**Survey of Ancient Art**

ArtH110, Section XXXX, Term 20XX

*Class Meetings*: Day/Time, Klapper 403 *Professor* Michael Nelson, michael.nelson@qc.cuny.edu

*Office*: Klapper 162, tel. 718-997-4809 *Office Hours*: Day/Time, or by appointment

**PLAS Requirements**

This course satisfies two General Education requirements: the Appreciating and Participating in the Arts (AP) area of knowledge, and the European Traditions (ET) context of experience. It is specifically designed to address a key objective of the AP requirement which is to explore the visual arts created by multiple cultures across a vast geographical area and over a broad period of time.

# Course Description

This course examines and surveys the art and architecture of the ancient Mediterranean civilizations of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East, Ancient Egypt, the Bronze Age Aegean, Ancient Greece, Ancient Tuscany (Etruscan), and Ancient Rome. Our goal in this course is to understand not only the works of art and architecture themselves, as products of skill and technology, but also to understand the culture they embody and to recognize their ability to change the future. In short, we are concerned with art and society and the evolution of both over a lengthy period of time (4000 BCE – 324 CE). Our task is big and to accomplish our goal requires us to practice art history. We will learn the terminology necessary to describe and discuss art and architecture, the historical and societal context of ancient art and architecture, and we will apply a variety of analytical methods in order to come to some understanding of the role of art in ancient cultures and to learn more about the cultures themselves including their ideas, inspirations and aspirations. Lastly, these very ancient societies and their arts have and continue to influence our contemporary world. With a series of case studies, we will attempt to make connections between ancient art forms and their use and adaptation in the visual art of New York City and other parts of the United States.

# Course Goals & Learning Outcomes

1. Learn and apply the terminology necessary to describe and analyze ancient art and architecture.
2. Learn and apply the fundamental methodologies of art historical research in order to generate meaningful conclusions about ancient societies.
3. Gain a general knowledge of ancient art and architectural history.
4. Recognize and distinguish art and architectural styles and place such styles in their appropriate geographical, cultural and chronological contexts.
5. Begin to interpret and understand a culture through its art and architecture.
6. Make meaningful connections between ancient art and its legacy in New York City and the United States.

**Course Resources** *(all required)***:**

* Janson’s ***History of Art, Portable Edition***, 7th Edition, 2010.
* ArtStor, Oxford Art Online (OAO), and supplementary readings posted on the Blackboard website
* Class lectures and discussions

**Course Evaluation**

**Quizzes (x3)**

**Analytical & Argumentative Essays (x2)**

**Article Critique (x2)**

**Final Project**

**Contemporary Connections/Class Participation**

**Schedule**

Week 1 Welcome and Introduction; outline of course goals, procedures and progression

Readings: Thomas, D. H., ***Archaeology***, New York: Harcourt Brace. 1998. 462-465

Week 2 Mesopotamia and The Ancient Near East

Readings: Janson’s, OAO, ArtStor

Week 3 Mesopotamia and The Ancient Near East

Readings: Janson’s, OAO, ArtStor

Suppl. readings: Russell, 1998

Contemporary Connections: The Stele of Hammurabi and the U.S. Dollar bill

Week 4 Ancient Egypt: The Old Kingdom

Readings: Janson’s, OAO, ArtStor

Week 5 Ancient Egypt: The Middle Kingdom

Readings: Janson’s, OAO, ArtStor

Suppl. readings: Simpson, 1982

Contemporary Connections: Egyptian Obelisks in America

Week 6 Ancient Egypt: The New Kingdom

Readings: Janson’s, OAO, ArtStor

Suppl. readings: Johnson, 1998

Week 7 The Bronze Age Aegean: Cycladic and Minoan Art

Readings: Janson’s, OAO, ArtStor

Suppl. readings: Shaw, 1978

Week 8 The Bronze Age Aegean: Mycenaean Art

Readings: Janson’s, OAO, ArtStor

Suppl. readings: Younger, 1978.

Contemporary Connections: Lions and/in the City

Week 9 Ancient Greek Painting

Readings: Janson’s, OAO, ArtStor

Suppl. readings: Hurwit, 2002

Week 10 Ancient Greek Architecture

Readings: Janson’s, OAO, ArtStor

Suppl. readings: Ferrari, 2002

Week 11 Ancient Greek Sculpture

Readings: Janson’s, OAO, ArtStor

Suppl. readings: Ridgway, 1971

Contemporary Connections: Doryphoros and the Central Park Falconer

Week 12 Etruscan Art and Architecture

Readings: Janson’s, OAO, ArtStor

Suppl. readings: Oleson, 1975

Week 13 Rome and the Republican Art and Architecture

Readings: Janson’s, OAO, ArtStor

Suppl. readings: Tanner, 2000

Week 14 Augustan Rome

Readings: Janson’s, OAO, ArtStor

Suppl. readings: Nodelman, 1975

Contemporary Connections: Triumphal Arches

Week 15 Rome and the Empire

Readings: Janson’s, OAO, ArtStor

Suppl. readings: Wightman, 1997

Final Exam Week: Final Project due