

Art 101 section 7007, Spring 2012

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to Art 101 online at Valley College. I am Nina Berson your instructor for section 7007 of the Survey of Western Art, Part I. We study the history of art in the western world from prehistory to the spectacular Gothic period, which ends about 1400, just before the start of the Italian Renaissance. We learn how to look at and deeply enjoy objects/ discuss their role in history, and learn how to talk about art using a specific vocabulary. You will also find out about the various methodologies art historians use to analyze art. This is not a studio class and we do not make art.

The website for this class will be up and running on January 16th. At that time you can begin to practice using the Etudes class management system if you are not already familiar with it. Once you are comfortable with Etudes, I think you will find that we tend to have more individual interactions online than in the traditional classroom. I am always available to answer questions and you can reach me at my e-mail therizuli@ca.rr.com. Please be sure to tell me your name in the e-mail.

The first day of class is Monday, February 6. This class is very fast-paced, with reading, discussions, and a quiz every week. You need to devote a minimum of six hours weekly to the work and reading, so plan for it, or you will quickly fall behind. Grades are based on your input in all these areas and details will be explained in the syllabus.

Our textbook is Kleiner, Gardner's Art Through the Ages, Western Perspective, 13th edition, volume I. Look for a used copy online. Get it as soon as possible for the best selection and to avoid falling behind in your reading. Used books of either the 13th or 12th edition are fine and you need only the Western Perspective.

Each learning Module will open at 1:00 AM on Monday and its quiz will be closed the following Monday. I suggest that you read the chapter early in the week, think about it, visit the "chatroom" on Sunday with your questions, and participate in each discussion at least twice. Read the chapter again, and then take the quiz.

We may be able to meet at a museum, depending on your schedules. If not, I expect you to spend an afternoon there on your own or with friends. There is nothing more exciting that to see the actual object which I call Direct Observation. If you are unable to get to a museum, I'll give you an alternate assignment for the Visual Analysis requirement.

We'll get acquainted in class, in discussion and chat, but I'll start you off with this. My parents were artists who exposed me to museums, art classes and Europe with them when I was a kid. They had one way of looking at art, called formal, because they were interested in the form of objects and in how artists made them. I studied painting as an undergraduate, planning to follow in their path. After I started working in a museum, I got interested in the history of the object - who made it, what was it

for, what was happening when it was made - which is the context.

I earned a master's degree and became an Art Historian to work in museums, then discovered that I like teaching art history. I have been privileged to make and to study art that enriches me and expands my perspective of the world and its people. This semester I hope we can share the excitement of discovering the meaning in art, and when the website opens, I look forward to getting to know you.

Happy Holidays

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