

Art Hum: Sect. 024
Fall, 2003

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Office Hours: M 3:45-5; and TBA
This week: W/F 2-5.

The main goal of Art Hum is to encourage students to experience, describe, and enjoy art at a sophisticated level. My goal then is to help you in learning to see art more carefully, analyze it more critically, and describe it more accurately. In the end, I hope that your relation to art and the art objects around you will become richer and more enjoyable. As a means to that end, there is virtually NO reading assigned during the semester. Rather, you are expected to do a good deal of *looking*, thinking, and writing. Most class preparation can be done on the *newly revised* web page at: <http://www.learn.columbia.edu/arthur/db/> and by working through the portfolio for our section of the course.

Assignments: The semester is organized into sections which are roughly a week long. I will distribute a list of questions for each section of the course. These will help you focus on the terminology, art works, and issues that we will discuss in class. You will be expected to work through the questions BEFORE class. There will be a brief quiz on this material at the first of (almost) every week (i.e., the first 15 minutes of class on Tuesdays). A combination of the quizzes and class participation will count for 20% of your final grade. There will be a mid-term and final examination, the former counts for 20%, the latter for 25% of your grade. There will be 4 papers assigned, each of 3 pages and each counting 10% of your grade. Two of these assigned papers require a museum visit. During the final four weeks of the semester, students will divide into groups of 4-5; each group will lead discussion of an artist. Students may design a paper topic based on this material. I encourage you to come to my office and chat about the course material, assignments, or (almost!) anything else.

A SUMMARY OF OUR SEMESTER BY WEEK:

Week of September 1: Tuesday, Introduction. Thursday: What is a masterpiece?

Recommended reading: Sylvan Barnet, *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*.

First Paper Topic Distributed: Thursday.

Your first paper assignment will ask you to compare the design and architectural function of the Parthenon to Butler Library.

Second Day: begin with images of columns, temples, etc.

Week of September 8: The art, religion, and politics of the Parthenon

First Paper Due: Friday, September 12, 2:00

Week of September 15: Roman and Medieval Architecture: Baths and Basilicas

A section on the body; a section on architecture

Week of September 22: The World in Stone: the Cathedral of Amiens

Assigned Visit to St. John the Divine
Second Paper Due: Friday, September 26, 2:00

Week of September 29: The Italian Renaissance, Its Origins and Relation to Science:
Brunelleschi, Massacio, and Michelangelo

Week of October 6: Perugia, and Raphael

Week of October 13: Enjoying Decadence, Mannerism: Michaelangelo and Pontormo
Mid-term Exam: Thursday, in-class.

Week of October 20: The Renaissance, Class, and Decadence: Bruegel and Caravaggio

Week of October 27: Baroque Theatricality, and the Counter-Reformation, Bernini
Third Paper Due: Friday, October 31, 2:00

Week of November 3: Baroque Theatricality, and the Middle Class, Rembrandt and Vermeer
(no class Tuesday, the 4th)

Weeks of November 10 and 17: Student Group Reports on a 19th century artist: Goya, Corot,
Monet, Mary Cassatt, Rodin, Cézanne, or

Weeks of November 24 and December 1: Student Group Reports on a 20th century artist:
Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, Matisse, Picasso, O'Keeffe, Pollock, Warhol, or ...
(no class Thanksgiving, November 27)
Final Paper Due: The Week of December 8

FINAL EXAM