

**ARTH 304 Great Discoveries in Art and Archaeology SI, XC**

Winterim 2012 Wed. Jan. 4 - Tue. Jan. 17 12:30-4:30 p.m. Brainerd 202

Prof. Caroline Downing Brainerd 222, Tel. x2368 Office hours 11:00-12:00 daily

**Course description.** This course will examine some of the great discoveries made in the history of art and archaeology. We will begin with a look at the disciplines of art history and archaeology, and how they have changed from their beginnings to the present time. A number of different cultures will be examined, including some from Africa, the Americas, China, and ancient Greece and Rome. As we examine these cultures, we will be concerned with the role and concept of art in each society. We will look at stylistic change, technological advancements, and interactions between cultures.

**Student Learning Outcomes.**

1. Students will explore the principles and history of the fields of art history and world archaeology via textbook, lectures, and audiovisual presentations.
2. Students will learn about art and archaeology in several non-European cultures, including the Americas, Africa, and China.
3. Students will demonstrate understanding of the technical aspects of art historical research and archaeological field and library research.

Methods of achieving outcomes:

1. Students will take periodic short tests on textbook material, class presentations, and audiovisual presentations.
2. Class discussions will focus on comparison of art and technology of European and non-European cultures, and on the interaction of those cultures.
3. Students will prepare a research paper using correct citation, prepare short speeches, and participate in debates on current issues in art and archaeology.

**Required textbook.** L. Robbins, *Stones, Bones, and Ancient Cities* (Waveland, 1990). Available at college bookstore.

**Course requirements and grading.** Three quizzes, two speeches (to be assigned) and one 7-10-page paper, on any topic related to the course material. The first speech will be a short informative speech on one aspect of the daily topics; the second will consist of a comparison of an art work or art form, or an archaeological discovery, from a European-derived culture, and one from a non-European derived culture. In addition to the two formal speeches, debates will be held daily on controversies in art and archaeology.

Grading:

Quizzes	30%	Speeches	40%	Paper	30%
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**Research paper.** Students will complete a 7-10 page research paper on any topic related to art and/or archaeological discoveries. Papers must include references and a separate bibliography page, using the Chicago Style of reference format (see SUNY Potsdam library website for assistance using this format). You must use at least three library sources (books or professional journal articles) in addition to the text or internet sources.

**Plagiarism.** You must give references for information, for ideas, even if not quoted directly, and of course for quotes. Failure to reference is plagiarism, and can result in disciplinary action.

## **ARTH 304 Great Discoveries in Art and Archaeology Winterim 2012**

### **Course schedule**

- Wed. Jan. 4 Introduction to disciplines of art history and archaeology  
Vocabulary and terms. Contemporary movements in art history and archaeology. Role of art in society. Practice Debate: Indiana Jones Paleolithic cave art of Europe. **Text: 38-63, and "Postscript" xiii-xix**  
Discovery and acceptance of authenticity. Style and subjects depicted. Old and new theories on the meaning of cave art. Signs and symbols. Narrative. Human images. Recent discoveries of cave art in France. African rock art: the Neolithic paintings of Tassili. Protection of rock art around the world
- Thu. Jan. 5 King Tut's tomb and Egyptian art and archaeology **Text: 88-97, 197-200**  
Egyptian land and society, and its influence on art. The cult of the dead. The power of the ruling class and its reflection in art and architecture. Egyptian queens and female pharaohs. Animals in Egyptian art. Changes in the field of Egyptology; modern excavations and inquiry. Interaction of Egyptians and other African cultures.  
**1:30** Library research session
- Fri. Jan 6 **Paper topics and bibliographies due.**  
**Debate:** Do art historians and archaeologists focus too much on death in Egyptian art?  
Troy and the Bronze Age of Greece **Text: 98-108, xxii-xxvii**  
The mythological underpinnings. Schliemann's role in the "discovery" of the Bronze Age. Excavations at Troy, Knossos, Mycenae, and Thera. Role of women in Bronze Age society. Cultural interactions with Egypt and the Near East. The bull cult of Knossos. Decline of Bronze Age: economic, social, political theories.
- Mon. Jan. 9 **Quiz on intro through Bronze Age**  
**Debate:** Did women rule at Knossos?  
Bronze technologies of the world **Text: 81-85**  
Independent invention of bronze-making in Africa, China, and Europe. Discussion of different techniques of bronze casting. Uses and purposes of bronze in each society, including practical (weapons, vessels) and ritual ("idols," religious dedications).
- Tue. Jan. 10 **Debate:** Do archaeologists see too much ritual purpose in artifacts?  
Excavations of Pompeii and Herculaneum **Text: 108-120**

Eruption of Vesuvius and burial of Roman town and landscape.  
Spectacular quality of preservation of art, architecture, artifacts, and victims. History of discovery of Pompeii and its influence on society, from the 18th century to today. A "time capsule" of Roman life: what we can learn of art, politics, religion, daily life, economics. Greek/Roman art.

Wed. Jan. 11 **Quiz on Troy through Pompeii**

**Debate:** Should we "restore" Greek and Roman sculpture?

Art and archaeology of Pre-Columbian America **Text: 135-147**

Theories on origins of native peoples of the Americas.

Discoveries of the great sites of Maya, Aztecs, mound-builders and cliff-dwellers. Art in politics, religion. Clash of European and native societies.

Eurocentrism, neglect of study of ancient America **Text: 155-160, 185-189**

Thu. Jan. 12 **Debate:** Should all Native American artifacts and remains be repatriated?

Ceramic technologies of the world **Text: 85-88**

Study of selected pottery of the world: Greek, Chinese, African, European, and contemporary American. Materials and methods of ceramic

production: clays, glazes, hand-building, wheel-throwing, kiln-firing, etc.

Use of pottery in archaeology: its importance in studying chronology, economy, trade, migration, daily life, etc. The earthenware army of China.

Fri. Jan 13 **Papers due**

**Debate:** Should the MET museum have returned the Euphronios krater?

The Renaissance: Development of linear perspective

Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel and the controversy over art restoration.

Should we restore works of art? Methods and theory of restoration.

Protection of art works against theft and vandalism. Looting of Iraq and the destruction of the Buddhas of Afghanistan.

Forgeries and their detection. The Getty Kouros.

The art market, and the exploitation of cultural property.

Reading: "Absolutely Real? Absolutely Fake?" *New York Times* article - print from Google

Mon. Jan 16 **Debate:** Is the Getty kouros a forgery?

The invention of oil painting

Technique of oil painting. Advantages over older methods.

The first oil painting masters.

Development of new paint pigments, influence on artists.

Invention of paper: China, Egypt, classical world, medieval

Printmaking and printing

Tue. Jan. 17 **Quiz on ceramics through oil painting**

**Debate:** Is using photographs to make paintings "cheating"?

Great discoveries in art history: Egyptian women, the cave at

Sperlonga, Michelangelo's brain, the revenge of Artemisia, the Isenheim altarpiece, African and Native American ritual arts in context.  
Invention of photography and the photographic arts.  
Camera obscura, photography, and their influence on painting.  
Daguerre and the first fixed images. Materials and techniques of photography. Photography as a valid art form.