



COURSE OUTLINE

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

The course provides a survey of Western Art and Architecture concentrating on the Gothic and Renaissance styles. Students learn to analyse images stylistically and historically and examples are chosen to reflect the rich artistic and architectural heritage of Oxford and its surroundings.

The small group seminars are supported by individual tutorials designed to allow students to express their own responses and tastes. Extensive use is made of slides and photographs and the more formal teaching is supported by regular visits to places of architectural interest, museums and galleries. Each student is encouraged to lead a verbal presentation of approximately 10 minutes on a pre-arranged topic. By the end of the course students will have learned a pictorial and architectural language which will equip them to observe and write about images, and also to speak about them in a professional manner.

Visual analysis of style

1. Visual Analysis of Style. How to look at images from the flat style of the Middle Ages to the 3-D images of the Italian Renaissance, and the return to the flat style of the early 20th Century.
2. The classical architectural language of Ancient Greece.
3. Roman architecture and sculpture.
4. The Church Triumphant; Europe in the 13th and 14th centuries.
5. The Courtly Art of the 15th Century: International Gothic.
6. The impact of the Italian Renaissance: The Conquest of Reality.
7. Tradition and Innovation: The Northern European Renaissance.
8. The High Renaissance: Leonardo da Vinci.
9. The majestic style of Michelangelo.
10. Review and conclusions.

Course Aims

To raise awareness of the significant styles and characteristics of Western Art and the richness and complexity of our architectural heritage.

Objectives

To gain awareness of the pictorial and architectural language of Western culture.

To understand how to recognise and differentiate between different styles and forms.

To present the knowledge and understanding acquired in a lucid and professional manner.

Outcomes

To be able to demonstrate knowledge of the pictorial and architectural language of art and architecture, both verbally and in written form.

Assessment Process

Students typically complete three essays and one presentation per term in addition to regular classwork and private study assignments. These marks as a whole, combined with an assessment of student performance in class, make up the final grade for the course, as shown. Sample essay questions are included below; test questions will normally consist of the analysis of artistic images, similar to those set by Advanced Level examination boards.

Grade breakdown

- 40% Essays
- 40% Tests
- 15% Class participation
- 5% Attendance

Example Essay Questions

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of looking at original artworks in a gallery, as opposed to viewing them in reproduction?
2. Take two images of your choice, one from the Gothic period and one from the Renaissance, and analyse them in terms of pictorial style and meaning.
3. Why is Michelangelo regarded as a High Renaissance artist?

Assessment Criteria

DISTINCTION Grade A	Student has highly developed understanding of a wide range of artistic and architectural concepts, and a sophisticated ability to communicate that information both orally and in written form.
CREDIT Grade B	Student understands wide range of artistic and architectural concepts, and has clear ability to communicate that information both orally and in written form.
MERIT Grade C	Student understands range of artistic and architectural concepts, and has sound ability to communicate that information both orally and in written form.
PASS Grade D	Student understands basic artistic and architectural concepts, and some ability to communicate that information both orally and in written form.
FAIL	None of the criteria listed above followed

Recommended Reading

<i>The Story of Art:</i>	E.H Gombrich	ISBN: 0714832472
<i>Learning to look at Paintings:</i>	M Acton	ISBN: 0415148901
<i>The Story of Architecture:</i>	P. Nuttgens	ISBN: 0714836168
<i>A World History of Art</i>	Hugh Honour and John Fleming	ISBN: 1856694518

If you are unable to obtain books locally, they may be ordered from

<http://www.bookshop.blackwell.co.uk>