

ART 1541 - Survey of Art History 1

Summer 2026 Syllabus, Section A01, CRN 31010,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Stephanie Smith, PhD

Professional Qualifications:

Ph.D., History of Art, Rutgers University

M.A., History of Art, Rutgers University

B.A., Art History, Washington & Lee University

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Additional Contact Methods:

Questions for the Instructor thread in the Blackboard classroom

Preferred Contact Method: Email

Communication Expectations:

Communication should be prompt and students should not wait until weeks have gone by to address an issue or query. I will be present in the classroom throughout the school week. I will occasionally be present on the weekends as well. I will endeavor to respond to questions posted to the Questions for the Instructor thread in the Blackboard classroom, or via email within 24-hours during the week and within 48-hours on the weekends.

How to Refer to me:

Dr. Smith



Course Description

1541. Survey of Art History 1. A study of world art, focusing on the western European tradition. Covers the period from prehistoric times through 1500. Introduces key concepts, methods, and vocabulary for the study of art. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Gardner's Art Through the Ages: A Global History, 16th edition	Fred Kleiner	Cengage MindTap
Required	Smarthistory	Beth Harris & Steven Zucker	https://smarthistory.org/

- Cengage's MindTap is accessible through the course Blackboard site. We are using First Day Access so your text will be accessible although you will need to sign into Cengage or create an account if this is your first time using a Cengage product. Go to Getting Started folder in the Blackboard classroom to access the course text. Once you begin working through the modules, you will see links to the textbook reading and activities.
- Smarthistory is an open source art history textbook. There are a number of required readings and videos from this resource. Links are located in the relevant module folder.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.



Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
5/11	Kleiner, chapter 1 Paleolithic art, an introduction (Smarthistory) Hall of Bulls, Lascaux (Smarthistory) Çatalhöyük (Smarthistory)	Module 1: Prehistoric through Neolithic	Various assessments (due dates found in Blackboard classroom) Learning to Describe Art
5/18	Kleiner, chapters 2-3 Standard of Ur and other objects from the Royal Graves (Smarthistory) Palette of King Narmer (Smarthistory)	Module 2: Ancient Near East through Ancient Egypt	Various assessments (due dates found in Blackboard classroom) Evidence-Based Interpretation
5/25	Kleiner, chapter 5 The Parthenon, Athens (Smarthistory) Phidias, Parthenon sculpture (pediments, metopes and frieze) (Smarthistory)	Module 3: Ancient Greece	Various assessments (due dates found in Blackboard classroom) Understanding Cultural Context
6/1	Kleiner, chapters 6-7 Ara Pacis Augustae (Smarthistory)	Module 4: Ancient Rome	Various assessments (due dates found in Blackboard classroom) Short Visual Evidence Exercise
6/8	Kleiner, chapters 8-9	Module 5: Late Antiquity and Byzantine East	Various assessments (due dates found in Blackboard classroom) Decoding Symbolic Imagery
6/15	Kleiner, chapter 11	Module 6: Medieval West	Various assessments (due dates found in Blackboard classroom) Comparative Analysis
6/22	Kleiner, chapters 12-13	Module 7: Romanesque through French Gothic	Various assessments (due dates found in Blackboard classroom)

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.