

West Linn–Wilsonville School District

The Arts – Course Statement

Course Title: Advanced Placement (AP) Art History

Length of Course: Year
Number of Credits: 2
Grade Level: 11, 12
Prerequisites: Instructor approval
Work Samples
Offered in Course: Writing, Speaking

Date of Description/Revision: January 2008

Course Overview

The Advanced Placement offering in Art History provides the same benefits to secondary school students as those in an introductory college course in art history: an understanding and enjoyment of architecture, sculpture, painting and other art forms within historical and cultural contexts. Students examine major forms of artistic expression from the past and the present from a variety of cultures. They learn to look at works of art critically and to analyze what they see. Many colleges and universities offer advanced placement and/or credit to students who have performed successfully on the AP Art History Examination. No prior experience in art history is assumed for those students who take the course. Students who have done well in other courses in the humanities, such as history and literature, or in any of the studio arts are especially encouraged to enroll.

Essential Questions

Concepts providing focus for student learning

- What is Art History?
- Who decides what makes art worthy of study?
- How do Art and Society function together?
- How do we speak and write about Art and Art History?
- Why is the study of Art and Art History important to us today?

Proficiency Statements

Upon completion of course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the elements of art, fundamental art historical terminology, and the technical processes used in the production of art covering various art media (painting and drawing, architecture, sculpture, and photography).
- Demonstrate a wide range of art history knowledge including information about: artists, schools, and movements; chronological periods and significant dates; cross-currents among artistic traditions; and the subjects, styles, and techniques of particular works of art.
- Understand works of art in context, considering such issues as patronage, gender, and the functions and effects of the works.
- Identify general geographic origin and cross-currents among artistic traditions for art works beyond the European traditions as well as complete a formal analysis of such an art work.

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- Identify specific works of art.
- Apply their art history knowledge to both familiar and unfamiliar works and documents (e.g. address questions of style, iconography, materials, and the varying contexts of ideas and social situations in which works of art have been created).
- Write a well-planned and -argued essay which addresses significant art historical problems, including contextual, stylistic, chronological, and patronage issues; selecting specific appropriate works of art that form the thesis and drive the argument of the essay.

General Course Topics/Units & Timeframes

Semester 1, Quarter 1

- Introduction
- Ancient Near Eastern Art
- Egyptian Art and the Art of the Aegean
- Greek Art
- Etruscan and Roman Art

Semester 1, Quarter 2

- Early Christian and Byzantine Art
- Early Medieval and Islamic Art
- Romanesque Art
- Gothic Art
- Proto-Renaissance Art
- The Renaissance in the North

Semester 2, Quarter 3

- The Renaissance in Italy
- The High Renaissance in Italy and the North
- The 16th Century Renaissance in the North, Mannerism, The Venetian Renaissance
- The Baroque (Italy, Spain, Flanders)
- Enlightenment, Neo-Classicism, Romanticism

Semester 2, Quarter 4

- Impressionism and Post-Impressionism
- Cubism, Fauvism, German Expressionism
- Dada, Surrealism, Bauhaus
- US Art of 19th and 20th Centuries
- Post WW II Art
- AP Review and Exam

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Resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Text: <i>Gardner's Art Through the Ages</i>, Kleiner and Mamiya, Wadworth Publishing, 2004.• Text: <i>A Short Guide to Writing About Art</i>, Sylvan Barnet, Prentice Hall, 2007• Other: Digital Images• Other: Various scholarly articles	