

ARH 2050: Art History and Criticism, Survey I

UCF/Valencia College Downtown - Fall 2023

Instructor and Contact Information

Dr. Maura Gleeson
Instructor, Art History and Humanities
Valencia College

Office Hours (Virtual): Thursday 10-11:30AM & by appointment.

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Course Format – Mixed Mode

Your course content will be delivered through our Canvas classroom, and we will meet in person on Wednesday, 2:30-3:45PM at the UCF/Valencia Downtown Campus (UWCV - Room 303).



Thutmose, *Bust of Nefertiti*, c. 1345 BCE. Limestone.



Tomáš Libertíny, *Eternity*, 2019-2020 CE. Natural beeswax, wood, glass, Cor-ten steel.

Course Description

This course explores the visual and material culture of Europe, the Near East, North Africa, and the Mediterranean Basin from Pre-History to the Late Medieval era. We will trace a narrative about the development of Western history and consider the meaning and significance of objects in writing that story. The reading, lectures, discussion, and assignments will empower you with the skills to describe, analyze, and interpret an object's physical (material) properties as well as its iconographic (symbolic) interpretations. By the semester's end, you will be able to walk the halls of any museum, open any magazine, or browse any website and start to decipher the messages and meanings of the images you encounter there.

Course Objectives

- Identify the major monuments in art from the prehistoric era through the Middle Ages.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the characteristics of each period style, regional style, cultural style, as well as the style of individual artists.
- Explain the human desire record what one physically sees in the natural world, as well as what is unseen (such as deities, desires, feelings, and ideas).
- Increase ability to analyze works of art and architecture, as well as other aspects of the visual environment.
- Uphold the [Valencia Student Core Competencies](#): (1) think clearly, critically, and creatively, analyze, synthesize, integrate and evaluate in many domains of human inquiry; (2) make reasoned value judgments and responsible commitments; (3) act purposefully, effectively, and responsibly; (4) communicate with different audiences using varied means.

Tools for the Course

- **Required Text:** Fred S. Kleiner, *Gardner's Art Through the Ages: A Concise Global History* (4th Edition), Cengage Learning. ISBN 978-1-305-57780-0.
 - Dr. Gleeson has two copies of the textbook that students can “check out” and read. Please contact her at egleeson@valenciacollege.edu to reserve your access to the book.
- **Recommended Text:** Henry Sayre, *Writing About Art*, Sixth Edition. 2009: Pearson Education, Inc. ISBN 9780205645787.

Useful Resources

- [Bibliography of the History of Art \(BHA\)](#) - A database maintained by the Getty Research Institute that will be helpful for paper and presentation research.
- [Oxford Bibliographies](#) - A database of annotated bibliographies that will be useful for research.

Course Policies

Coursework

Your coursework consists of course content, reflections, quizzes, object analyses and a final presentation. An “A” in the course can be achieved with 6-8 hours per week of focused engagement with your coursework. For a list of the weekly assignments, see the Course Calendar (p. 4).

- **Course Content and Discussion:** The course content includes weekly Modules with reading, optional podcasts, and video lectures, which you are asked to complete in advance of our weekly in-person discussion meeting. Discussions are designed to help you master the content, facilitate exchange, and explore artworks in detail. Assignments that take place in Discussion meetings include debates, short writing prompts, and group activities. Our meetings encourage you to think critically about the material we cover in lecture, and to increase your acuity in analyzing and synthesizing information from diverse sources. You will take a weekly quiz on Canvas that focuses on key artworks and ideas explored in the Modules and Discussion.
- **Reflections:** The semester is divided into three units. At the end of each unit, you will complete a “reflection” assignment that asks you to examine larger topics and themes that connect the regions and cultures we’ve explored. The weekly “Study Terms and Images” lists uploaded to Canvas will help you prepare for these reflections. Prior to the deadline, we will review sample questions, expectations, and the grading rubric for this assignment.
- **Object Analyses:** Throughout the term, you will complete five Object Analysis assignments, in which you will select an artwork from a list (provided by Dr. Gleeson) that relates to the regions and time periods we explore in class. You will use guiding questions to examine its design and subject matter, and submit your completed assignment through the Canvas platform. These short written assignments are designed to strengthen your ability to write about art using vocabulary learned in the course.
- **Final Presentation:** At the end of term, your final project will be a recorded video presentation that explores one of the artworks from your Object Analysis assignments. In the presentation, you will take both the formal features and cultural context into account, and will explain what you think is the work’s historical meaning or significance. Prior to the presentation deadline, we will complete an assignment that will help you to outline your presentation. For more information, please review the assignment instructions uploaded to Canvas.

Rubrics, Grades, & Grading Scale

Your course grades will be updated weekly on Canvas. Discussion and term paper grades are determined by a rubric that is attached to that assignment in our Canvas classroom. I will review each rubric with you on our first day of class.

Discussions: 30%

Quizzes: 15%

Object Analyses: 25%

Unit Reflections: 15%

Final Presentation: 15%

Total Percentage	Letter Grade
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
0-59%	F

Late Work, Make Up Work, and Deadlines

Students are responsible for knowing the due dates of each assignment (see the Course Calendar, p. 4). As part of my duties as your professor, I will keep your grade updated weekly on Canvas. Therefore, any missing assignments will be marked with a '0' grade. Late submissions for assignments are welcome but will receive a 10%-point deduction, and assignments from a particular unit will not be accepted after we have moved on from it.

Extensions or make up work may be granted in extreme circumstances (such as illness or bereavement), but only on a case-by-case basis as decided with your professor. If, for any reason, you believe you will miss an assignment deadline, please let me know in advance by email. Life sometimes gets in the way of things, and I am happy to work with you based on your situation.

Attendance Policy

This class requires your active participation in our weekly discussion meetings as well as in our digital Canvas classroom. Record of your class attendance will be updated in our Canvas classroom and reflected in your grade. Attendance in the first week of class is mandatory, but students are granted one excused absence during the semester. More than that will affect your grade as well as your experience with the course material. If you are unable to attend class, please let me know by email.

Communication with Professor

Students should communicate via Canvas email or by using their academic email to contact me at egleeson@valenciacollege.edu. I will respond to you within 24 hours on a weekday. Email correspondence on a weekend is not guaranteed. All e-mails must be written with appropriate formal writing etiquette and grammar. Failure to check your Atlas or Canvas email does not excuse you from acting on any notices that have been sent.

Classroom Demeanor

Our discussions, both in person and on Canvas, take place in a professional learning space. As your Professor, I will ensure for my students a civil and safe environment conducive to learning and inquiry. I encourage you all to maintain an open mind as you thoughtfully communicate your ideas. Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning, in accordance with the [Valencia Student Code of Conduct](#). I reserve the right to request removal of a student who displays inappropriate, disruptive, or intolerant behavior in the Canvas and/or physical classroom.

Discussion Topics (Florida House Bill 7)

This class requires participation in discussion to meet course-learning outcomes. We are a class comprised of individuals. As such, there will be multiple opinions expressed throughout the semester that you may not personally agree with or even understand - as may be expected. My role as an instructor is to facilitate freedom of expression that is relevant to the course, credible, open and respectful without the promotion or endorsement of a single viewpoint. Conversations informed by diverse viewpoints contribute to critical thinking and higher-level learning. Even if you don't agree, listening to different points of view may give you further insight into your own perspectives. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint, or belief in a concept. Concepts as presented are not endorsed by the instructor but are presented as part of the larger course of instruction. Should a student feel uncomfortable with how course content is presented or discussed, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Recording Lectures (Florida House Bill 233)

As your professor, I'm committed to giving you as many opportunities and resources to support your learning as possible. Therefore, you may find it beneficial to record class lectures to review later. A class lecture is defined as a planned presentation by a college faculty member or instructor, during a scheduled class, delivered for the purpose of transmitting knowledge or information that is reasonably related to the pedagogical objective of the course in which the student is enrolled. Students may record video and/or audio of class lectures for their personal use. Recordings may be a useful tool to support your learning and provide a resource for review. It is important to be respectful of your peers' rights to privacy; with that in mind, please refrain from recording your peers during lectures. You may not record class discussions, student presentations, labs, group work, and private conversations. Further, you may not publish or share recordings without my written consent, nor may you provide recordings to classmates as a substitution for class participation and attendance. If necessary, I will handle violations of this section through the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Should you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me.

Academic Integrity

All work submitted to the professor must be in your own words. Any evidence of academic dishonesty in any class work will earn you an immediate zero on that work. It may also result in a grade of "F" for the course and a report to the Dean of Students Office. Violations of the Academic Integrity policy for this course include, but are not limited to: use of AI-generated responses, violation of testing protocols, submitting work which is not your own, lying to instructors or college personnel, and plagiarism. In some cases, there may be additional consequences, such as expulsion from Valencia College.

Per [Valencia's Student Code of Conduct](#), "academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, acts or attempted acts of plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, facilitating academic dishonesty, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive."

- Violation #1: Student will earn a 0 on their assignment with an explanation of why their work is an example of academic dishonesty. Student will have the chance to redo the assignment.
- Violation #2: Student will earn a 0 on their assignment and will not be offered the chance to make up the points.
- Violation #3: Student will earn a 0 on their assignment and I will submit a report to UCF or Valencia College's Academic Affairs office. Student and Professor will meet to discuss next steps.

Withdrawal Policy (Valencia College only)

The College will drop you from your courses for non-payment of fees. It is your responsibility to make sure all of your fees are paid on time. You may drop the course by the end of Add/Drop Week (August 28th, 2023). The deadline to withdraw with a grade of "W" is October 27th, 2023.

Important Academic Deadlines	School Holidays (Campus Closed)
Add/Drop ends – August 28 th	Labor Day – September 4 th
Last day to Withdraw with "W" – October 27 th	Veterans Day – November 10 th
Final Exam Week – December 4 th -10 th	Thanksgiving Break – November 22 nd – 26 th

Course Calendar

Please check Canvas daily for any updates or changes to the semester schedule.

A full Course Calendar/Schedule of Assignments is available in our Canvas classroom. Please contact me directly (egleeson@valenciacollege.edu) with any questions or concerns.