

# Art History – Summer Assignment

The purpose of this course is to provide you with a broad overview of the history of development of art, its major movements and figures, and its relationship to the historical period in which it was created, and to make your encounter with art more meaningful and comprehensible.

The course covers a wide array of artistic styles and movements from pre-history to the present. Many of you are entering this course with little knowledge of art other than its physical nature. Because of the scope of the course, it is necessary that you commit yourself to completing the summer assignments prior to the first day of class in the fall. Failure to do so, will illustrate not only a lack of commitment on your part, but jeopardize your ability to have a meaningful experience in the course. **This is not optional – it is a mandatory requirement for the course.**

**Textbook:** Stokstad, Marilyn. *Art History*, Revised Edition. New York: Prentice-Hall, 1999.

**Read.** Introduction, Starter Kit, Chapters 1-5

**Notes.** Take notes on major ideas, events, and works. Begin to look at why things were created

- ⌘ What is the role of geography, religion/myth, economics, politics, etc. in the creation of art?
- ⌘ Think of art as more than sculpture, architecture, painting, etc.
- ⌘ Get accustomed with the importance and portrayal of **Power & Authority; Use of the Written Word; Human Form; Secular vs. Religious Art; Perspective; Symbolism; Use of Light** in all forms of art.
- ⌘ Be able to identify examples of each of these periods. Begin a file of terms and important ideas for each chapter.

If type you can manipulate the information much easier at a later date.

**Note cards.** Over the course of the year, you will be creating a file of notes on standard Index cards to act as a reference for vocabulary, themes, and art movements you encounter. Use the following format for your note cards. Do not make cards for every work, but begin to identify significant examples for each element discussed in a chapter. You should have around 15-20 note cards for each Chapter.

**Side 1** ⇒ Copy of the image. You may consider downloading this from one of the many excellent art websites on the Internet. Examples include: <<CGFA>>; <<Web Gallery of Art>>; <<Artchive>>, <<Artcyclopedia>>; <<Great Buildings>>

**Side 2** ⇒ Theme; Artist; Dates Artist lived; Place lived; Name of Work; Date of Work; Art Movement.  
Bulleted summary of importance of the work.

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**Reference.** *The Bible*. Read *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Samuel, Job, Ezekiel, Daniel, Matthew, John, Acts, Revelations*

**Read and take notes** on the major events and characters. Approach your study of these books from a historical perspective rather than theological. This is important since much of the European art draws heavily on biblical themes. Your notes should include descriptions of major events and symbols (icons)

For those of you who don't have a copy of the *Bible*, I would suggest the *The Idiot's Guide to the Bible*.

***Note Cards and Notes for readings will be collected on the first day of class Tuesday, August 30, 2005***