



## **Art History**

### **Semester A Summary:**

Welcome to the first semester of Art History! In this course, the student will take up the question “What is art?” as he explores the artistic endeavors of early civilizations. Early in the course, the student will explore some of the basic elements and principles of art and its role in human history and the development of culture. He will also think about the ways that a work of art interacts with human sensory perception to produce a particular effect, as well as various other factors that affect the interpretation of a work of art. Once the student has obtained a basic foundation in art theory, he will begin to examine the history of art from its earliest manifestations in prehistoric times up through the ancient Egyptian civilization.

### **Semester A Outline**

#### **1. Journey Through Ancient Art History**

##### 1. What You Will Learn

- Examine how an artist's feelings are evident in his or her works
- Consider how your own culture influences your perspective of art
- Respond to the question “What is Art?”

##### 2. Beginning the Journey

- Examine the three viewpoints of art
- List and explain the five major reasons art is created
- Follow the analytical steps for art history and art criticism

##### 3. Elements of Art

- List and apply the elements of art
- Explore the influence of nature on art

##### 4. The Principles of Art

- Examine, identify, and apply the principles of art
- Consider choices, intentions, and strategies artists employ
- Develop a visual vocabulary and appreciation of the visual arts

#### **2. Art at the Start: Early Civilization**

##### 1. Prehistoric Expression: Making Pictures

- Discover, examine, and define prehistoric art
- Explore cave paintings
- Assess cave art in Altamira, Spain, and its direct significance to the journey of human history
- Appraise cave art in Lascaux, France, in terms of geography, discovery, and humankind's early complex visual representation

##### 2. Prehistoric Expression: Stone Monoliths

- Identify and interpret Paleolithic art
- Develop new art vocabulary related to Stone Age art
- Explore the history and giant stone monoliths of Easter Island
- Explore the history and mystery of Stonehenge
- Apply, transfer and correlate visual observation with poetic writing

3. Fertile Crescent: Sumerian Art and Architecture
  - Explore the earliest civilizations that developed in the Fertile Crescent
  - Learn about the civilization of ancient Sumeria
  - Discover, view, and explore Sumerian art and architecture
4. Fertile Crescent: Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian Art
  - Examine the history and art of the Assyrian Empire
  - Discover the Neo-Babylonian Period and related architecture
  - Examine the history of Persia and its pottery
5. Art History A Midterm Project
  - Select a topic for an original research project
  - Use information from a variety of sources to formulate answers to the research questions
  - Follow MLA style for documenting information from sources

### 3. **Egypt: Art on the Nile**

1. An Oasis of Art: Geography and History
  - Explore the geography of the Nile River Valley
  - Read an overview of the history of Ancient Egypt
  - Get acquainted with the essentials of Egyptian religious beliefs
  - Learn about the significance of papyrus and the method of its production
  - Examine the practice and process of mummification
2. An Oasis of Art: Art Written in Stone
  - Revisit and gain architectural knowledge of the Step Pyramid and the pyramids of Giza
  - Understand and appreciate the religion of ancient Egypt
  - Gain knowledge and understanding of hieroglyphics as well as the ability to use picture writing
  - Look at the significance and role of tomb painting
3. A Grand New Egypt: Monuments to a Grand Egypt
  - Learn about that renowned and mysterious monument, the Sphinx
  - Explore the obelisk
4. Grand New Egypt: King Tut and the New Kingdom
  - Examine important events, rulers, and achievements of the New Kingdom
  - Refine your understanding of art and architecture from the three main eras of ancient Egypt
  - Examine the life of one of ancient Egypt's most powerful female pharaohs
  - View antiquities from ancient Egypt and use your critical thinking skills to explain how these antiquities are representative of the culture to which they belong

### 4. **Final Review and Exam**

1. Art History A Final Review
  - Decide which strategies you will use to prepare for your exam
  - Organize your time and study materials
  - Review your notes, keywords and vocabulary terms, and all important concepts that may be covered on this exam
2. Art History A Final

## **Semester B Summary:**

Welcome to the second semester of Art History! In this course, the student will build upon his basic foundation in art theory to examine the history of art. He will trace the history of art from ancient Greece to the Roman Empire. Along the way, the student will encounter art forms such as pottery, architecture, and sculpture. By the end of the course, the student will not only

have acquired a knowledge of ancient art history, the student will also have a better understanding of art as both a reflection and engine of history.

## **Semester B Outline**

### **1. Greece: Gods and Glory**

1. The World of Ancient Greece
  - Discover how democracy was born
  - Familiarize yourself with the history and culture of the Early Archaic
  - Archaic, Classical, and Hellenistic periods in Greek history
2. Greek Architecture
  - Identify the three types of Greek columns
  - Examine the columns' application in structures found in Greece and in the United States
  - Explore Greek buildings and temples
  - Develop a comprehensive understanding of the Parthenon by examining its origin, history, and architecture
3. Greek Pottery
  - Examine Greek artistic influences
  - Expand your knowledge of pottery
  - Explore the purpose, function, and intention of Greek pottery
4. Greek Sculpture: An Overview
  - Distinguish the three major periods of Greek sculpture
  - Classify sculpture according to its characteristics
  - View examples of sculpture from each period
5. Archaic Sculpture
  - Discover how the Archaic style of sculpture developed
  - Learn to recognize the characteristics of Archaic sculpture
  - Distinguish Archaic sculpture from Greek sculpture of other periods
6. Classical Sculpture
  - Become acquainted with the characteristics of Classical Greek sculpture
  - Study the Discobolus, the epitome of the Classical period
  - View sculpture by Classical sculptors Myron and Praxiteles
7. Hellenistic Sculpture
  - Study the influences Alexander the Great had in developing Hellenism
  - View Hellenistic sculpture and its characteristics
8. Art History B Midterm Project
  - Select a topic for an original research project
  - Use information from a variety of sources to formulate answers to the research questions
  - Follow MLA style for documenting information from sources

### **2. Ancient Rome: Art of an Empire**

1. Introduction to Ancient Rome: History and Culture
  - Explore early Rome
  - Look at the growth of the Roman Republic
2. Introduction to Ancient Rome: Roman Art Overview
  - Examine the development of Roman art
  - Gain an understanding of Roman sculptures
3. Roman Sculpture: Greek Influences
  - Understand the influence of the Greeks on Roman sculpture
  - Explore some of the Vatican Museum's examples of Greco-Roman sculpture
4. Roman Sculpture: Roman Portraiture

- Explore Roman portrait sculptures in detail
  - Discover the public and private use of portrait sculpture
  - Study the use of portraiture on Roman coins and gems
5. Roman Architecture: An Introduction
    - Understand Roman architecture from an historical perspective
    - Learn the basics of Roman architecture
    - Develop a visual sense of Roman architecture
  6. Roman Architecture: Arches and Columns
    - Explore how the Romans developed the arch
    - Study Roman use of columns
    - Reflect on how the Greeks influenced Roman columns
  7. Domestic Roman Architecture
    - Explore the development of Roman domestic architecture
    - Discover the impressive architecture of Roman palaces
- 3. Final Review and Exam**
1. Art History B Final Review
    - Decide which strategies you will use to prepare for your exam
    - Organize your time and study materials
    - Review your notes, keywords and vocabulary terms, and all important concepts that may be covered on this exam
  2. Art History B Final