

CULTURE IN THE WESTERN TRADITION (HIS 302)

Dr. Louis Shwartz

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Room 202 ~ 8:05 to 9:25

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Office hours by appointment.

Course Description

This course explores visual art and material culture as a revealing window to the past and includes detailed presentations on the various forms of Western architecture, painting, sculpture, metalwork, tapestries, book-making, manuscript illumination, theater, opera, dance, fashion, and much more! Included in the course are research tutorials at KSU's Hale Library and KU's Watson Library which help students build annotated bibliographies, along with a visit to the Spencer Rare Book Room to view its ancient, medieval, and renaissance manuscript holdings.

Evaluation Criteria

Compositions – 25%

Periodically, students will compose brief essays responding to questions inspired by the various works of art viewed and discussed during class meetings.

Annotated Bibliography and Prospectus – 45%

Students will access, either individually or during scheduled class visits, the holdings of Kansas State University's Hale Library and Kansas University's Watson Library in order to compose an annotated bibliography on a topic of their choosing, along with a prospective plan for additional research and writing. The topic must be approved in advance by the professor. Each bibliography should examine a minimum of five scholarly sources, including at least one peer-reviewed journal article. Specific guidelines for this assignment are discussed on a separate handout.

Midterm & Final Exam – 30%

Students respond, in essay format, to a single broad question which probes the relations between beauty and art, civilization and culture, reality and appearance.

DATE	PRESENTATION TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT DUE
T 1/16	Introduction & Ancient Egypt	
R 1/18	Ancient Greece	
T 1/23	Jews, Jerusalem, and the Holy Land	
R 1/25	Grandeur of Pagan Rome	
T 1/30	Byzantine Architecture	
R 2/1	Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts	Composition #1
T 2/6	Bayeux Tapestry	
R 2/8	Relics and Pilgrimage	
T 2/13	Romanesque and Gothic Churches	
R 2/15	Chartres Cathedral	
T 2/27	Renaissance Art and Architecture	Composition #2
R 2/29	Medici Treasures	
T 3/5	MIDTERM	
R 3/7	Shakespeare, Othello: Part 1	
T 3/12	Shakespeare, Othello: Part 2	
R 3/14	Shakespeare, Othello: Part 3	
T 3/19	Baroque Art and Classicism	Composition #3
R 3/21	Splendor of Versailles	
T 4/9	Molière, Tartuffe: Part 1	
R 4/11	Molière, Tartuffe: Part 2	
T 4/16	Clothing & Fashion	Composition #4

R 4/18	Mozart, Marriage of Figaro: Part 1	
T 4/23	Mozart, Marriage of Figaro: Part 2	
R 4/25	Impressionism, Rococo, Realism, Surrealism	Composition #5
T 4/30	Tchaikovsky, Sleeping Beauty: Part 1	
R 5/2	Tchaikovsky, Sleeping Beauty: Part 2	BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE
T 5/7	Evolution of Warfare	

LIBRARY RESEARCH TRIPS

KU Watson Library and Spencer Rare Book Collection in Lawrence, KS – Saturday, 2/10

KSU Hale Library in Manhattan, KS – Saturday, 3/2

RECORDED ON-STAGE PERFORMANCES

Shakespeare's *Othello*

performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company, directed by Trevor Nunn, 1989.

Molière's *Tartuffe*

performed by la Compagnie Colette Roumanoff, directed by Colette Roumanoff, 2017.

Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*

performed by the Orchestra of Teatro alla Scala, directed by Giorgio Strehler, 2006.

Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty*

performed by the Kirov Ballet, directed by Oleg Vinogradov, 1990.