This course examines the history of Western Art (architecture, painting and sculpture) from the third millennium BCE through the 14th century CE. Rather than a complete “survey” of that period, the course will concentrate its attention on a select group of representative monuments.
This course examines the history of Western Art (architecture, painting and sculpture) from the Ancient and Medieval eras. We will examine not only the monuments themselves, but also the historical context in which they were produced. There will be a strong emphasis, too, on questions of analysis and interpretation. Our goal is to impart not only a body of knowledge but also a set of critical tools, which you should be able to apply also to material not specifically covered in this course.
This course examines the art of the United States and Europe from about 1500 to the present, with an emphasis on painting. It will concentrate on a select group of representative works that shaped—and were shaped by—developments in western social, political, and intellectual history and that participated in individual and community identity formation. There will be a strong emphasis on questions of analysis and interpretation, as the goal is to impart not only a body of knowledge but also a set of critical tools that you should be able to apply to a wide range of material not specifically covered in the course.
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This course examines the way that works of art participate in the discourses of their times (e.g. shaping values, constructing identities, promoting beliefs, and giving visual form to new concepts). It also considers how art defines itself by exploring new modes of representation in dialogue with the art of the past. The focus will be on significant works that shaped—and were shaped by—western social, political, economic, and intellectual history. The goal is to impart not only a body of knowledge but also a set of critical tools that you should be able to apply to a wide range of material not specifically covered in the course. There will be considerable emphasis on questions of analysis and interpretation and in exploring both the means by which the object engages the beholder in extended viewing and the way that visual forms can be deployed to structure the viewer’s experience and elicit particular responses.
This course examines the art of the United States and Europe from about 1500 to the present, with an emphasis on painting. It will concentrate on a select group of representative works that shaped—and were shaped by—developments in western social, political, and intellectual history and that participated in individual and community identity formation. There will be a strong emphasis on questions of analysis and interpretation, as the goal is to impart not only a body of knowledge but also a set of critical tools that you should be able to apply to a wide range of material not specifically covered in the course.
This course offers an introduction to the visual arts in East Asia, from the Neolithic through today. The course examines in particular the relationship between cultural production and changing notions of authority in East Asia in a comparative historical perspective. Case studies will be drawn from China, Japan, and neighboring regions. Issues examined include: religion and early state formation; courtly culture and monumentality; the development of urban popular culture; the age of empire; art and modernization.
This course examines the art of Latin America from about 1500 BC to 1821, surveying both prehispanic civilizations as well as the era of Spanish and Portuguese rule from first encounters in 1492 to the wars of independence in the early nineteenth century. A wide range of objects and images will be discussed, from painting, sculpture, and architecture to ceramics, featherwork, and textiles. These artifacts will be studied both for how they reflect the aesthetic ideals of different peoples from different cultures and backgrounds (indigenous American, European, African) in the past, as well as for how they illuminate social, political, and economic themes in the cultures they were made for. The main goal of the course is to teach not only a body of knowledge but also a set of critical tools that you should be able to apply to a wide range of material not specifically covered in the course.
This course will introduce students to the principal films, directors, and movements of World Cinema from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present day. Emphasis will be on helping students acquire and develop the requisite skills for analyzing the formal and stylistic aspects of specific films, and on helping students understand those films in their social and historical contexts.
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