

John Abbott College
Arts, Literature and Communication Program

Universe of the Arts 1 **From Pre-History to Renaissance**

Tuesday and Thursday 1230-230/230-430
Room HA 003



502-UNA-AB, section 05 ad 06
Ponderation: 4-0-3 (lecture-lab-homework)
2.33 credits

Teacher: **Meredith Browne**
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Phone: (514)457-6610 x5140
Contact me through MIO (checked daily M-F)
Office hours: Wed.10-1230, 230-330 and Fri. 230-3
Also by appointment or chance

054P *Apply methods suited to the study of arts, literature and communication;*

054Q *Explain the basic characteristics of art, literature and communication;*

054R *Explain national cultural issues;*

054T *Appreciate contemporary cultural diversity*

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

The Universe of the Arts is a three-semester introduction to the major artistic and literary currents in the world from prehistoric cave painting to the present. The courses also introduce students to cultural institutions and their role in the world of the arts. As well, these courses are intended to help develop the senses and the sensibility concerning contemporary art and cultural institutions.

The purpose of these courses is to serve as the cornerstone for further studies and for future creative work. Students will use the knowledge and skills acquired in this course to contextualize their subsequent academic and/or creative work.

* Students must pass Universe of the Arts I and II in order to register for Universe III.

**** Comprehensive Assessment:** In their graduating semester, students will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and the abilities acquired in the various courses related to their option in the ALC program. This Comprehensive Assessment, linked to the Integrating Activity course, will allow students to show how they have mastered the different goals of the program, and express how their studies have influenced their artistic and/or academic outlooks. Students must successfully pass the Comprehensive Assessment in order to receive a DEC in the ALC program.

**** Certificates:** If you are interested in the Peace Studies, Women and Gender Studies or the Aboriginal Studies Certificates this course can count towards them.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students will begin to:

- 1. 054P Apply methods suited to the study of arts, literature and communication.**
 - 1.1 Identify the characteristics of a cultural object.
 - 1.2 Document a cultural object.
 - 1.3 Define a problem to be studied.
 - 1.4 Produce a piece of written work.
 - 1.5 Present results.

- 2. 054Q Explain the basic characteristics of art, literature and communication.**
 - 2.1 Situate key periods or movements.
 - 2.2 Make connections with social and cultural changes.
 - 2.3 Compare cultural objects both synchronously and diachronously.

- 3. 054R Explain national cultural issues.**
 - 3.1 Recognize heritage elements reflected in national contemporary culture.
 - 3.2 Define the influence of cultural stakeholders.
 - 3.3 Comment on a cultural issue.

- 4. 054T Appreciate contemporary cultural diversity.**
 - 4.1 Recognize cultural diversity in the world.
 - 4.2 Contextualize cultural objects.
 - 4.3 Compare cultural objects from here and elsewhere.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Humanistic Tradition, by Gloria Fiero (any edition). Books: 1, 2, and 3 (*part 1*). Previous (used) editions of the textbook are acceptable.

:: Always bring the textbook with you to class ::

CONTENT (TENTATIVE SCHEDULE BELOW)

This course will introduce students to artistic and literary currents from the prehistoric times to the renaissance. This course will focus on experiencing the arts and understanding the role of cultural institutions. This course will also introduce students to academic research methods. Following the division of the textbook, we will divide the course in three parts:

1. First, we will explore the birth of civilizations and the early attempts of humans at creating (and passing along) a culture of their own, from prehistory to antiquity;
2. Second, we will see how the Middle Ages, the so-called “dark ages,” were far from being uneventful, on the cultural and political level;
3. Last, we will uncover the great turmoil unleashed by the Renaissance on the artistic and social structures inherited from our ancestors.

WEEK			READINGS (CHAPTERS)
Aug. 21	Presentation	Prehistory	Introduction
Aug. 28	Mesopotamia	Egypt and Africa	1, 2
Sept. 4	Egypt and Africa	Egypt / Ancient Greece	2, 4
Sept. 11	Ancient Greece	The Classical Style	4, 5
Sept. 18	The Classical Style	The Roman Empire	5, 6
Sept. 22	The Roman Empire	The World in Antiquity	6, 3, 7
Sept. 25	Faith and Art/Review	Mid-Term Exam	8, 9
Oct. 9	Faiths / The Islamic World	The Islamic World	9, 10
Oct. 16	The Middle Ages	The Middle Ages	11, 12
Oct. 23	The Middle Ages	The Middle Ages	12, 13
Oct. 30	The World in the Middle Ages	14 th Century Transition	14, 15
Nov. 6	Humanism	Humanism	16
Nov. 13	Renaissance	Renaissance	16, 17
Nov. 20	Renaissance	Renaissance	17
Nov. 27	Review	Final Exam	

METHODS

To understand how art opens a window on the cultures and societies of the past, we will use, as a complement to the textbook, a mix of lectures, presentations, classroom discussions (in small and large groups), and various (in class and out of class) activities. Since cultural events may take place in the evening, students should be prepared to attend on weekday evenings and/or weekends, in groups or on their own. I will be using slides in my lectures, and will make them available on the class website. There will also be study help and things related to the course (fun stuff!) on the website.

I make the commitment to always come to class on time and well prepared, and I ask that you do the same. This means you will have done the required assignments and readings, and you will be ready to discuss them in class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students' regular, active presence is vital to success in the course: Students missing more than 8 hours without legitimate cause (legitimate means medical, serious family problems and/or legal reasons) and proof may fail this course.

EVALUATION PLAN

No supplementary work will be assigned: make sure you complete all the work, taking it seriously. Do not hesitate to consult with the professor if you have questions.

Quizzes and Short Assignments – 40% *Objectives 1.1, 2.1, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3*

There will be at least 10 opportunities to do in-class quizzes, and short assignments (in class and outside of class) worth 5% each. The best 8 will count. There will be a visit to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Exams – 40% *Objectives 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.3, 4.2, 4.3*

There will be 2 exams throughout the semester, testing your knowledge of the material acquired in section of the course.

Mid-semester exam (20%) occurs week 7 and Final Exam (20%) occurs week 15

Research – 20% *Objectives: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3*

You will be required to complete a research assignment. In-class and outside of class assignments will prepare you for this project. Will include an annotated bibliography 10% due week 6 and an essay 10% due week 9.

COURSE COSTS

Other than the required textbook (118.95\$), this course does not entail any additional costs. The visit at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts will focus on the free-access collections. You can get there on public transit.

COLLEGE POLICIES

Changes to Evaluation Plan in Course Outline (Article 4.3)

Changes to the evaluation plan, during the semester, requires unanimous consent.

Mid-Semester Assessment MSA (Article 3.3)

Students will receive an MSA in accordance with College procedures.

Religious Holidays (Article 3.2)

Students who wish to observe religious holidays must inform their teacher in writing within the first two weeks of the semester of their intent.

Student Rights and Responsibilities It is the responsibility of students to keep all assessed material returned to them in the event of a grade review. (The deadline for a Grade Review is 4 weeks after the start of the next regular semester.)

Students have the right to receive the results of evaluation, for regular day division courses, within two weeks. For evaluations at the end of the semester/course, the results must be given to the student by the grade submission deadline.

Cheating and Plagiarism (Article 8.1 & 8.2)

Cheating and plagiarism are serious infractions against academic integrity which is highly valued at the College; they are unacceptable at John Abbott College. Students are expected to conduct themselves accordingly and must be responsible for all of their actions.

Cheating

Cheating means any dishonest or deceptive practice relative to examinations, tests, quizzes, lab assignments, research papers or other forms of evaluation tasks. Cheating includes, but is not restricted to, making use of or being in possession of, unauthorized material or devices and/or obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance in writing examinations, papers or any other evaluation task and submitting the same work in more than one course without the teacher's permission. It is incumbent upon the Department through the teacher to ensure students are forewarned about unauthorized material, devices or practices that are not permitted.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It includes the intentional copying or paraphrasing (expressing the ideas of someone else in one's own words) of another person's work **or** the use of another person's work or ideas without acknowledgement of its source. Plagiarism can be from any source including books, magazines, electronic or photographic media or another student's paper or work.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR LEARNING DISABILITIES

Students with documented learning disabilities or who suspect they may have a learning disability or other impairment are encouraged to discuss possible accommodations with the JAC Learning Center and the instructor.

COURSE POLICIES

Learning environment: As young adults, you are expected to be respectful towards the instructor and your classmates. No racist, sexist, homophobic or otherwise hateful comments will be tolerated. Neither is there any room for disruptive behaviour (texting,, sleeping, talking when someone else has the floor, etc.). Seating arrangements will be changed throughout the semester to facilitate discussion, etc.

Punctuality: You are expected to arrive to class on time. This is a matter of elementary respect for your classmates and for the instructor. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Once the class has started, you are asked not to leave the classroom unless there is an emergency.

Technology: When you are in class, you are expected not to be virtually somewhere else. To avoid temptation, please switch off phones and other devices and keep them out of sight. Those using phones in class are asked to leave and marked absent.

Late assignments: Late assignments will be accepted with a 10% penalty for each day late (weekends count as 1 day). All assignments are due at the beginning of class and must be printed out unless otherwise stated in advance. No late assignment will be accepted once the instructor has handed back the graded assignments to the group.

Exams: An absence during an exam or quiz will result in a zero, unless arrangements have been made with the instructor in advance, or in the case of a serious emergency, backed up with appropriate documentation.