



# Southern Lehigh School District

High School Syllabus

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## A.P. Art History 2012-2013

### Course Description:

This course curriculum is equivalent to those in a college level introductory art history course. Students will study the beginning of art (ancient art) through the postmodern art era with emphasis on art of 1500-2012 in the third and fourth marking periods. Information on the artist, artistic movements, and the social and political background of the artworks will be supported by other art forms such as literature, music, architecture, dance, and drama. Students will be actively encouraged to think for themselves and form their own personal responses to visual artworks. Students will take the AP exam for college credit at the end of the course at their own expense. This is a weighted class.

### Course Content:

An introductory college art history course content generally covers the various art forms in the following proportions: 40-50% painting and drawing, 25% architecture, 25% sculpture, and 5-10% other media (printmaking, photography, ceramics, fiber arts, etc.). The AP Art History course content and AP Examination reflect these distributions.

College art history survey courses vary in approaches to interpreting art, including selection of chronological frameworks, themes, and the emphasis on analytical skills. The AP Development Committee regularly monitors the ways in which art history is taught at the college level and the choices they make in devising the course and the examination are compatible with college level

### Curricular objectives:

The main objectives of AP curriculum in Art History are to develop in students:

1. The ability to apply fundamental art and art historical terminology.
2. an appreciation for the process of making and displaying art.
3. an understanding of purpose and function of art.
4. the ability to analyze works of art in context of historical evidence and interpretation, examining such issues as politics, religion, patronage, gender, and ethnicity.
5. an understanding of cross-cultural and global nature of art.
6. the ability to perform higher order thinking skills and articulate visual and art historical concepts in verbal and written forms.

### Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

*Gardner, Howard; Art through the Ages, 12th edition*

## Reference

- *Stokstad, Marilyn*; Art History, Volume 1 & 2, ©1999, Harry N. Abrams, Inc., NYC
- *Barnett, Sylvan*; A Short Guide to Writing about Art
- *Janson, History of Art*, 5th edition

## Course Requirements:

By the end of the year, it is hoped that each student will:

- Be conversant with the terms and techniques of artists in all major media.
- Understand the historical context in which works of art are created and how and why the historical context both influences the art and is influenced by the art;
- Know the differences and similarities between and among various cultures, eras and styles of art and be able to distinguish them and explain the reasons for the differences/similarities and their evolution across time and geography;
- Understand the nature and importance of patronage in artistic creation;
- Be able to identify major works by title, artist, date (within a quarter century), style/era/culture;
- Be able to identify “unknowns” by use of knowledge of style/era/culture and historical context;
- Be able to analyze a work of art, commenting critically and knowledgeably about both its artistic elements and its historical context;
- Be able to construct intelligent and insightful comparisons between works of art of differing artists/styles/eras/cultures;
- Write coherently, cogently, and intelligently about art;
- Be able to be successful in the AP Art History exam.

## Grade Components/Assessments:

Grades will be based on a number of different assignments, but primarily papers, presentations, tests, quizzes, and in-class writing.

### • Tests and Quizzes:

The test format in art history is unique and requires students to develop new study skills. As such, there will be a series of smaller graded assignments in the first few weeks in the form of short papers and quizzes.

Test and quizzes will consist of a combination or all of the following:

- **Slide Identifications:** Identify the artist (if known), date within 10 years, title, medium and location (if architecture).
- **Comparisons:** Identify two slides as above and compare medium, period, formal qualities, context and meaning.
- **Short Essay:** Usually from a choice of at least two questions, answer based on information from readings and class with specific reference to works of art.
- **Attributions:** Place an unknown work within its historical context and identify medium, date, and artist if possible. Please note that reasoning is more important here than merely identifying the work.

## Projects and Presentations

- Research Paper: In October, you will choose an artist that is relevant to this course and select a topic and/or work of art in consultation with me. The artist must work be from the “western” tradition and have lived between 1500-1950. A final written paper on your topic will be submitted after a follow-up conference (10-15 pp.).
- Presentations: By the time we study your artist’s era, you will need to prepare a presentation to share with the class. Presentations will be approximately 20 minutes.
- Short Papers: You will also submit a series of short papers throughout the year, which focus on different art historical methodologies (formal analysis, social-historical context etc.)
- Non-Western Project: You will be responsible for presenting the art of a non-western culture to the class. Individually, you will choose one work produced by that culture and write a paper which discusses that work. Your final grade will be a combination of presentation and paper, but will weigh heavily on the paper.

(Optional)

- Art products produced in the manner or style of a particular artist or style or period of art.

#### Policy on Tests and Quizzes

It is your responsibility to be on time and present for all tests and quizzes. All tests and quizzes will be made-up in accordance to the Student Handbook. Please note, art history tests involve slides, videos, lazer disks, etc., and rescheduling can present difficulties. Grade penalties may occur if you do not reschedule your test at your first available opportunity.

#### Policy on Papers

All unexcused late work will receive penalties as stated in the Student Handbook and teacher grading policy of a full letter grade drop for each day your paper is late. Extensions must be agreed on well in advance of the due date except in cases of emergency.

Each marking period is worth 20% of a student’s overall grade. The midterm and final exam are each worth 10% of a student’s overall average:

Quarter 1	20%
Quarter 2	20%
<b>Midterm</b>	<b>10%</b>
Quarter 3	20%
Quarter 4	20%
<b>Final</b>	<b>10%</b>

#### Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

*Gardner,Howard;Art through the Ages, 12th edition*

Introduction (pgs 1 – 13)

Chapter 34 (pgs 1032 – 1090) Complete Chapter Overview (20 points) First day of class

Chapter 33 (pgs 961 – 1028) Complete Chapter Overview (20 Points) First day of class

Chapter 1 (pgs15-29) Study Guide & Chapter Overview (40 Points) First Day of class

Chapter 2 (pgs 31 -52) Study Guide & Chapter Overview (40 Points) 2 Week of Class....

Read A BOOK From the Summer Reading list. Write a 1 page reflection (30 points)

Write your definition of “What is Art ?” Write no more then 1 Page. (20 points)

