



## KIIS Prague Summer 2018

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### **ART 100: Art Appreciation/ HON 300: Art and Visual Culture**

*Art 100/ HON 300 are exclusive to each other. Students cannot take and receive credit for both.*

**Professor:** Dr. Zbynek "ZB" Smetana

**Email:** zsmetana@murraystate.edu

*Syllabus subject to change*

**I. Course Description:** The course provides students with bases of perceptual processes and visual literacy against the backdrop of the visual arts. By understanding how various historical periods have expressed their world-views visually, students better understand the diversity of political, economic, religious, social, and aesthetic traditions which are the foundations of art. This course emphasizes art within context, giving students a sense of the history of ideas, and allowing them to critically evaluate and link the dominant ideologies issues of their own world.

**II. Purpose:** To provide a basic familiarity with the history of art with emphasis on the Western tradition. Surveys the various aspects of the visual and functional arts and their relationship to human life and society. A variety of art forms from different cultures and historical periods will be studied. By understanding how various cultures throughout history have expressed their world-views visually, student will better understand the diversity of political, economic, religious, social, and aesthetic traditions which are the foundation of art. This course emphasizes the analysis of art within particular historical and social context, giving students a sense of the history of ideas, and allowing them to critically evaluate the dominant ideologies and complex moral and ethical issues of their own world.

**III. Course Objective:** This course will introduce students to a basic visual vocabulary and the fundamental concepts that underlie the way one visually interprets the world (i.e., stylistic differences and the properties of various media) and to develop a vocabulary with which to discuss art; and clarify the role of art and its function within various societies (i.e., changing critical standards and the cultural context in which art has been made) its relationship to literature, philosophy, science, economics, and the role of an individual.

**IV. Content Outline:** Art and visual culture are presented in a combination of thematic and chronological formats.

**V. Instructional activities:** On site lectures and on site discussions. Short essays are assigned to enforce an active learning through critical thinking about the addressed issues, and to reinforce the analytic skills taught in other general Humanities and Western Civilization courses.

**VI. Field and Clinical Experience:** The class will take full advantage of the sites and exhibitions in Prague and excursions in the Czech Republic.

**VII. Resources:** Sites (galleries, museums, etc.) in Czech Republic).

**VIII. Grading Procedures:** This course maintains high academic standards by requiring the successful completion of the following:

Three essay exams at 100 pts each (two midterms and final)

The exams focus on the demonstration of the ability to analyze and synthesize the acquired knowledge in broader terms, as well as on the demonstration of objective knowledge: recognition and identification of major works of art or artists, styles, artists' methods and materials, and general terminology (Issues from your assigned readings as indicated below on syllabus may appear on the exams even if not specifically discussed in the class, e.g., terminology, definitions, etc)

The exams will be based on readings, discussions, and lectures and the available sites. They are designed to show the students' thorough knowledge of the material. The specific nature of individual exams will be discussed in class. Active participation in the class.

**IX. Attendance Policy:** ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED (as per the policies of KIIS programs)

**X. Academic Honesty Policy:** All work must be student's own work. "Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's material as his own) or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other examinations, assignments, reports, or term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were the student's own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place." [see Undergraduate Bulletin] Violation of academic standards and University policy will result in automatic failure of the course.

**XI. Text and Resources:** No required text

**XII. Prerequisites:** none