Hello and welcome to Art 205, an art appreciation course offered at College of the Canyons! This is a short-term, introductory level course during which we will look at art virtually every world culture and time period. You should anticipate spending at least 20-25 hours per week on class work.

We will utilize various learning formats in this class, but central among them will be the high-resolution images that you will view online. Therefore, in order to be successful in this class you should be able to navigate the internet successfully as well as being able to download images and files to your computer.

In addition, your ability to recall and recognize different artworks and identify a country or cultural movement that they came from is a handy skill to develop.

Finally, your ability to write clearly and to articulate your own, unique reactions to the varied offerings that art presents to us is essential for success.

Please read on for further orientation information!

CLASS FORMAT

- Class begins on Monday, January 5, 2015

- You will not be able to access the class until that date
  - This class is offered 100% online – that is, we do not meet face-to-face at any point

- This is a short-term, intensive, 5 week course with an increased weekly workload!
  - 3 unit assignments are due weekly – therefore, frequent
and regular work habits and postings to the class website discussion boards are necessary

- Class content will consist of lectures, image presentations, live conferencing sessions, message board discussions, interactive forums and assignments

- Any class comes to life based on the quality of interaction between students. A successful online class requires that you bring enthusiasm and interest to the classroom – and be willing to display an interest in the learning of others at the same time

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- You need to be comfortable navigating the internet

- You need to be proficient using word processing programs such as Microsoft Word

- You need to be able to download and save files from the internet and attach files to email (in order to meet these requirements you need computer access with the following hardware/software):
  
  - At least a 56K modem (however, our course content depends heavily on viewing high-resolution image files which can load slowly on slower internet connections. Faster connections will work better, such as DSL or cable modem)

  - Current internet navigation software, such as Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome etc.

  - Current word processing software, such as Microsoft Word

  - Access to email

  - If access to any of the above is not possible, then you could visit computer labs on the COC campus located in the Library and the TLC Lab, or a library in your local area
TEXTBOOK

Exploring Art (Book Only), 4th Edition. Author: Lazzari/Sclessier
(The book’s web site is http://cengagebrain.com)

- At the publisher website you will also find it is available as a paper book AND as a digital e-book (which is substantially cheaper!)

- You can also use older editions from #2 onwards if you wish - however, chapter #’s and course content are ordered differently in these earlier versions.

- You may reserve your textbook online for next day pick up from the COC bookstore at www.coc.bkstore.com

BEING A SUCCESSFUL ART HISTORY STUDENT

The following tips may help you succeed in this class:

- Be prepared to learn about many things in this class, not only art, but also general histories of various regions and time periods, their people and their customs.

- Anticipate that much of the learning in this class is image-oriented – that is, while we still use teaching formats that you may be familiar with from other classes, much of our course content is purely visual in nature. Be prepared to engage in the unique challenges this may represent.

- An ability to write clear, well-structured English sentences is a must. Art is a difficult subject to write about – therefore, confident writing skills will ensure greater chances of success in this class.

- Developing a visual sensibility will be useful – this means that you should become accustomed to identifying information about artworks based purely on how they look. Information of this type may include – but is not limited to – the time and place a particular artwork was made, who made it, what materials and techniques they used, and what the work of art means.
USEFUL LINKS

- Blackboard log in: http://bb9.canyons.edu (default username is your 9 digit student id/default password is “student”)

- Distance Learning home page:
  http://www.canyons.edu/distancelearning

- Counseling information:
  http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/Counseling/Pages/Forms-and-Handouts.aspx

As a final note, I hope that this class inspires in you an interest in the subject of art in general. If you develop an interest in looking at art on a regular basis by visiting galleries and museums in your hometown, I am sure you will find it an enriching, rewarding and endlessly educational experience. So with that, let’s get started!

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