



Nanchang University
ART11: Western Art: Ancient to Medieval
(Last Updated in Jan. 2025)

Credit: 4

Contact Hours

This course is composed of 24 lecture sessions, 3 tutorial sessions and 9 office contact hours. Each lecture session takes 2 contact hours in length; each tutorial session takes 3 contact hours in length; There will be a Q-A review session (3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours) at the end of this term. This course has 72 contact hours in total.

Course Description

This course surveys painting, sculpture, and architecture from the Ancient World To the Middle Ages. The emphasis is two fold:

1. Recognizing the visual characteristics of different Western civilizations and periods and their styles through study of major monuments, and
2. Utilizing works of art to better understand the social, cultural, and economic realities of various historical eras.

Note: This Syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class.

Required Textbook

Textbook: *A History of Western Art*, by Laurie Adams, 5th Edition.
ISBN-10:0073379220

Grading

•Participation	10%
•Project	10%
•Quizzes	20%
•Midterm	25%
•Final Exam	35%

A+	96-100	A	90-95	A-	85-89
B+	82-84	B	78-81	B-	75-77
C+	71-74	C	66-70	C-	62-65
D	60-61	F	< 60		



Course Schedule

The course has 24 class sessions in total. All sessions are 2 contact hours in length. At the end of this term, there will be a Q-A review session(3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours).

Note: the course outline and required readings are subject to change.

Class 1:

Introduction, discussion of the project (details will be provide in class)

Ch. 1: Why Do We Study the History of Art?

Class 2:

Introduction to geographical regions that will be covered in the class: Europe, Near East, North Africa

Class 3:

Ch. 2: The Language of Art

Class 4:

Ch. 3: Prehistoric Western Europe

Class 5:

Ch. 4: The Ancient Near East

Class 6:

Ch. 5: Ancient Egypt

Class 7:

Ch. 5: Ancient Egypt (Cont.)

Review for Test 1

Class 8:

Test No. 1

Class 9:

Ch. 6: The Aegean and introduction to the Greek Art

Class 10:

Ch. 7: The Art of Ancient Greece

Class 11:

Ch 7: The Art of Ancient Greece (Cont.)

Review for the midterm

Discussion of the project related to period arts



Class 12:
Midterm

Class 13:
Ch. 8: The Art of the Etruscans

Class 14:
Ch. 9: Ancient Rome

Class 15:
Ch. 9: Ancient Rome (Cont.)

Class 16:
Ch. 10: Early Christian and Byzantine Art

Class 17:
Ch. 10: Early Christian and Byzantine Art
Review for Test 2

Class 18:
Test No. 2

Class 19:
Ch. 11: The Early Middle Ages

Class 20:
Ch. 12: Romanesque Art

Class 21:
Ch. 13: Gothic Art

Class 22:
Ch. 13: Gothic Art (Cont)

Class 23:
Ch. 14: Precursors of the Renaissance
Review of the Chapters 1-14

Class 24:
Review of the Chapters 1-14
Final project due



Attending Policy

Regular and prompt attendance is required. Under ordinary circumstances, you may miss two times without penalty. Each absence over this number will lower your course grade by a third of a letter and missing more than five classes may lead to a failing grade in the course. Arriving late and/or leaving before the end of the class period are equivalent to absences.

Policy on "Late Withdrawals"

In accordance with university policy, appeals for late withdrawal will be approved **ONLY** in case of medical emergency and similar crises.

Academic Honesty

Nanchang University expects all students to do their own work. Instructors will fail assignments that show evidence of plagiarism or other forms of cheating, and will also report the student's name to the University administration. A student reported to the University for cheating is placed on disciplinary probation; a student reported twice is suspended or expelled.

General Expectations:

Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all materials covered in class and otherwise assigned;
- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class;
- Review the previous day's notes before class and make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading;
- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time;
- Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during the class period;
- While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from private conversations during the class period.

Special Needs or Assistance

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.