

# CULTURAL HISTORY IN THE WESTERN TRADITION (HIS 302)

Dr. Louis Shwartz

lshwartz@smac.edu

Room 302 ~ Monday / Tuesday / Thursday ~ 11:30 to 12:20

*Office hours by appointment.*

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## Course Description

This course explores art and material culture as revealing windows into the past through detailed presentations on various forms of architecture, painting, sculpture, metalwork, tapestries, book-making, manuscript illumination, opera, dance, fashion, propaganda, advertising, and film! Emphasis falls on the historical context surrounding major artistic and cultural developments in the Western tradition. Additionally, research tutorials at KSU's Hale Library and KU's Watson Library help each student prepare a prospectus and annotated bibliography in anticipation of the Senior Thesis.

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## Evaluation Criteria

### *Compositions – 30%*

Periodically, students will compose brief essays responding to questions inspired by the various works of art viewed and discussed during class meetings. Length = ~500 words.

### *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 in a separate handout. **Due 3/26.**

### *Midterm – 8% & Final Exam – 17%*

Students respond, in essay format, to broad questions which probes the relations between art and truth, artist and audience, message and medium, symbols and significance.

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DATE

PRESENTATION TOPIC

ASSIGNMENT DUE

DATE	PRESENTATION TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT DUE
M 1/12	<b>Introduction &amp; Distribute Materials</b>	
T 1/13	<b>Art, Artist &amp; Audience: Form &amp; Function</b>	Reading Questions
R 1/15	<b>Transmitting Culture: Tradition &amp; History</b>	Reading Questions
M 1/19	<b>Monumental Architecture &amp; Empire: Ancient Egypt</b>	
T 1/20	<b>Greek Culture, the Polis &amp; Civic Pride</b>	
R 1/22	<b>City of Rome: Cultural Center of the Ancient World</b>	
M 1/26	<b>Cult &amp; Culture: the Jews before Jesus Christ</b>	
T 1/27	<b>Fusion of Christianity &amp; Imperial Rome: Byzantium</b>	
R 1/29	<b>Enculturation of Barbarians: Liturgical Manuscripts</b>	Composition #1
M 2/2	<b>Feudal Society &amp; the Bayeux Tapestry</b>	
T 2/3	<b>Relics, Pilgrimage &amp; Medieval Spirituality</b>	
R 2/5	<b>The Medieval Church: Romanesque &amp; Gothic</b>	
M 2/9	<b>Chartres Cathedral &amp; Catechetical Art: Sculpture</b>	
T 2/10	<b>Chartres Cathedral &amp; Catechetical Art: Stained Glass</b>	
R 2/12	<b>Education, Lay Piety &amp; the Bible</b>	
M 2/16	<b>Medieval Science in a Book of Hours</b>	
T 2/17	<b>Renaissance Shift: Technique, Proportion, Perspective</b>	Composition #2
R 2/19	<b>Glorification of Man: High Renaissance Humanism</b>	
M 3/2	<b>Artistic Patronage: Treasures of the Medici Family</b>	
T 3/3	<b>MIDTERM</b>	
R 3/5	<b>Printing Press, Propaganda &amp; Protestantism</b>	
M 3/9	<b>Portraiture, Individualism &amp; Early Modern Europe</b>	

T 3/10	<b>Triumph of Baroque: Emotion &amp; Expression</b>	
R 3/12	<b>Responses to Baroque: Classicism &amp; Rococo</b>	
M 3/16	<b>Ideal of Monarchy: the Dream World of Versailles</b>	
T 3/17	<b>Enlightenment Critique: Marriage of Figaro 1</b>	
R 3/19	<b>Mozart's Marriage of Figaro 2</b>	
M 3/23	<b>Mozart's Marriage of Figaro 3</b>	
T 3/24	<b>Mozart's Marriage of Figaro 4</b>	
R 3/26	<b>Mozart's Marriage of Figaro 5</b>	Bibliography Due
M 4/13	<b>Dissatisfaction with Absolutism: the Fate of Versailles</b>	
T 4/14	<b>Stability amidst Upheaval: Persistent Classicism</b>	Composition #3
R 4/16	<b>Fashion: Displaying Social Status</b>	
M 4/20	<b>Romantic Reaction to Rationalism</b>	
T 4/21	<b>Romanticism &amp; Ballet: Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake</b>	
R 4/23	<b>Swan Lake 2</b>	
M 4/27	<b>Swan Lake 3</b>	
T 4/28	<b>Modern Art: Realism, Impressionism, Subjectivism</b>	Composition #4
R 4/30	<b>Judging Bad Art: Surrealism</b>	
M 5/4	<b>Film Propaganda &amp; Nazi Nationalism</b>	
T 5/5	<b>Advertising &amp; Consumer Culture: Cigarettes</b>	
R 5/7	<b>Creating &amp; Transmitting Culture in the 21st Century</b>	
M 5/11	<b>Preserving Catholic Culture in a Secular World</b>	
T 5/12	<b>Review</b>	

## HIS 302 – Composition Assignments

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#1 – What role did monumental architecture play throughout the ancient world?

*Due 1/29*

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#2 – Why does symbolic imagery abound in medieval art?

*Due 2/17*

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#3 – In what ways does Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* anticipate Enlightenment critiques of traditional European social structures?

*Due 4/14*

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# 4 – Why might Swan Lake be considered an example of Romantic Art?

*Due 4/28*

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### Composition Grading Criteria: Qualities of an “A” Essay

- Clearly frames an ARGUABLE ASSERTION in the introductory paragraph;
  - Logically structures the essay;
  - Discusses specific works of art and details in relation to the essay question;
  - Explores the connections between form and content, art and audience, message and medium.
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# HIS 302 – Annotated Bibliography and Prospectus Guidelines

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## Annotated Bibliography:

- Provides Chicago-style citations;
  - Surveys a minimum of five scholarly works, two of which must be journal articles while another two must be monographs;
  - Develops a paragraph-length summary of each work's content, central claim, and contributions to the field of study.
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## Prospectus:

- Outlines a topic suitable for the Senior Thesis;
  - Explores the relations between entries in the Annotated Bibliography;
  - Identifies different scholarly approaches to the topic;
  - Proposes a plan for future research and key areas of interest;
  - Sets necessary limits on the scope of the project;
  - Discusses connections between the proposed topic and classes at SMC.
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## LIBRARY RESEARCH TRIPS

KU Watson Library and Rare Books in Lawrence, KS – Saturday, **Feb. 14** from 9:30am to 5pm

KSU Hale Library in Manhattan, KS – Saturday, **Feb. 21** from 1pm to 5pm

## RECORDED ON-STAGE PERFORMANCES

Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*

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

Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*

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

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## HIS 302 – Summary of Key Course Policies

- 1.) Students are required to attend all classes and library visits.
- 2.) Students can miss one lecture during the semester without penalty or need to present an excuse.
- 3.) To be excused from subsequent classes without penalty, students should present a doctor's note or approval from the Dean (forwarded emails are fine).
- 4.) To be excused from a library visit, students must present a written request to the professor, outlining the pressing reasons and plans to make up the visit individually.
- 5.) An unexcused absence will likely result in a small penalty deducted from the overall course grade at the end of the semester.
- 6.) For Composition assignments, a penalty may be assessed for late submissions, subject to the discretion of the professor, but no greater than 10% per week.