

## UMBC UGC New Course Request: ART216 – Studies in Visual Culture (Prehistory through the 1750s)

Date Submitted: 16 November 2009

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2010

	name	email	phone	dept
dept chair	Vincent E. Grabill	grabill@umbc.edu	X52150	VisualArts
contact	Preminda Jacob	<a href="mailto:premindajacob@umbc.edu">premindajacob@umbc.edu</a>	X53716	VisualArts

### COURSE INFORMATION:

course number(s)	ART 216
formal title	Studies in Visual Culture (Prehistory through the 1750s)
transcript title (≤24c)	Studies in Vis. Culture
prerequisite	N/A
credits	3
max. repeat credits	0
grading method(s)	X Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail

### PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course engages students in a focused study of six or seven specific, momentous periods in the history of world art dating from prehistory to the mid-eighteenth century. The selection of topics will be determined by the particular organizing principle adopted by the course instructor. For example, the organizing principle could be that of medium (architecture, painting, sculpture, decorative arts); of belief systems (religion, philosophy); of patronage; or of prevailing technological inventions and discoveries. By studying selected moments in the history of world art in some depth, students will gain an awareness of how art objects and visual culture both shape and represent societies and their histories.

### RATIONALE FOR NEW COURSE:

- The course content – prehistory to the mid-eighteenth century — works better with the rest of the art history curriculum. We cover the art from the 1750s to the present in four separate 300 level courses (ART 321, ART 323, ART 328 and ART 329).
- Traditionally, in universities that include a department of art history, the art history survey is taught as a combination of large lectures delivered by a faculty member with break out discussion groups conducted by graduate students. Since we do not have a masters program in art history at UMBC we have had to choose between breadth and depth. We have opted for depth as we believe this will better prepare visual art majors with a framework for further research in their field.
- The capacity for ART 216 will be limited to 40 students enabling opportunities for discussion, student presentations of research and an increased emphasis on written responses to course material.

### ATTACH COURSE OUTLINE:

1. Sample set of topics (with architecture and the built environment as the organizing principle):

1. Early Neolithic Cities
2. The Pyramid Complexes of Ancient Egypt
3. The Athenian Agora and the Acropolis
4. The Gothic Cathedral
5. Rome in the Renaissance and Baroque periods
6. Islamic Architecture of the Caliphate Period
7. The Great Zimbabwe urban center

2. Sample set of topics (with painting and sculpture as the organizing principle):

1. Cave Art
2. Painting and Sculpture of the Roman Empire
3. Early Christian Illuminated Manuscripts
4. Italian Painting of the Thirteenth through the Sixteenth Centuries
5. Northern Renaissance and Baroque painting
6. Mughal and Rajput miniature painting in India
7. Landscape and Court painting in China

ART 216– Sec. 0101  
UMBC, SPRING 2010  
Tues- Thurs.: 1 - 2:15 PM  
PUP - Room 105

*Professor: Dr. PREMINDA JACOB*  
*Office & Ext :FA#330B; X53716*  
*E-mail: PremindaJacob@umbc.edu*  
*Office Hours: Tues/Thurs.: 11:30-12:30*  
*& by appointment.*

## **ART 216 – Studies in Visual Culture (Pre-history to the present)**

To participate fully in this course **you must access the online component** of this class at <http://blackboard.umbc.edu>

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Through a focused study of eight to twelve momentous periods in the history of world art students will gain insight on the role of visual culture within a social network and its connections to the philosophical traditions, the economic relations and political structure of a given society. As well, students will learn to interpret the links between cultural production and the geography, environment, technology and history of a region.

Traditionally, the survey of world art course attempts to briefly highlight as many masterpieces and monuments from the history of art as possible within a given semester. Instead, by studying a few selected periods in depth students in this course will gain a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the *context* of art works. This theoretical and interpretive approach to art history is termed ‘studies in visual culture.’

The selection of historical periods that will be studied in any a given semester will be determined by the particular organizing principle adopted by the course instructor. For example, the organizing principle could be that of belief systems (religion or philosophy), of patronage systems, or of prevailing technological inventions and discoveries.

The organizing principle for this semester will be that of belief systems. Through a series of comparisons across time periods or geographical regions we will examine how similar attitudes and belief systems produce similarities in visual culture.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVE**

By studying these selected moments in the history of world art in some depth students will gain an awareness of how art objects and visual culture both represent *and* shape societies and their histories.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Assignments**

#### **1. Required Reading Assignments** for each class are from:

Sayre, Henry M. *The Humanities. Culture, Continuity and Change*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2008. The book is ON RESERVE at the Library.

There are six books in this volume. This semester students are required to purchase only 3 of those books:

**Book 1:** *The Ancient World and the Classical Past: Prehistory to 200 CE* (Chapters 1 to 8)  
ISBN: 13:9780130862624

**Book 2:** *Medieval Europe and the Shaping of World Cultures: 200 CE to 1400* (Chapters 9 to 16)  
ISBN: 13:9780130862631

**Book 4:** *Excess, Inquiry and Restraint: 1600 to 1800* (Chapters 25 to 32)  
ISBN: 13:9780130862679

**2. Writing Assignments** will consist of **six short papers**, of 2 pages (500 words) each. You will be required to base each paper on an artwork of your choice selected from the works covered during the class lecture and discussion for a given bi-weekly period.

The objective of this assignment is to develop your powers of observation, description and analysis in writing about art.

These assignments will be due one week after the completion of a given topic (see Course Schedule for due dates).

Your final grade for this component of the course will be based on the best results of 5 out of the 6 papers.

**3. Quizzes:** Throughout the semester I will test your preparedness for class and your knowledge of the material through the medium of **short quizzes that will be given at the beginning of EVERY CLASS**. The duration of each quiz will be between 5 to 8 minutes. Your final grade for this component of the course will be based on the best results of 25 out of 28 quizzes. There are no-make-ups available for these in-class quizzes.

**4. Final Exam:** During the exam week you will take a final, **cumulative** exam based on the material we covered this semester. For this exam you will be required to provide short answers to a total of ten to fifteen questions.

**5. Group Presentation:** Students will work in teams of 3 students per team to deliver a 15-minute oral presentation during the semester on a topic that I shall assign to each team.

### **Weighted Components of the Final Grade**

- Quiz tests 40%
- Final cumulative exam 10%
- Papers – 40%
- Group presentation — 10%

### **Extra Credit Option (Maximum 10 points)**

The points you earn for these options will be added to your **total computed** grade for the course.

- **Museum Visits:** Through out the semester I will specify short projects that will require you to visit museums in Baltimore and Washington DC to directly encounter the works of art that we study this semester.

- **Draft & revise.** If you take a draft of your paper to the Writing Center and then discuss the paper with me during my office hours you can gain one extra credit point. You may do this for every paper if you wish and gain a total of 7 extra credit points.
- **Write responses to the recommended reading assignments; the recommended videos and films; or comment on a cultural event you attended on campus (artist's talk; performance event, art exhibition)** and post your commentary on the assigned forum on the Discussion Board in Blackboard. The commentaries should be posted within a two-week period after the related course material was covered in class. I expect the commentaries to be a minimum of **300 words** in length. (1.0 point for each entry)

## COURSE POLICIES

- Attendance: Take responsibility for your education! Attend class regularly and be punctual.
- There are no opportunities to make-up the in-class quizzes. Some material covered in the lectures is not in your textbook, but you will be responsible for this material for the tests.
- NO INCOMPLETES will be given for this course.
- Late submissions of paper assignments: you will lose 5.0 points for each day that the assignment is delayed.
- Note on Academic Integrity  
"By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC's scholarly community in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they are wrong. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, suspension or dismissal. To read the full Student Academic Conduct Policy, consult the UMBC Student Handbook."

### **Tips for successfully completing the course**

1. I am available at any time during this semester to help you to succeed in this course so try to schedule a meeting with me at least once during the semester.
2. Don't be shy! If you are experiencing difficulty with the material covered in class or in the textbook inform me as soon as possible.
3. Complete the reading assignments regularly so that you keep up with the course material.
4. Take a draft of your research paper to the Writing Center (located in the basement of the library) for editorial advice on how to strengthen your writing skills. (The Writing Center sends me a note about your visit so that I can keep a record of the students who have taken the additional effort on their papers).
5. Bring a draft of the research paper to me prior to the due date so that I can give you some feedback on how to improve the paper.
6. Take advantage of some or all of the extra credit options – these points could be pivotal in your achieving a higher grade in the course.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

1. Thurs. **01/28:**      **Introduction to the course:**  
(i)      Review the syllabus - Course goals, policies & expectations.

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### **TOPIC 1 : THE VISUAL CULTURE OF DEMOCRATIC IDEALS**

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2. Tues.. **02/02:**      **Book 1** – *Rise of Greek City States* (pp. 159-187) – part 1
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3. Thurs. **02/04:**      **Book 1** – *Rise of Greek City States* (pp. 159-187) – part 2
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4. Tues. **02/09:**      **Book 1** – *Golden Age – Athens* (pp. 188-232) – part 1  
**Last day to register/add a class**
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5. Thurs. **02/11:**      **Book 1** – *Golden Age – Athens* (pp. 188-232) – part 2
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6. Tues. **02/16:**      **Book 4** – *Rights of Man: Revolution in America* (pp. 980-1010) – part 1
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7. Thurs. **02/18:**      **Book 4** – *Rights of Man: Revolution in America* (pp. 980-1010) – part 2

**Paper 1 due today. Upload a Word or pdf document on Blackboard by 11:59 PM**

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8. Tues. **02/23:**      **Book 4** – *Culture of Change in France: Neoclassicism and Revolution*  
(pp. 1010-1040) – part 1
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9. Thurs. **02/25:**      **Book 4** – *Culture of Change in France: Neoclassicism and Revolution*  
(pp. 1010-1040) – part 2

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### **TOPIC 2 : THE VISUAL CULTURE OF THE JUDAEO-CHRISTIAN TRADITION**

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10. Thurs. **03/02:**      **Book 1** – *Mesopotamia: Power & Social Order in the Fertile Crescent*  
(pp. 35-72) – part 1
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11. Thurs. **03/04:**      **Book 1** – *Mesopotamia: Power & Social Order in the Fertile Crescent*  
(pp. 35-72) – part 2

**Paper 2 due today. Upload a Word or pdf document on Blackboard by 11:59 PM**

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12. Tues. 03/09: **Book 1** – *Rise and Spread of Islam: A New Religion* (pp. 337-370) – part 1

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13. Thurs. 3/11: **Book 1** – *Rise and Spread of Islam: A New Religion* (pp. 337-370) – part 2

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**SPRING BREAK ( MARCH 13-21)**

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14. Tues. 3/23: **Book 2** – *Romanesque Tradition: Pilgrimage & Crusade* (pp. 405-432) – part 1

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15. Thurs. 3/25: **Book 2** – *Romanesque Tradition: Pilgrimage & Crusade* (pp. 405-432) – part 2

**Paper 3 due today. Upload a Word or pdf document on Blackboard by 11:59 PM**

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16. Tues. 3/30: **Book 2** – *Gothic Style: Truth & Knowledge in an Age of Inquiry* (pp. 433-458) – part 1

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17. Thurs. 4/01: **Book 2** – *Gothic Style: Truth & Knowledge in an Age of Inquiry* (pp. 433-458) – part 2

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**TOPIC 3 : EASTERN & WESTERN WORLDVIEWS AND THEIR CONFRONTATION**

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18. Tues. 4/06: **Book 1** – *China, India and Africa: Early Civilizations* (pp. 107-132) – part 1

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19. Thurs. 4/08: **Book 1** – *China, India and Africa: Early Civilizations* (pp. 107-132) – part 2

**Paper 4 due today. Upload a Word or pdf document on Blackboard by 11:59 PM**

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20. Tues. 4/13: **Book 2** – *China, India, Japan, Africa and the Americas before 1400* (pp. 497-536) – part 1

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21. Thurs. 4/15: **Book 2** – *China, India, Japan, Africa and the Americas before 1400* (pp. 497-536) – part 2

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22. Tues. 4/20: **Book 2** – *Sienna & Florence in the Fourteenth Century. Toward a New Humanism* (pp. 459-498) – part 1

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23. Thurs. 4/22: **Book 2** – *Sienna & Florence in the Fourteenth Century. Toward a New Humanism* (pp. 459-498) – part 2

**Paper 5 due today. Upload a Word or pdf document on Blackboard by 11:59 PM**

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24. Tues. 4/27: **Book 4** – *Cross Cultural Encounter – Exploration & Trade* (pp. 950-980) – part 1

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25. Thurs. 4/29: **Book 4** – *Cross Cultural Encounter – Exploration & Trade* (pp. 950-980) – part 2

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**TOPIC 4 : THE VISUAL CULTURE OF IMPERIAL POWER**

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26. Tues. 5/04: **Book 1** – *Rome: Urban Life & Imperial Majesty* (pp. 233-276) – part 1

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27. Thurs. 5/06: **Book 1** – *Rome: Urban Life & Imperial Majesty* (pp. 233-276) – part 2

**Paper 6 due today. Upload a Word or pdf document on Blackboard by 11:59 PM**

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28. Tues. 5/11: **Book 4** – *Baroque in Italy: The Church & its Appeal* (pp. 800-830) – part 1

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29. Thurs. 5/13: **Book 4** – *Baroque in Italy: The Church & its Appeal* (pp. 800-830) – part 2

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**Monday 05/ 17: FINAL EXAM**

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