





Art History (ARHI) 201

A Survey of Western Art I: Looking at Art from Ancient Times to the Middle Ages (Revision 6)

Status:

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

Delivery mode:

Individualized study online  with [eText](#) 

Credits:

3

Areas of study:

Arts or Humanities

Prerequisites:

None; however, we strongly recommend successful completion of **ENGL 255**.

Precluded:

ARHI 201 may not be taken for credit by students who have obtained credit for HIST 203.

Challenge:

ARHI 201 has a challenge for credit option.

Faculty:

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences 

Overview

ARHI 201 is a survey course designed to introduce developments in artistic expression from cave drawings and the monuments of the ancient world to the paintings, sculpture and architecture of 15th-century northern Europe. Students learn to look at art and see it within the social and political context of the time in which it was created.



Objectives

1. Learn how to look at art in terms of its visually descriptive aspects and corresponding materials of production.
2. Understand the functions of visual art in the periods covered in the course.
3. Examine and understand the iconographical significance of important historical works.
4. Within the historical parameters of the course, achieve a general overview of the history and developments of western visual art, its major periods, movements, concepts, and artists.
5. Have acquired an art and architecture vocabulary and be able to use it in relation to specific works.
6. Be able to initiate a critical discussion on how works of art form part of a larger set of relationships that include artist and society.


Outline


- Lesson 1: Introduction to Art History
- Lesson 2: Prehistoric and Near Eastern Art
- Lesson 3: Art and Architecture of the Ancient Egyptians
- Lesson 4: Aegean and Greek Art
- Lesson 5: Art and Architecture of the Etruscans and Romans
- Lesson 6: Early Jewish, Early Christian, Byzantine, and Islamic Art
- Lesson 7: Early Medieval and Romanesque Art
- Lesson 8: Gothic and Italian Art and Architecture

Evaluation


To **receive credit**  for ARHI 201, you must achieve a course composite mark of at least a **D (50 percent)**  and a mark of at least 50 percent on the final examination. The weighting of the composite mark is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Self-Assessment Study Questions	15%
Essay	15%
Term Paper	35%
Final Exam	35%
Total	100%

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the **Exams and grades**  section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** .

Materials

Davies, Penelope J. E., Walter B. Denny, Frima Fox Hofrichter, Joseph Jacobs, Ann M. Roberts and David L. Simon. *Janson's History of Art: The Western Tradition*. 8th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2011.  (eText)

eText

Registration in this course includes an electronic textbook. For more information on **electronic textbooks** [↗](#), please refer to our **eText Initiative site** [↗](#).

Other Resources

All other learning resources will be available online.

Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **challenge for credit** [↗](#) can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for the ARHI 201 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [↗](#) on each part of the examination.

Activity	Weight
Part 1 Exam (Take Home Essay)	50%
Part 2 Exam (Written Exam)	50%
Total	100%



Challenge for credit course registration form

Important links

› **Academic advising** [↗](#)

- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 
- › [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 6, January 7, 2014

Updated March 4, 2024

View [previous revision](#) 
