

LEARNING ART HISTORY THROUGH THE ART INSTITUTE

Sunday Afternoons, 1 to 4, March 29-June 7, 2009. All classes meet at the Art Institute, Michigan and Adams, at the front information desk. Be sure to be there early to get in line, check your coat, etc.

Welcome! Whether you already like art, or if you have never been to the Art Institute before, this class provides a great opportunity. The Art Institute of Chicago is one of the nation's finest art museums, and includes the largest collection of French Impressionist paintings outside of Paris, France. The museum offers wide opportunities for the study of art.

This course will study great works of art at the Art Institute from Greece and Rome right up to contemporary. Students will learn art history and how to study a painting as well as learning overall periods, styles and trends, as well as insights into the lives of the artists.

Students will also gain knowledge of the museum as a starting-off place for further studies. Students will learn how to look and see in more refined and informed ways, enjoy art on deeper levels, and understand the relationship of art and music in each period.

NOTE: The first class and all classes will meet at the Art Institute, Michigan and Adams, at the front information desk. There will be a classroom for us, but we will not go back to the classroom until we have been at the museum. Please be a little early at the Art Institute so you can check your book, coat, etc. and prepare to start the class on time.

Faculty: Joe Cunniff has led tours and classes at the Art Institute for any years. He is a much-experienced arts educator, writer, guide for the history art and architecture of Chicago, and an actor. He earned a Master's in Fine Arts and Interdisciplinary Learning, and has made 14 art study trips to Europe.

COMPETENCIES: A-1-C, A-1-D, A-1-X, A-3-D. Ask about possible negotiated competencies in the A, H, or F-X categories.

Learning Strategies: Class will walk through the Art Institute each week and be able to stand or sit down right in front of the masterpieces. The instructor will provide informal talks and stories on the paintings, which the class will learn about in terms of color, line, form, style, cultural background, and place in history.

The lives of the artists as well as the relationships of the paintings to music, history, and literature will be introduced. Question-and-answer sessions will be added to round-out and deepen knowledge.

Learning Tools: “The Basic History of Western Art” by Janson (Paperback, used O.K.). Handouts from instructor.

Evaluation: A course journal including notes on all classes plus notes on reading assignments and a short paper as discussed with instructor.

Topics and Time Framework:

Week One: Light and shadow in art, including El Greco’s “Assumption of the Virgin,” the School of Caravaggio, Caillebotte’s “Paris Street, Rainy Day,” Monet, Renoir, and the Impressionists. Introduction to the Thorne Miniature Rooms as means to study history and interior design.

Week Two: Greek and Roman roots. The Middle Ages. The “Flemish Primitives” and the beginnings of oil painting and the Renaissance.

Week Three: Transition to the Renaissance in Italy (Perugino, Ghirlandaio, Botticelli), Germany (Cranach), France (Jean Hey), the Master of Moulins), and Holland (van Oostanen, or Jacob of Amsterdam).

Week Four: Dutch scenes of everyday life in the 1600s. Jan Steen, Rembrandt. El Greco and Spain. Venice and its light. The Rococo, Tiepolo, travel painting, Guardi, Canaletto, and “vedute” (View) painting. Rosalba Carriera, transition to the Age of Mozart.

Week Five” From the Rococo to the Neo-Classical, and from the Age of Mozart to the Age of Beethoven. The French Rococo: Boucher, Watteau, and the animal painting of Oudry. Fragonard and “character painting.” Into the Age of Beethoven and Napoleon: Hubert Robert, Clodion, Houdon, Canova, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Mengs, David, Goya, Fuseli.

Week Six: Realism and Romanticism: Ingres, Constable, Turner, Delacroix, Gericault, Cordier, the Barbizon School, Millet, Corot; Courbet; Bouguereau and realism vs. the invention of the camera; Boudin, Monet, Manet.

Week Seven: Impressionism and Post-Impressionism: Monet, Sisley, Renoir, Morisot, Pissarro, Degas, Cezanne, Toulouse-Lautrec.

Week Eight: Post-Impressionism, Expressionism, Cubism, and developments in Abstract-Expressionism. Van Gogh, Gauguin, Picasso, Braque, Vlaminck and the “Fauves”(Wild Beasts), Matisse, Chagall, Kandinsky.

Week Nine: 20th Century, continues: Feininger, Beckmann, Klee, Jose Clemente Orozco, Grant Wood, Archibald Motley, Edward Hopper, Georgia O’Keeffe.

Week Ten: Cornell, Magritte, Blume, Jackson Pollack, Still, Rothko, and contemporary exhibits. Further trends in contemporary art, continuing points.

Evaluation Criteria and Evidence of Learning: Active and attentive participation in class—attending every class with good note-taking, is highly important. The major grade factors are active attendance; the

course journal, which includes class notes and book work; and a final short paper that will be discussed later on in class. Also see handout on competencies.

Expected Outcomes of the Course: As a result of this course, students will be able to evaluate a work of art in terms of style, form, color, relationship to culture, and personality of the artist. Each of the competencies will be carefully met, and students will gain a greatly enhanced ability to enjoy and appreciate art history, as well as how to use the Art Institute as a taking-off point for further studies.

This course will adhere to university policies on plagiarism, on incompletes, and in pursuing Vincentian goals. See in-class handout.

Note: For each class, please do not go to the classroom. We will begin each class at 1 p.m. at the Art Institute, Michigan and Adams, at the front information desk. Please get there early to check your coat and book, and take care of admission. Most students save on admission by buying a student membership or a family membership, which includes unlimited free admission for a year.

Enjoy this adventure, it will be a great one!

