

ARH 2050: Art History and Criticism, Survey I (CRN 20830)

East Campus, Valencia College - Spring 2024

Instructor and Contact Information

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

Office Hours (Virtual): Wednesday 10-11:30AM & by appointment. [Click here to book a meeting!](#)

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Course Format – Face to Face, 16 weeks

Our course is Face-to-Face, and structured as a Flipped Classroom. You will explore a selection of course content (videos and reading) in our Canvas classroom. We will meet in person to participate in small-group and discussion activities relating to the material on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30-12:45PM on Valencia College's East Campus (Building 1, Room 115).



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 art history and consider the meaning and significance of objects in writing that story. The reading, lectures, discussion, and assessments will empower you with the skills to describe, analyze, and interpret an object's physical (material) properties as well as its iconographic (symbolic) interpretations. The analytical skills you will develop will have residual benefits in any professional field, as well as in your daily lives. By the end of the semester, you will not only be more confident in your ability to analyze material culture, but you will also feel empowered to approach any image or text and be able to decipher its messages and meanings.

Course Objectives

- Identify the major styles, themes, and motifs 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

- There is no required textbook for this course. All reading and lecture materials will be free, open-access resources that will be provided through the Canvas platform.

Useful Resources

- [ArchiveGrid](#)- A database of archived materials from public and private collections from all over the world. This resource is invaluable for research!
- [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. 5).

- **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 in-person discussion meetings. In-person discussions are designed to help you master the content, facilitate exchange, and explore artworks in detail. Activities that take place in Discussion meetings include debates, short writing prompts, and small-group discussions. 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.
- **Quizzes:** You will take a weekly quiz on Canvas that focuses on key artworks and ideas explored in the Modules and Discussion. The quizzes will consist of 15 multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank questions. The quizzes are not timed, and you can take them up to three times. I will retain your highest grade.
- **Reflections:** The semester is divided into three units. At the end of each unit, you will complete a written “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. Assessment 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: 20%

Final Presentation: 10%

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. 5). 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, let me know in advance by email. Additional documentation may be required.

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 two excused absences 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 in advance 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. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, acts of plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of experience or ability, allowing unauthorized access to your course materials, and colluding to help another student violate the policy. These violations are described in full [on these pages of Valencia's Student Handbook](#). The following steps will be taken if the Academic Integrity policy is violated on students' assignments:

- 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 within a timeframe set by the Instructor.
- 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 a report will be submitted 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 Drop/Refund deadline of January 16, 2024. The deadline to withdraw with a grade of "W" is March 15th, 2024.

Important Academic Deadlines	School Holidays (Campus Closed)
Drop/Refund Deadline – January 16 th	Martin Luther King, Jr Day – January 15 th
Last day to Withdraw with "W" – March 15 th	Spring Break– March 18 th - 24 th
Final Exam Week – April 22 nd -28 th	

Student Support & Services

Your success in this class is important to me - and that goes beyond our classroom walls. Please review the following resources and services available to you at Valencia College. More information is available in your Course Orientation module on Canvas.

- **Students with Disabilities:** Valencia is committed to ensuring that all of its programs and services are accessible to students with disabilities. [The Office for Students with Disabilities \(OSD\)](#) determines reasonable and appropriate accommodations for qualified students with documented disabilities based upon the need and impact of the specific disability.
 - Any student requiring course accommodations due to physical, emotional or learning disability must contact the instructor and provide a *Notification to Instructor* form by the end of the second week of class. To obtain a letter of accommodation, contact OSD at 407-582-2229.
- **Learning Support Centers:** Each Valencia campus has a Learning Center that provides resources such as tutoring, writing consultations, and skillshops to students. To locate available resources for the campus closest to you, view the [Learning Support](#).
 - [Smarthinking](#): As a Valencia student, you have free access to 8 hours of online academic support that is available 24/7 through your Atlas account. You can get live online tutoring, as well as receive feedback on your essays and research papers, among other support services. For more information, view the [Learning Support](#) website.
- **Emotional and Mental Health Support:** Valencia College and I both care about you and your success at school. Therefore, students experiencing these difficulties and challenges are urged to visit the Health and Wellness portal in MyAtlas and contact Baycare (1-800-878-5470), or [Student Services](#) or [Advising](#).
 - Baycare Student Assistance Services: Valencia College strives to ensure all our students have a rewarding and successful college experience. To that purpose, Valencia students can get immediate help with issues dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, adjustment difficulties, substance abuse, time management as well as relationship problems dealing with school, home or work. [BayCare Behavioral Health Student Assistance Program \(SAP\)](#). services are free to all Valencia students and available 24 hours a day by calling (800) 878-5470. If needed, the counselor may refer the student to appropriate resources or to speak face-to-face with a licensed counselor.
- **Library:** At each campus library, librarians and other qualified staff can assist students with searching and finding items and information, MLA and APA citations, and technologies. The library provides a variety of books, eBooks, online articles, textbooks, DVDs and streaming videos to support course-related research and other learning needs. View the [Library website](#) for more information, as well as the [tutorials](#) below:
 - [How to Connect to the Library Online](#)
 - [How to Request Books from College and University Libraries](#)
 - [How to Access eBooks At Valencia Library](#)
 - [What Is A Database And How Do I Use It](#)
 - [How to Access Databases & Articles](#)

- **Financial and Community Support:** At Valencia College, we're concerned about our students and fellow community members. We've assembled a list of [local resources](#) that may be helpful to you or your family.
 - Resources include assistance with internet and WiFi, jobs and unemployment information, rent, housing, and evictions, utilities and food, mental health resources outside of Valencia's [BayCare](#).
 - Students experiencing challenges with food, housing, work, and/or family obligations are also [encouraged to notify me](#) if they feel comfortable doing so. This will enable me to assist in accessing support for you - from connecting you to resources, to providing emergency supplies for personal hygiene and snacks. Please know that I care and am available to help you.
 - you.

Course Calendar

The following Course Calendar reflects the aim for our class at the beginning of term. Please note that may occur based on unforeseen circumstances during the semester, and this will be communicated to you via Canvas Announcements and the Course Calendar / Schedule of Assignments in your Orientation Module. Please check those pages for any updates or changes to the semester schedule.

Unit #1: Emerging Art Forms

Week 1: Welcome to Art History

Explore: Materials for Class

- Class Companion: What is Art History?
- Additional Source(s): Dr. Lauren Kilroy-Ewbank, "Introduction: Close looking and approaches to art," in [Reframing Art History, Smarthistory, December 16, 2021](#).

Discuss: Classroom Meetings

- Tuesday January 9th - The Big Picture
- Thursday January 11th - Art in Context

Assess: Canvas Assignments

- Attendance and Participation in the above class meetings
- Thursday January 11th - Syllabus and Orientation Module Quiz due by 11:59PM

Week 2: Is there an Art History of Prehistory?

Explore: Materials for Class

- Class Companion: Art before History
- Additional Source(s):
 - Dr. Senta German, "The Neolithic revolution," in [Smarthistory, June 8, 2018](#).
 - [Swimming Reindeer - A History of the World in 100 Objects \(BBC Radio Podcast\)](#) - Click on the link, then press "Download" to listen to the podcast.

Discuss: Classroom Meetings

- Tuesday January 16th - Imag[in]ing Early Life and Culture
- Thursday January 18th - Material and Permanence in the Neolithic Era

Assess: Canvas Assignments

- Attendance and Participation in the above class meetings
- Sunday January 21st - Week 2 Quiz due by 11:59PM

Week 3: Art of Ancient Mesopotamia

Explore: Materials for Class

- Class Companion: Art, Writing, and Civilization
- Additional Source(s):
 - Dr. Senta German, "Ancient Near East: Cradle of civilization," in [Smarthistory, August 8, 2015](#).
 - [How the Code of Hammurabi Worked - Stuff You Missed in History Class Podcast \(iHeart Radio\)](#)

Discuss: Classroom Meetings

- Tuesday January 23rd - The First Cities of Ancient Iraq
- Thursday January 25th - Art and Politics

Assess: Canvas Assignments

- Attendance and Participation in the above class meetings
- Sunday January 28th - Week 3 Quiz due by 11:59PM

Week 4: Art of Ancient Egypt

Explore: Materials for Class

- Class Companion: Egyptian Art and the Afterlife
- Additional Source(s):
 - Primary Source: The Excavation of Tutankhamun's Tomb ([Howard Carter's Diaries, October-December 1922](#)).
 - "Meet Some Of The Last Papyrus Makers In Egypt Keeping A 5,000-Year-Old Craft Alive" [Still Standing \(Insider Business\)](#).
 - Online Resource: [Digital Karnak: Animations of the New Kingdom Temple - UCLA](#)

Discuss: Classroom Meetings

- Tuesday January 30th - Designing a Royal Afterlife
- Thursday February 1st - Continuity and Change in Egypt's Dynastic Kingdoms

Assess: Canvas Assignments

- Attendance and Participation in the above class meetings
- Sunday February 4th - Week 4 Quiz due by 11:59PM
- Sunday February 4th - Object Analysis #1 due by 11:59PM

Week 5: Art of the Ancient Aegean

Explore: Materials for Class

- Class Companion: Cycladic, Minoan, and Mycenaean Art
- Additional Source(s):
 - Dr. Senta German, "Octopus vase," in [Smarthistory, August 15, 2018](#).
 - [Minoan Bull Leaper - A History of the World in 100 Objects \(BBC Radio\)](#) -- Click on the link, then press "Download" to listen to the podcast.

Discuss: Classroom Meetings

- Tuesday February 6th - Elements of Style
- Thursday February 8th - Bodies

Assess: Canvas Assignments

- Attendance and Participation in the above class meetings
- Sunday February 11th - Week 5 Quiz due by 11:59PM
- Sunday February 11th - Unit #1 Reflection due by 11:59PM

Unit #2: Art and Empire

Week 6: Art of Ancient Greece, Part I

Explore: Materials for Class

- Class Companion: Ancient and Early Classical Greece
- Additional Source(s):
 - [Making Black-Figure Greek Vases - The Getty Museum](#)
 - [Making Red-Figure Greek Vases - The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston](#)
 - [A Day in the Life of an Ancient Athenian - TedED](#)

Discuss: Classroom Meetings

- Tuesday February 13th - Myth vs. History
- Thursday February 15th - Classical Architecture

Assess: Canvas Assignments

- Attendance and Participation in the above class meetings
- Sunday February 18th - Week 6 Quiz due by 11:59PM

Week 7: Art of Ancient Greece, Part II

Explore: Materials for Class

- Class Companion: High Classical and Hellenistic Greece
- Additional Source(s):
 - [Egyptian Blue on the Parthenon Sculptures - The British Museum](#)
 - "The Strange, Sordid History of the World's First Nude Female Sculpture," excerpt from Mary Beard's *How Do We Look* (2018). [Reposted on Artnet News](#).
 - Primary Source material on the Aphrodite of Knidos - [Click here to access](#).

Discuss: Classroom Meetings

- Tuesday February 20th - Athens and the Acropolis
- Thursday February 22nd - Aphrodite Through the Ages

Assess: Canvas Assignments

- Attendance and Participation in the above class meetings
- Sunday February 25th - Week 7 Quiz due by 11:59PM
- Sunday February 25th - Object Analysis #2 due by 11:59PM

Week 8: Art of Ancient Rome, Part I

Explore: Materials for Class

- Class Companion: The Etruscans and the Early Roman Republic
- Additional Source(s):
 - Dr. Laurel Taylor, "The Etruscans, an introduction," in [Smarthistory, August 8, 2015](#).
 - [Rome Reborn: A Tour of Ancient Rome in 320 CE - UCLA](#)
 - Dr. Jessica Leay Ambler, "Roman wall painting styles," in [Smarthistory, June 8, 2018](#).

Discuss: Classroom Meetings

- Tuesday February 27th - Romulus, Remus, and other Roman Myths
- Thursday February 29th - Painting in Ancient Pompeii

Assess: Canvas Assignments

- Attendance and Participation in the above class meetings
- Sunday March 3rd - Week 8 Quiz due by 11:59PM

Week 9: Art of Ancient Rome, Part II

Explore: Materials for Class

- Class Companion: Imperial Rome
- Additional Source(s):
 - [Trajan's Column, Scene-by-Scene](#)
 - [Head of Augustus - A History of the World in 100 Objects \(BBC Radio\)](#) - Click on the link, then press "Download" to listen to the podcast.
 - [What is a Portrait? - The Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#)

Discuss: Classroom Meetings

- Tuesday March 5th - Building an Empire
- Thursday March 7th - Portraits and Power in Ancient Rome

Assess: Canvas Assignments

- Attendance and Participation in the above class meetings
- Sunday March 10th - Week 9 Quiz due by 11:59PM
- Sunday March 10th - Unit #2 Reflection due by 11:59PM

Unit #3: Picturing the Divine

Week 10: Jewish and Early Christian Art

Explore: Materials for Class

- Class Companion: Jewish and Early Christian Art in the Late Roman Empire
- Additional Source(s):
 - David Rheinstrom and Rosie Friedland, "Syncretism," [Khan Academy](#).
 - Dr. Jessica Hammerman and Dr. Shaina Hammerman, "Jewish history to the middle ages," in [Smarthistory, August 8, 2015](#).
 - Dr. Allen Farber, "Sarcophagus of Junius Bassus," in [Smarthistory, August 16, 2023](#).

Discuss: Classroom Meetings

- Tuesday March 12th - Orientation and Ornamentation
- Thursday March 14th - Syncretism

Assess: Canvas Assignments

- Attendance and Participation in the above class meetings
- Sunday March 17th - Week 10 Quiz due by 11:59PM

Week 11: Spring Break

No assignments. Enjoy your break!

Week 12: Byzantine Art

Explore: Materials for Class

- Class Companion: A New Rome in Byzantium
- Additional Source(s):
 - Dr. Evan Freeman, "Building new Romes: The Eastern Romans, Umayyads, and Carolingians," in [Reframing Art History, Smarthistory, March 1, 2022](#).
 - Kelly Wall, "It's a Church, It's a Mosque, it's Hagia Sophia" - [TED-Ed Video](#).

Discuss: Classroom Meetings

- Tuesday March 26th - Justinian and his "Divine" Power
- Thursday March 28th - Icon and Iconoclasm

Assess: Canvas Assignments

- Attendance and Participation in the above class meetings
- Sunday, March 31st - Week 12 Quiz due by 11:59PM

Week 13: Islamic Art

Explore: Materials for Class

- Class Companion: Art and the Islamic World
- Additional Source(s):
 - Dr. Radha Dalal, "Framing Islamic art," in [Reframing Art History, Smarthistory, October 11, 2022](#).
 - The Complex Geometry of Islamic Design - [TED-Ed Video](#).

Discuss: Classroom Meetings

- Tuesday April 2nd - Orientation and Ornamentation (Encore)
- Thursday April 4th - Istanbul, Islamic Spain, and Echoes of the Past

Assess: Canvas Assignments

- Attendance and Participation in the above class meetings
- Sunday April 7th - Week 13 Quiz due by 11:59PM
- Sunday April 7th - Object Analysis #3 due by 11:59PM

Week 14: Early Medieval & Romanesque Art

Explore: Materials for Class

- Class Companion: The Not-so-Dark Ages
- Additional Source(s):
 - [How Parchment is Made \(BBC Two\)](#)
 - [The Alchemy of Color and Chemical Change in Medieval Manuscripts \(Getty Museum Video\)](#)
 - Primary Source: [Digitized Book of Kells - Trinity College, Dublin](#)

Discuss: Classroom Meetings

- Tuesday April 9th - Medieval Book Arts
- Thursday April 11th - Telling Stories in the Romanesque

Assess: Canvas Assignments

- Attendance and Participation in the above class meetings
- Sunday April 14th - Week 14 Quiz due by 11:59PM
- Sunday April 14th - Presentation Outline due by 11:59PM

Week 15: Gothic Art

Explore: Materials for Class

- Class Companion: Lux Nova
- Additional Source(s):
 - Primary Source: [Excerpts from Abbot Suger's De Administratione, c. 1144-1148](#). Translation from Erwin Panofsky's *Abbot Suger on the Abbey Church of St. Denis and its Art Treasures* (Princeton, 1979).

Discuss: Classroom Meetings

- Tuesday April 16th - Abbot Suger and the Gothic Cathedral

- Thursday April 18th - Echoes of Art History

Assess: Canvas Assignments

- Attendance and Participation in the above class meetings
- Thursday, April 18th - Final deadline to submit missing assignments
- Sunday April 21st - Unit #3 Reflection due by 11:59PM

Week 16: Course Finale

Explore: No assigned readings.

Discuss: No classroom meetings (Finals week)

Assess: Canvas Assignments

- Students must submit their Object Presentation and peer reviews by Wednesday April 24th at 11:59PM.