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### ARTH 200H.01: Art of World Civilizations I - Ancient to Medieval

H. Rafael Chacon

*University of Montana - Missoula*, [hrafael.chacon@umontana.edu](mailto:hrafael.chacon@umontana.edu)

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**Syl-F14-A200H-01-HRC**

**THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK MOODLE REGULARLY FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES.**

School of Art

TERM: Fall 2014

**COURSE INFORMATION:** ARTH 200 Art of World Civilizations I: Ancient to Medieval, 3 credits, no prerequisites.

**PROFESSOR INFORMATION:**

H. Rafael Chacón, Ph.D.

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday, 11-12 A.M., (Fine Arts 305B, x.2735, hrafael.chacon@umontana.edu). Messages may also be left in the School of Art Office mailboxes (FA 205).

**GRADUATE ASSISTANT:** Samuel Jakos

Office Hours and Contact Information: TBD

**MEETINGS:**

Tuesday and Thursday, 2:10-3:30 P.M.

Social Science 356

**COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a broad survey of major developments in the visual arts of the Mediterranean basin and Europe from prehistoric times to the fifteenth century. Other parts of the world are discussed as well. It is the first part of the introductory art history survey at UM. The course analyzes how the visual arts articulated the cosmologies and/or world views of ancient and historic societies. It focuses on various ways of understanding the structure and meaning encoded in a variety of art forms, including the layout of cities, architecture, stone sculpture, murals and other types of painting, ceramics, precious metals, textiles, etc.

**Competencies or Student-Learning Goals:**

Art History: to develop a comprehensive and global view of the development of history and culture and to understand the various methodologies used to gain that knowledge.

Visual Literacy and Language: to develop the language and terminology needed for the analysis and discussion of works of art.

Technical skills: to learn the range of materials and technical applications employed by artists over time.

Critical Thinking: to develop the ability to critically analyze visual images, past and present, and their relevance to society through informed discourse, both verbal and written.

**COURSE FORMAT:** The course is a “marathon,” beginning with prehistory and culminating in the late Middle Ages, around the year 1400. We study a staggering diversity of imagery over a long period of time. Sessions include traditional PowerPoint lectures, hands-on workshops, and other group activities. I encourage open, frank, and fair discussion in the classroom. Students will utilize Moodle for the syllabus and other course materials. **THE SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK MOODLE REGULARLY FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES.**

Good performance in art history in general, and in this class in particular, rests on your ability to grasp hundreds of images representing the creative output of people in society during specific periods of time and the ideas that illuminate their creative process. You are expected to stay abreast of the course content by attending lectures, reading on your own, and participating fully in class projects.

**TEXTS:**

There is no required textbook for this class. Introductory art history textbooks are expensive and the most popular products often offer auxiliary materials online as well. I strongly advise you to purchase and read

an introductory art history textbook. You can find used or discounted copies at many of the booksellers online. I urge you to purchase the latest edition of one of the following texts:

Laurie Adams, *Art Across Time*, 4th edition.

\_\_\_\_\_, *A History of Western Art*, 4th ed.

Penelope Davies, et. al., *Janson's Basic History of Western Art*, 8th ed.

Fred Kleiner's, *Gardner's Art Through the Ages*, 13th ed.

Marilyn Stokstad and Michael Cothren, *Art History*, 4th ed.

You will need only volume I for this class, but you may opt to purchase both volumes if you plan to complete the survey in the spring semester. I do not recommend the condensed versions of these texts. You will be reminded regularly of our place in the syllabus, but please stay abreast by reading on the relevant material. Good class participation depends on your ability to prepare in advance of the lecture. Give yourself plenty of time to read the text. Read it intelligently and, by all means, bring your questions to class.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Participation is crucial for successful completion of this course. 20% of your grade is determined by attendance and participation in class discussion. At least 85% attendance and occasional participation earns a "C" and 95-100% participation an "A". Participation counts for more of the final grade if it has been exceptionally good or less if exceedingly poor. Absences due to health can be excused only if the student brings a signed note from his or her health care provider stating that the student was ill the day of the absence and sought medical attention. PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY PROFESSOR CHACON CAN EXCUSE AN ABSENCE.

### **Excused Absences:**

What warrants an excused absence? A death in the family, a court or legal issue (for example: jury duty, parole meeting, court date, incarceration), an appointment for public benefits or entitlements that cannot be scheduled at any other time, or a severe health issue. What is a severe health issue? Being contagious (with flu or pink eye, for example), an incident that requires a visit to the emergency room or hospitalization, or having a medical condition requiring an immediate appointment that cannot be scheduled at any other day/time. Upon returning to class, the student must show documentation regarding the exact date of the absence (except in the case of family death). Absences due to a severe health issue can be excused only if, upon returning, the student brings a signed note from his or her attending health care provider (physician or RN, not a member of the secretarial staff) stating that the student was ill the day of the absence and sought medical attention. The note must include: the exact date of class missed and the actual signature of the attending physician or RN and his/her contact information.

**Passports and Procedures:** You will be responsible for keeping track of your own attendance. You will receive a passport for the first half of the term which will be a record of your attendance. At midsemester you will receive another passport for the second half. Each time you come to class, you will stamp your own passport with a rubber stamp provided for you. **PLEASE BE ADVISED NOT TO LOSE THE PASSPORT AS IT IS THE ONLY RECORD OF YOUR PARTICIPATION. LOST PASSPORTS WILL NOT BE REPLACED.** You will have one opportunity to OPT OUT of the Attendance Procedures and Passports during the first week of classes.

### **Credit/No Credit Option:**

When you matriculate in this class and register for a traditional grade, you make a contract to do your best and accept the grade assigned. I do not convert a traditional grade to credit/no credit and release a student from her contract unless I have evidence of an emergency, health crisis, or extreme personal situation in which the student cannot possibly finish the course assignments in the normal fashion. The possibility of failing the class or earning a low grade and lowering your overall GPA does not rise to that standard.

### **Drop/Add Forms:**

As per the paragraph above, I do not sign drop/add forms after week 10 of the term.

**QUIZZES:**

Three scheduled quizzes will take place during the semester. All quizzes will have extra credit opportunities. **MISSED QUIZZES CANNOT BE MADE UP WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL FROM PROFESSOR CHACON.**

**TERM PROJECT:**

A take-home, hands-on Term Project will be assigned during the second half of the course.

**ABSOLUTELY NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL FROM PROFESSOR CHACON.**

**GRADING SUMMARY:**

Participation	20%	100 points
Three quizzes	60%	300
Term project	20%	100
TOTAL:	100%	500

**OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:****Access, Special Needs and Disabilities:**

Students with access concerns, special needs, learning disabilities, medical conditions, and/or physical impairments that may impede the successful completion of this course, please contact the office of Disability Services for Students (DSS) at x. 2243 (Lommasson Center 154) and speak with me as soon as possible.

**Accommodations:**

Accommodations for disabilities can be made only after I have received a letter from DSS. Request for accommodations must be made to me in writing no later than 3 weeks before the due date of the assignment or date of the quiz.

**Electronic Devices:**

Electronic recording devices may be used in the classroom provided you address all requests in writing to the instructor. You must tell me what device you wish to use and why. Please turn off all cell phones, Blackberries, I-pads and/or tablets, and any other mobile device that may cause a distraction or set them on vibrate prior to the start of class. Students who fail to do so will be asked to leave class and will be allowed to return at the instructor's discretion. If you are in the midst of an emergency, please communicate with me about your situation, immediately.

**Academic Conduct:**

All students are expected to practice academic honesty and comport themselves in a civil fashion while on campus. Academic misconduct is subject to a penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the university. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at: [www.umd.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321](http://www.umd.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321).

**SYLLABUS**

**THE SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK MOODLE REGULARLY FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES.**

Week 1:

Lecture: Orientation.

Lecture: The Prehistoric Art of Africa and Europe.

Week 2:

Lectures: The Ancient Near East, parts I & II.

Week 3:

Lectures: Ancient Egypt, parts I & II.

Week 4:

Lecture: Ancient Egypt, parts III.

T, Sept. 18 QUIZ #1

Week 5:

Lecture: The Ancient Aegean.

Lecture: The Greeks, part I.

Week 6:

Lecture: The Greeks, parts II & III.

Week 7:

MIDSEMESTER:

T, Oct. 7, Passports for the first half of the term due at the start of class on Tuesday and new one will be issued.

Lecture: Etruscan Italy

Lecture: The Roman Empire, part I.

Week 8:

Lecture: The Roman Empire, part II.

Lecture: Early Christian Art

Week 9:

Lectures: Byzantine Art, parts I & II.

TR, Oct. 23, Term Project on the Mosaic Portrait will be assigned in class.

Week 10:

T, Oct. 28, Study session.

TR, Oct. 31, QUIZ #2.

Week 11:

T, Nov. 4, NO CLASS-Election Day

Lecture: Early Medieval/Romanesque Art, part I.

Week 12:

T, Nov. 11, NO CLASS-Veteran's Day

Lecture: Romanesque Art, part II.

Week 13:

T, Nov. 18, Mosaic projects due and critiqued in class. Please note that projects must be finished, dry, and ready for installation at the start of class. Absolutely no late work will be accepted.

W, Nov. 19-M, Dec. 1 Show installed in School of Art Lobby

Lecture: Islamic Art.

Week 14:

Lecture: Gothic Art of Western Europe.

TR, Nov. 27, NO CLASS-Thanksgiving.

Week 15

T, Dec. 2, Study session.

TR, Dec. 4, Quiz 3.

Finals Week

The class will not meet during finals week unless we fall behind in meeting our assignments and/or lectures. There is no final examination.