

Canadian Nazarene College
Fine Arts, FA 120
Winter 1998, Mondays, 7:00-10:00 pm
Professor: Steven Nunoda
Office: 220-5085

Description:

This course is an introduction to the stylistic character and cultural climate of the important art epochs of Western Civilization. Instruction involves correlating the development of painting, sculpture, architecture and music as artistic forms developed as responses to the same socio-cultural milieu.

Objectives:

As an introduction to the place of the Fine Arts in Western Culture, this course combines elements of an art-historical survey with art appreciation. Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will demonstrate understanding of course purposes by being able to:

- 1) Appropriately apply basic terminology and methodologies of Art History and Criticism.
- 2) Identify key artists and works in the Western Tradition.
- 3) Analyze and discuss works of art according to the criteria of technique, social and historical context, and regional, period and personal styles.

Outline:

Unit One: Fine Arts Fundamentals

This unit introduces students to the language and methods of art study.

Section One: Related Disciplines

This section introduces the students to relations among and functions of the numerous disciplines to be discussed.

- history and aesthetics
- artistic practice and criticism

Section Two: Reading Works

An introduction to the technical terminology and basic principles in art criticism to be used throughout the course:

- art as language and the language of art
- formal analysis: artistic media and the fundamentals of design in two and three dimension
- iconographic analysis: style, function, strategy and ideology
- approaches to reading art: inductive, deductive and abductive methodologies

Unit Two: The Changing Definition of Art

This unit treats stylistic periods in a roughly chronological manner while concentrating on the development of key concepts, themes and paradigms in the production, function, and reception of art in Western

Culture from Ancient Greece to the present. Each section will deal with canonical and non-canonical works in various media, relating them to their aesthetic and social context.

Section One: Introduction and The Ancient World

- Basic functions of early “art”: symbolization/representation, arrangement and decoration
- Four streams of Western Art: Objective Accuracy, Formal Order, Emotion and Fantasy
- Stone Age, Egyptian, Minoan, Archaic Greek

Section Two: Classical Cultures

- Classicism: the development of aesthetics and idealization
- Hellenism and realism
- Roman Republic
- Roman Empire and classicism

Section Three: The Middle Ages

- Animal Style, Early Christian and Byzantine
- Early Mediaeval
- Romanesque
- Gothic

Section Four: The Renaissance

- The Early and High Italian Renaissance
- Late Gothic and Northern Renaissance
- Mannerism

Section Five: The Baroque into the Rococco

- Spain and Italy
- The Dutch Republic and Flanders
- England and France
- The Rococco and the Ancien Regime in Europe

Section Six: The Birth of Modernism

- Neoclassicism in Europe and North America
- Romanticism
- Realism and Naturalism

Section Seven: Modernism in the Industrial Age

- Modern Society, Technology and Art: The Rise of Abstraction
- Realism, Impressionism, and Photography
- Post-Impressionism, Symbolism and Art Nouveau
- Expressionism

Section Eight: High Modernism

- Expressionism into Abstraction: Styles of Formal Order, Emotion and Fantasy
- Form and Function: Futurism, Suprematism, Constructivism, Bauhaus
- Psychological and Contextual Art: Dada to Conceptual Art
- The Persistence of Representation: Ashcan School to Pop Art and Magic Realism
- New Media and the Paradigm Shift

Section Nine: Postmodernism

- Pushing the Boundaries: Avant-gardism, Institutional Theory and the Expanded Field
- Postmodernism in Context: Appropriate, Deconstruction, Open Works and Presentational Art

Text:

H. W. Janson, A. P. Janson, History of Art (5th Edition, Revised) Harry N. Abrams Publishers

Course Requirements:

Students are totally responsible for making themselves aware of all assignments, procedures and due dates announced in class. Absences do not excuse students from this responsibility. Activities include lectures and slide presentations by the instructor and class discussions and may include guest lectures field trips and film presentations. As required, students will be expected to assume responsibility for their own transportation to and from any such field trips, as well as any admission costs which may apply. The nature of the course requires interaction and cooperation. Class participation in activities will be taken into account when assigning grades.

Grading and Assessment:

General assessment criteria include originality, organization of ideas, and communication skills. The final mark will be determined by weighting course components as follows:

- 1) Written assignments, projects and mid-term test 70%
- 2) Final Examination..... 30%

Students are expected to be familiar with those sections of the University calendar which deal with grading, deferrals and reappraisals, and academic misconduct definitions and regulations. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR ARRANGEMENT WITH THE INSTRUCTOR.**