

ARH 2050: Art History and Criticism, Survey I

Valencia College - Fall 2022

Instructor and Contact Information

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

Office Hours (Virtual): Mon & Wed, 2-3:30PM.
[Click here to schedule an appointment.](#)

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Course Format – Face to Face

Monday & Wednesday, 8:30-9:45 AM – Valencia College, East Campus, Building 1, Room 139.



Beyoncé performing in front of the *Nike of Samothrace* (Hellenistic Greece, c. 190 BCE)
Still image from The Carters, *Apesh*t* (music video), 2018.

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.
- 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

An "A" in the course can be achieved with 6-8 hours per week of focused engagement with your coursework. For a detailed list of the course assignments, see Course Calendar (p. 4).

Your coursework consists of reading, lectures, group activities, a term paper, and exams. We will meet twice a week (on Monday and Wednesday) to explore key themes, ideas, and artworks relating to that week's topic. Our class format will involve lectures, videos, group discussion and short writing activities. Our shared goal for each meeting is to think critically about material culture from diverse regions, time periods, and cultures. You will also increase your acuity in analyzing and synthesizing information from various sources. A weekly short (10-question) quiz on Canvas will test your understanding of the ideas covered in reading & classes.

You will complete three exams in this course. They will include multiple-choice and written response questions that are designed to test your knowledge on the vocabulary, concepts, and ideas covered in your reading and in lectures. Your study guides for each exam will be the 'Terms and Images' lists uploaded to Canvas and distributed in class each week. Exams are not cumulative - in other words, each exam will cover material that you have examined up to that point in the semester.

Your term project will be a Visual Analysis essay of one artwork in a Florida museum collection. The work that you choose will come from a list of unknown or previously unstudied artworks that I will provide. The essay asks that you give a formal analysis of the work and explain, based on what you have learned in class about the respective culture, how the work relates to that culture. Your thesis statement, which takes both the formal features and the cultural context into account, will explain what you think is the work's meaning or significance. Prior to the paper deadline, we will complete two writing workshops and several activities that will help you to prepare for this assignment. For more information, please review the assignment instructions uploaded to Canvas.

Rubrics, Grades, & Grading Scale

Your course grades will be updated weekly on Canvas. Engagement and Visual Analysis 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.

Engagement/Attendance: 25%

Quizzes: 15%

Visual Analysis Paper: 30%

Exam 1: 10%

Exam 2: 10%

Exam 3: 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. 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. The final deadline to submit any late work is Wednesday, November 30th at 11:59PM.

Exam deadlines are less flexible and must be completed by the assigned day and time as outlined in the course calendar. Extensions 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 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 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 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 class takes 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.

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, 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 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 29th, 2022). The deadline to withdraw with a grade of "W" is October 28th, 2022.

Important Academic Deadlines	School Holidays
Add/Drop ends – August 29 th	Labor Day - September 5 th
Last day to Withdraw with "W" – October 28 th	Veterans Day - November 11 th
Final Exam Week – December 5-11 th	Thanksgiving – November 23-27 th

Course Calendar

Please see our Canvas classroom for a full course calendar and schedule of assignments. If you have any questions prior to the semester's start about the course material or assignments, please contact me directly at egleeson@valenciacollege.edu