

ANTH 3739 WAO: Anthropology of Art

M/W 5:30-7

Instructor: Melinda Vandenberg Giles

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Course Description:

Art provides a way to express ourselves. Art is a form of communication and gives meaning and understanding to both the material and the esoteric. In this course, we will take an expansive definition of art to understand how as humans we have, and continue, to express ourselves. We will take both a historical and geographical approach, situating art within its social, political and economic context to reveal better how art reflects and/or contradicts or expands upon larger societal values. Since art is about visceral feeling, we will be looking at art through the lens of emotionality and the cities those emotions represent.

Course Requirements:

Participation	24%
Presentation:	36%
Art Project	40%

Required Texts:

The Power of Art: A World History in Fifteen Cities by Caroline Campbell. \$32.99

The Story of Art by E.H. Gombrich \$59.95

Pagans: The Visual Culture of Pagan Myths, Legends and Rituals. Ethan Doyle White. \$47

Schedule of Readings

The Story of Art

WEEK 1:

Jan 5 Introduction: On Art and Artists

Jan 7 Chapter 1 Strange Beginnings: Prehistoric Peoples and Ancient America

WEEK 2:

Jan 12 Chapter 2 Art for Eternity: Egypt, Mesopotamia, Crete

Jan 14 Chapter 3 The Great Awakening: Greece, seventh to fifth century BC

WEEK 3:

Jan 19 Chapter 4 The Realm of Beauty: Greece and Greek World, fourth century BC to first century AD

Pagans

Jan 21 Introduction

WEEK 4:

Jan 26: Goddesses and Gods

The Story of Art

Jan 28: Chapter 5 World Conquerors: Romans, Buddhists, Jews and Christians, first to fourth century AD

WEEK 5:

Feb 2 Chapter 7 Looking Eastwards: Islam, China, second to thirteenth century

The Power of Art

Feb 4 Babylon: Resilience

WEEK 6:

Feb 9 Jerusalem: Faith

Feb 11 Rome: Self-Belief

WEEK 7: READING WEEK

WEEK 8:

Feb 23 Baghdad: Innovation

Feb 25 Kyoto: Identity

WEEK 9: Presentation

March 2 Beijing: Resolve

March 4 Florence: Competition

WEEK 10: Presentation

March 9 Benin: Community

March 11 Amsterdam: Tolerance

WEEK 11: Presentation

March 16 Delhi: Envy

March 18 London: Avarice

WEEK 12: Presentation

March 23 Vienna: Freedom

March 25 New York: Rebellion

WEEK 13: Presentation

March 30 Brasilia: Love

April 1 Pyongyang: Control

Class Policies

D2L

I will be using D2L to post the course syllabus and announcements. All material is to be submitted for grading on D2L by the due date.

Policy on Extensions

Extensions will only be granted in emergency situations with appropriate documentation. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day and you will receive 0% after 7 days unless prior arrangements have been made.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty (for instance, plagiarism) is a serious offence. Please keep in mind that I have zero tolerance for any forms of plagiarism.