**American Art History as Cultural Encounter – ART 152\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Summer Term 2016-2017 Online Course***

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**Course Description and Objectives:**

As stated in the text, this course is a study of American visual arts as they articulate cross-cultural encounters, from the times of diverse Native groups, through later engagement with European colonizers, African slaves, and millions of immigrants. Rather than defining a national identity within American arts, this study investigates the conversation between the many cultures and styles that have taken American art from a second-rate status in the European art world to recognition of America as a modern global art leader.

The student should complete this course with: (1) a general understanding of the progression of American art and culture from ancient inhabitants to modern ones, including Native works and later works in European, African and Asian traditions; (2) understanding of different American artistic styles, their characteristics, and their causes; and (3) the ability to analyze a work of art using basic visual and critical criteria. This study should broaden student understanding of American cultures as both formative and consequential forces. Students will experience American visual arts as both a reflexive and a transformative medium, thus examining the relationship between art and ideas.

**Text (More information on book options is in Blackboard, in “Introduction, Syllabus.”):**

*American Encounters: Art, History, and Cultural Identity*, Angela Miller, Janet Berlo, Bryan Wolf and Jennifer Roberts, Pearson Prentice Hall.

ISBN 978-0-13-030004-1

You should purchase, or rent from the bookstore, and read this text.

*A Short Guide to Writing about Art*, 11th Edition, by Sylvan Barnet

ISBN 978-0205886999

You will be assigned readings from this book; questions on the quizzes or exams may reference these excerpts. You may also purchase it, or rent it from the bookstore, or choose an ebook version (an inexpensive option). There are three copies of the 10th edition on reserve in the Gordon College library; page numbers for reading assignments will be given for both Editions 10 and 11, so either can be used.

**Gordon Statement on Disabilities:**

Gordon College is committed to assisting students with documented disabilities (see Academic Catalog, Appendix C, for documentation guidelines). A student with a disability who may need

academic accommodation should follow this procedure:

1. Meet with a staff person from the Academic Support Center (Jenks 412, x4746) to:
   1. make sure documentation of your disability is on file in the ASC,
   2. discuss the accommodations for which you are eligible,
   3. discuss the procedures for obtaining the accommodations, and
   4. obtain a **Faculty Notification Form**.

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1. Deliver a Faculty Notification Form to each course professor within the first full week of the semester; at that time make an appointment to discuss your needs with each professor. Failure to register in time with your professor and the ASC may compromise our ability to provide accommodations.

**Grievance Procedure**

The Academic Support Center works interactively with students and faculty to resolve any accommodation issues. Any questions or disputes about accommodations should be immediately referred to the Academic Support Center. For additional information contact the graduate office or the Academic Support Center. (See also Grievance Procedures in Student Handbook.)

**Course Requirements:**

1. **VoiceThreads:** viewing and participation in these interactive presentations are required. *You must follow CTS guidelines to correctly register with VoiceThread before the course starts.*
2. **Assigned readings from the text should be completed before viewing posted materials (VoiceThreads, videos, etc.).** Short readings may be assigned to supplement the text.
3. **Quizzes:** Quizzes will cover the readings and will be posted online on Blackboard. They will, of course, be open book quizzes but your time will be limited, so you need to have done the reading beforehand. The questions will be short answer, multiple choice, matching or true/false.
4. **Four exams,** posted on Blackboard,will cover material from each preceding quarter. These will also be time-limited open book exams. The exams will take a format similar to the following. You will be required to identify the title, artist, medium, art period, style, and/or other specific data for each of several given images. The rest of the exam will be mostly multiple choice, matching, or true/false questions. There may be very short art analysis or essay questions.
5. **Analyses or other analytical assignments:** You will be assigned analyses of artworks and other similar activities within the VoiceThreads and in Blackboard. This will help you to prepare for your exams, prepare you to write your review papers, and generally sharpen your skills of observation and deduction. Responses should be created as Word Documents and submitted into Blackboard as Assignments. **Spelling and grammar will count!**
6. **Presentations:** Each student will prepare a six-slide VoiceThread display, including one slide as a Bibliography, on a topic you choose from a list that is available in Blackboard. These will be graded for content, presentation appearance/sound, effectiveness of communication, and a bibliography of at least three sources other than the textbook; at least one of the three must be a non-internet source. **Properly attribute and cite all sources of information (especially quotations), including internet sources.** More information about the presentations is given separately in tutorials and a “Directions” document in Blackboard. Start working on this early, in order to have time to learn use of VoiceThread. You will be expected to comment on others’ VoiceThreads; see Directions in Blackboard.
7. **Review Papers:** Students will be required to go to a museum, and then write **two** review papers, to be submitted as Word Documents for this class. One paper will be a review of an American artwork which was created in the years preceding the Civil War conclusion in 1865, and the other will be a review of an American artwork created since then. The papers must discuss *subject*, *form* and *content,* as discussed in assigned readings from *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*. **Grammar and spelling will count. Preliminary drafts of papers are due six days before the final draft is due**, and will be returned to you with feedback for improving them; the dates for these papers are in the class calendar.

**Review Paper Projects Description:**

**1. Museum Visit(s):**

Visit any major museum. ***You should try to do this within the first week.*** Make sure to **keep your museum ticket stub, clip-on button, or receipt** as proof of your museum attendance, **you must photograph it and insert the photo into your paper’s last page**. Also, you need to include the museum **registration/accession number** (seen in the identification tag beside the artwork in the museum) of your artwork on your research essay along with the **title** of the artwork and the **name of the museum** where it is housed.(If no number can be found, the artwork is likely on loan to the museum; in your image caption, state “No registration number available.”)A list of several of the major Boston museums is below.

Before making a trip to a museum, (a) research the museum to make sure it has work from the period that interests you, and (b) search online to find out if there are any specific works housed at that museum that especially intrigue you. This can save you time when you actually get to the museum. Make sure to find out whether these works are currently on display!

You may want to research different artworks for both review papers during the same museum visit, in which case you will want to visit a museum that has American artwork from before and after the end of the Civil War in 1865. Insert the photographed museum ticket stub/button/receipt when you submit both papers.

Review your assigned readings from *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*, especially “Getting Ideas for Essays: Asking Questions to Get Answers”, which starts on p. 77 (in Editions 10 and 11) and gives you specific questions to employ when viewing your piece, relative to the specific media you think you might view at the museum. Bring a copy of basic questions (posted in Blackboard for you) with you as a reference, although there might be other ideas and questions that you noted during your reading that you might want to bring along as well.

When you get to the museum, examine your piece or pieces closely. Use your list of questions from *A Short Guide to Writing about Art* as a starting point for your exploration. Be careful to note those aspects of the piece that are difficult to discern in reproduction, *e.g*., the surface texture, subtle color shifts, or the relationship of scale (size) and placement to the viewer. *Take your time*. Your understanding of the piece will unfold gradually – there is no way to rush this process. You may want to spend some shorter periods of time studying the piece, rather than, say, sixty uninterrupted minutes. Take breaks and look at other works from the same period. Take notes, make sketches or take photos of your piece. Photography without using a flash is usually allowed in Museums, but check with the museum personnel.

**2. First Review Paper, on a chosen American artwork before 1865:**

**Must be at least three pages in length, submitted as a Word Document, in Times Roman**

**12-point font, double-spaced, and have a separate title page. An image of the artwork must be placed on your title page to enrich your written formal analysis but does not count as part of the three pages.**

Write a formal analysis/research essay of your piece using the material in *A Short Guide to Writing about Art* as a reference. Pay special attention to pp. 46-59, using the sample essay and working method as a guide when writing your paper. Your essay will be evaluated according to the material presented in Barnet’s text (including your thesis statement and proof of it through discussion of form and content). You do not need a Bibliography for this paper, but include one if you use quotations or reference material.

If you cannot find work of this antiquity in the museum you visit, you may write your review paper as a comparison essay. Choose a newer American artwork in the museum that you can compare to what you have studied in Chapters 1 through 7 in the course; then compare the newer museum work with the pre-1865 artwork(s) from your textbook by comparing form and content.

**3. Second Review Paper, on a chosen American artwork after 1865:**

Use the same requirements as above to write another review paper about a second artwork you find in a museum; this art should have been produced in America since the end of the Civil War.

**Boston Area Museum Information:**

*Museum of Fine Arts,* Boston

Avenue of the Arts

465 Huntington Ave.

Directions and hours are available on the MFA website, [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org)

This museum is free with your student ID.

617.267.9300

*The Institute of Contemporary**Art*, Boston

100 Northern Avenue

Directions and hours available on the web at <http://www.icaboston.org/>

Student Admission: $10 with Gordon ID

*Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum,* Boston

280 The Fenway (less than two blocks from the MFA)

Directions and hours available on the web at [www.gardnermuseum.org](http://www.gardnermuseum.org)

Student Admission: $5 with student ID (There are other special deals, including discounts for Red Sox fans and those also visiting the MFA; birthday people and “Isabella”s are free!)

617.566.1401

*Harvard Art Museums – the Fogg* (European and American art from Middle Ages to present)*, Busch-Reisinger* (art from German-speaking European countries)*, and Arthur M. Sackler*

(Ancient, Byzantine, Greek, Roman, Egyptian, Near Eastern, Indian, and Asian art) *Museums*

32 Quincy St., Cambridge

Directions and hours available on the web at http://www.harvardartmuseums.org/

Student Admission: $10 with Gordon ID (Sat., 10 am until noon, is free for MA residents.)

617-495-9400

*Peabody Essex Museum*

East India Square, Salem

Directions and hours available on the web at [www.pem.org](http://www.pem.org)/

Student Admission: $10 with Gordon ID (free for Salem, MA, residents)

800.745.4054

**Evaluation:**

20% Quizzes (the lowest quiz grade will be dropped).

40% Quarterly Examinations (10% each)

10% VoiceThread creation

10% Review Paper 1

10% Review Paper 2

10% Art Analyses and Discussion/Participation (responses to questions posed in VoiceThreads); the lowest analysis grade will be dropped, but the Discussion/Participation Grade will *not* be dropped.

All items will be entered into the Blackboard Grade Center with a 10 point maximum; for example, a score of 94.5 will be entered as 9.45.

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*Letter Grade* *Percentage*

A+ 97.0 - 100

A 93.0 - 96.9

A- 90.0 - 92.9

B+ 87.0 - 89.9

B 83.0 - 86.9

B- 80.0 - 82.9

C+ 77.0 - 79.9

C 73.0 - 76.9

C- 70.0 - 72.9

D+ 67.0 - 69.9

D 63.0 - 66.9

D- 60.0 - 62.9

**Academic Dishonesty Policy**

*Academic dishonesty is regarded as a major violation of both the academic and spiritual principles of this community and may result in a failing grade or suspension. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, (see Plagiarism in Student Handbook), cheating (whether in or out of the classroom), and abuse or misuse of library materials when such abuse or misuse can be related to course requirements.*

**Daily Schedule:** Try to read according to this schedule, completing the quiz on a chapter (posted in Blackboard) soon after reading it. Watch and comment in VoiceThreads after reading the appropriate chapter(s), as scheduled below. Do Art Analysis Assignments close to this schedule, as prompted by the VoiceThreads. *Exams will cover material from your reading as well as from the VoiceThreads. They will be open only for the 24-hour period scheduled below, but you may take them at any time on the scheduled day, as long as you start with enough time to finish by midnight Boston Time.* **All deadlines for this course are set in Boston Time.**

**MODULE 1 (Includes 1.1 – 1.7)**

**1.1**, Mon., May 22 “Meet the Class” Blog

Using VoiceThread

VoiceThread *Introduction* (may be viewed before the course starts)

Begin reading Chapter 1, for the *Chapter 1* VoiceThread and its associated video are time-consuming.

***Important:*** Sign up for a VoiceThread Project topic in Blackboard today.

**1.2**, Tues., May 23 Ch. 1, Art of (Ancient) Indigenous Americans; also read pp. 8-47 of *A* *Short*

*Guide to Writing About Art, Edition 11* (or pp. 8-45 in *10th Edition)*

Chapter 1 Quiz

See VoiceThread *Chapter 1* and comment within it.

**1.3**, Wed., May 24 Ch. 2, The Old World and the New: First Phases of Encounter; also readpp. 48-77 of *A* *Short Guide to Writing About Art, Ed. 11* (or pp. 46-77 in *10th Edition*)

Chapter 2 Quiz

See VoiceThread *Chapter 2* and comment within it.

Art Analysis Assignment 1

**1.4**, Thurs., May 25 Ch. 3, Early Colonial Arts; also read pp. 77-131 of *A* *Short Guide to*

*Writing* *About Art, Ed. 11* (or pp. 77-133 in *10th Edition*)

Chapter 3 Quiz

Within next three days, see VoiceThread *Chapters 3-5* and comment within it.

**1.5**, Fri., May 26 Ch. 4, Late Colonial Encounters: The New World, Africa, Asia, and Europe

Chapter 4 Quiz; Art Analysis Assignment 2

*Mon., May 29* ***Memorial Day - No class***

**1.6**, Tues.,May 30 Ch. 5; Art, Revolution, and The New Nation

Art Analysis Assignment 3

**1.7**, Wed., May 31 **Exam 1 on Ch.s 1-5**

**MODULE 2 (Includes 2.1 – 2.7)**

**2.1**, Thurs., June 1 **Visit a museum and pick artworks for papers.** Email any questions about works seen or about upcoming paper.

**2.2**, Fri., June 2 Ch. 6, The Body Politic

Chapter 6 Quiz

Within next two days, see VoiceThread *Chapters 6-7* and comment within it.

**2.3**, Mon., June 5 Ch. 7, Native and European Arts at the Boundaries of Culture: The Frontier

West and Pacific Northwest *(Activities are continued on next page.)*

Chapter 7 Quiz

**Preliminary draft of First Review Paper is due**

**2.4**, Tues., June 6 Ch. 8, Nature’s Nation (during the Civil War)

Chapter 8 Quiz

See VoiceThread *Chapters 8-9* and comment within it, except for

commenting on the last slide that directs you to a lecture by Prof. Ross Frank

(to watch and comment upon tomorrow).

**2. 5**, Wed., June 7 Ch. 9, Post-War Challenges: Reconstruction, the Centennial Years, and

Beyond

Watch lecture by Prof. Ross Frank, then return to last slide of VoiceThread *Chapters 8-9* tocomment.

Art Analysis Assignment 4

**2.6,** Thurs., June 8 *Use this day to catch up on anything you missed, for the first two modules will close after Exam 2.*

*All Module 1 and 2 VoiceThreads, assignments, and tests close at midnight* *Boston Time on Monday, June 6. Please complete everything before continuing to Module 3.*

**2.7,** Fri., June 9 **Exam 2 on** **Ch.s 6 - 9**

**MODULE 3 (Includes 3.1 – 3.8)**

**3.1**, Mon., June 12 **First Review Paper final draft is due.** Modules 1 and 2 will close.

**3.2**, Tues., June 13 Ch. 10, A New Internationalism: The Arts in an Expanding World

Chapter 10 Quiz

See VoiceThread *Chapter 10a* and comment within it.

Art Analysis Assignment 5

**3.3**, Wed., June 14 Ch. 11, Exploration and Retrenchment: The Arts in Unsettling Times

Chapter 11 Quiz

**3.4**, Thurs., June 15 Ch. 12, The Arts Confront the New Century: Renewal and Continuity

Chapter 12 Quiz

See VoiceThread *Chapter 10, part 2 - 12* and comment within it.

**3.5**, Fri., June 16 **Create and share Voicethread presentations, according to Directions posted in Blackboard*. They should be submitted by Sharing (explained in posted Directions), by midnight Boston Time.***

**3.6,** Mon.,June 19 Ch. 13, Transnational Exchanges: Modernism and Modernity Beyond Borders

Chapter 13 Quiz

See students’ VoiceThreads: *Chapter 13*; comment within each.

**3.7**, Tues., June 20 Ch. 14, The Arts and the City

See students’ VoiceThreads: *Chapter 14*; comment within each.

Art Analysis Assignment 6

**3.8**, Wed., June 21 **Exam 3 on** **Ch.s 10-14**

**MODULE 4 (Includes 4.1 – 4.7)**

**4.1,** Thurs., June 22 Ch. 15, Searching for Roots

Chapter 15 Quiz

See VoiceThread *Chapter 15* and comment within it. (If class is large, there will also be Students’ VoiceThreads: *Chapter 1*5; comment within each.)

**Preliminary draft of Second Review Paper is due.**

Art Analysis Assignment 7

**4.2,** Fri., June 23 Ch. 16, Social Visions: The Arts in the Depression Years

Chapter 16 Quiz

Within next two days, see VoiceThread *Chapters 16-17* and comment within it.

**4.3**, Mon., June 26 Ch. 17, Cold War and the Age of the Atom: Consensus and Anxiety

Chapter 17 Quiz

**4.4**, Tues., June 27 Ch. 18, Art into Life

Chapter 18 Quiz

Within next two days, see VoiceThread *Chapters 18-19* and comment within it.

Art Analysis Assignment 8

**4.5**, Wed., June 28 Ch. 19, American Art in Flux

Communication and course completion. *All Module 3 and 4 Voicethreads, assignments, and tests close at midnight* *Boston Time on June 24.*

**4.6**, Thurs., June 29 **Second Review Paper final draft is due.**

**4.7**, Fri., June 30 **Exam 4 on Ch.s 15-19**