and architecture
5. Classify differences between the Medieval styles and others in art and architecture
6. Develop an understanding of the importance of the Renaissance in Europe
7. Acquire knowledge of Abstract and Cubism
8. Appreciate the oeuvre of renowned artists (Mondrian, Picasso, Monet, Leonardo, etc.)
**Course Requirements**

The course requires active student participation. Students are expected to read the required articles and material before every class. Punctual attendance is required. There will be a midterm exam, a final exam, several essays based on field assignments, and a final PowerPoint presentation. Each student is required to participate in a minimum of three professional visits and three cultural visits.

**Teaching Procedures and Methodology**

Teaching methods used in this course include lectures, discussions, field activities, and professional visits. Learning in this course requires the student’s constructive participation and active involvement in both class discussions and small group discussions. Small group discussions in particular are a key mechanism for facilitating learning from other team members. Thus, it is essential to attend all group activities inside and outside classes. The professional visits will expose the participants to different aspects of the class and will highlight the practical relevance of the concepts learned. The visits will be accompanied by individual or group assignments. Cultural visits enhance the students’ understanding of the history and culture of each country.

**Required Readings**

**General Art Sources:**
Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History | The Metropolitan Museum of Art: www.metmuseum.org/toah/artists-makers/
Khan Academy: www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-history
Web Gallery of Art: www.wga.hu/
Louvre Museum: www.louvre.fr/en
Vatican Museums: www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/collezioni/musei.html
The Biography Channel: www.biography.com/search?query=monet
Is there a difference between art and craft?: www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVdw60eCnJl
A brief history of religion in art - TED-Ed: www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfITRYcnP84

**Module 1:**
Antoni Gaudi: whc.unesco.org/en/list/320
Surrealism: www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/surr/hd_surr.htm
Joan Miró: www.metmuseum.org/toah/artist/joan-miro/
Salvador Dali: www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/490036
Cubism: www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/cube/hd_cube.htm
Pablo Picasso: www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/pica/hd_pica.htm

**Module 2:**
Edouard Manet: www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/mane/hd_mane.htm
Impressionism: www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/imml/hd_imml.htm
Claude Monet: www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/cmon/hd_cmon.htm
Paul Cezanne: www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/pcez/hd_pcez.htm
Edgar Degas: www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/dgsp/hd_dgsp.htm
Post-Impressionism: www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/poim/hd_poim.htm
Van Gogh: www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/gogh/hd_gogh.htm
Paul Gauguin: www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/gaug/hd_gaug.htm
Neo-Impressionism: Pointillism: www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/seni/hd_seni.htm
Fauvism: www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/fauv/hd_fauv.htm
Vermeer: www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/verm/hd_verm.htm
www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/milk/hd_milk.htm
Module 3
The Roman Empire: [www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/roem/hd_roem.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/roem/hd_roem.htm)
Roman Housing: [www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/hous/hd_hous.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/hous/hd_hous.htm)
Roman Sculpture: [www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/ropo/hd_ropo.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/ropo/hd_ropo.htm)
Roman Games: [www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/play/hd_play.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/play/hd_play.htm)
Roman Architecture: [www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/itar/hd_itar.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/itar/hd_itar.htm)

Module 4
Classical Greece: [www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/tacg/hd_tacg.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/tacg/hd_tacg.htm)
Architecture in Ancient Greece: [www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/grarc/hd_grarc.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/grarc/hd_grarc.htm)
Tutankhamun’s Funeral: [www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/tuta/hd_tuta.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/tuta/hd_tuta.htm)
Geometric Abstraction: [www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/geab/hd_geab.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/geab/hd_geab.htm)

Recommended Readings

A History of Western Art
by Laurie Schneider Adams
McGraw-Hill, 5th Ed., 2010

Barcelona A.A.A.: E-Guide for Architects, Book 1
by Alessandra Monti, 2013, Kindle Edition

Ancient Rome: The Rise and Fall of an Empire
by Simon Baker
BBC Digital, 2010

Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael: The Greatest Artists of the Renaissance
Charles River Editors, 2013

by V. Kuvatova
Prospekt LLC, 2012

Paris, Paris: Journey into the City of Light
by David Downie
Random House, 2011

The Art of Rome: Beyond the Pantheon
by Denise M. Taylor
Walks of Art Series, Book 2, 2013

Assignments

As a part of this course, the students will visit museums, cathedrals, buildings, temples, monuments, fountains, and other sites renowned for their artistic value or architectural design. Throughout the course, each student will be responsible for submitting 3 analytical essays, focused on agreed-upon topics based on specific visits. Each essay will consist of 2-3 pages (double-spaced, 12-point font) of content, i.e. not counting the cover page, table of contents, list of references, and appendices. References should be written in MLA or Chicago format.
Students will be responsible to visit at least two art museums during the trip. A final PowerPoint presentation will be given at the end of the course based on those visits. Please note that some entrance fees to museums and other sites are not included in the price of the program.

**Assignment 1 – Essay**

Write a summary of Pablo Picasso’s life and work. Compare *Guernica* by Picasso with *The Second of May* by Francisco Goya.

**Extra Credit:** Choose one building, monument, or artwork that you enjoyed during your stay in Barcelona. Write a page and a half (double-spaced) describing it.

**Assignment 2 – Essay**

What is Impressionism? What are the most important characteristics of this artistic movement? Compare and contrast *The Grande Odalisque* by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres with Edouard Manet’s *Olympia*.

**Extra Credit:** Write a page and a half (double-spaced) describing the importance of Manet’s work *Le Déjeuner sur l’herbe*.

Or: Choose one building, monument, or artwork that you enjoyed during your stay in Paris. Write a page and a half (double-spaced) describing it.

**Assignment 3 – Essay**

Choose one topic and write an essay:

a) Explain and describe the tomb made for the Medici by Michelangelo, paying special attention to the details and symbolism. Include the historical aspect of when they were created.

b) Choose two paintings by Leonardo Da Vinci. Describe, analyze, and narrate the historic circumstances when they were created.

c) Read these articles and comment on them:
   - [www.artnews.com/2013/04/10/behind-michelangelos-cleopatra/](http://www.artnews.com/2013/04/10/behind-michelangelos-cleopatra/)

d) Describe and analyze two artistic or cultural aspects learned from Pompeii. Explain why they are important.

**Extra Credit:** Write a page and a half (double-spaced) describing your experience at one of the artistic/historic sites you visited in Milan or Rome.

**Assignment 4 – PowerPoint Presentation**

Based on your visits to at least two art museums, create a PowerPoint presentation based on 1 masterpiece of your choice from each one of them (choose an artwork not studied in class).

- Analyze, compare and contrast the masterpieces.
- Include a quick summary of your personal experience at the sites.

Presentations must be between 10-15 minutes.
Components of Final Grade

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<th>Component</th>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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<td>Assignments</td>
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<td>PowerPoint presentation</td>
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<td>Class participation</td>
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Grading Scale

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Course Outline

Module 1

- The architecture of Modernism in Barcelona
- Antoni Gaudi
- Medieval art and architecture
- The catacombs and early churches
- Urban development in medieval Barcelona (El Born, La Judería)
- Romanesque and Gothic art
- Gothic Barcelona
- Twentieth century Spanish painters (Picasso, Miró and Dali)
- Cubism

Module 2

- Nineteenth-Century Impressionism
- Haussmann and the great avenues of Paris
- Edouard Manet and Le Déjeuner sur l'herbe
- Claude Monet and Camille Pissarro
- Vincent Van Gogh
- Post-Impressionism: Pointillism
- Introduction to Art Nouveau
- Cubism beyond Picasso
- Les Demoiselle d’Avignon

Module 3

- Introduction to Renaissance art
- Italy in the fifteenth century
• Leonardo Da Vinci’s life and oeuvre
• The Last Supper and the Sistine Chapel
• Michelangelo’s masterpieces
• Architectural types in ancient Rome
• The Roman Forum and other fora
• The Coliseum
• The Domus Aura
• Sculpture in ancient Rome
• Life in Pompeii: From its discovery to the present

Module 4

• The art of ancient Greece
• Classical architecture: The Parthenon
• Egypt and its treasures
• The Pyramids of Giza
• Abu Simbel
• The tomb of Tutankhamen

Schedule of Classes and Visits

The detailed schedule of classes, professional visits, and suggested cultural visits for each session is available online at www.forum-nexus.com/schedules.

Please note that this course will be offered as a Section 03 class.

Academic Integrity

Ramon Llull University, Franklin University Switzerland, and the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart place a high value on the integrity, good conduct, and academic honesty of all students. Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity at all times. Any instance of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will result in a grade of F for the course.
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<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>7/4</td>
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<td>Antoní Gaudi and architecture in Barcelona</td>
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<td>7/5</td>
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<td>Picasso, Miró, and Dalí</td>
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| 7/8   | Barcelona| **Assignment 1 Due – Email Before Class**  

Impressionism: General characteristics |
| 7/10  | Paris    | Visit the Musée d’Orsay |
| 7/11  | Paris    | Monet, Pissarro, and Van Gogh |
| 7/15  | Chamonix | Introduction to Art Nouveau |
| 7/16  | Chamonix | Review for midterm exam |
| 7/17  | Chamonix | **Midterm Exam** |
| 7/19  | Milan    | Visit the Pinacoteca di Brera (Milan) |
| 7/22  | Milan    | **Assignment 2 Due – Email Before Class**  

Introduction to Renaissance art |
| 7/23  | Rome     | Leonardo Da Vinci |
| 7/24  | Rome     | Michelangelo |
| 7/25  | Rome     | Roman architecture |
| 7/26  | Rome     | **Assignment 3 Due – Email Before Class**  

Life in Pompeii |
| 7/29  | Rhodes   | The Greek and the Parthenon |
| 7/30  | Rhodes   | Abstract Art: Piet Mondrian |
| 7/31  | Rhodes   | **Final Exam** |
| 8/1   | Rhodes   | **Assignment 4 – PowerPoint Presentations** |