

July, 2011

Dear AP Art History Students,

Hello, and welcome to Advanced Placement Art History for 2011 - 2012! I am very happy that you decided to take this exciting class for several reasons:

- There is much value to be found in discovering the relationship between art and the society in which it is made, throughout various cultures, and from ancient times up to the present age.
- There will be opportunities to make connections between history, geography, politics, religion, languages, literature and the visual arts that will increase your understanding of all of these subjects.
- There is a possibility that you will earn college credit if you receive a qualifying score on the AP Art History exam at the end of the year.
- The study of art history is not only interesting; it is fun!

Here is a list of two required assignments that are due on the first day of class.

Summer Assignments:

The primary text for this class is Gardner's Art Through the Ages, 12th edition which will be given out on the first day of class. However, I would like each student to purchase The Annotated Mona Lisa, by Carol Strickland. This entertaining book gives "a crash course in art history from Prehistoric to Post-Modern". It is a great way to become more familiar with some of the subjects and the specific language used in studying art history. The paperback book can be found at Borders and Barnes & Nobles for around \$20.00, or you can find a used copy on Amazon for less.

Assignment #1.

Read as much of the book, The Annotated Mona Lisa, by Carol Strickland, as you can (at least to page 65) and bring it to class on the first day.

How to Take Notes from Your Book or Textbook:

First: Read a section of your textbook chapter

- Read just enough to keep an understanding of the material. Do not take notes, but rather focus on understanding the material.

It is tempting to take notes as you are reading the first time, but this is not an efficient technique: you are likely to take down too much information and simply copy without understanding.

Second: Review the material

- Locate the main ideas, as well as important sub-points
- Set the book aside
- *Paraphrase this information: Putting the textbook information in your own words forces you to become actively involved with the material*

Third: write the paraphrased ideas as your notes

- Do not copy information directly from the textbook
- Add only enough detail to understand
- Review, and compare your notes with the text, and ask yourself if you truly understand

Please purchase a notebook, and take notes on what you have read. This will provide you with a good foundation for the beginning of class.

Assignment #2.

This assignment can be done entirely on the internet, though checking out books from your local library would work just as well. You will choose your own works to explore, but be sure to select works about which you can find plenty of information. NOTE: Several of the questions demand your personal interpretation and opinion; these questions draw from your analytical skills.

On the first day of school in September, bring your printed or photocopied pictures and responses to the following. Type your response in your own words. Number each item, and staple everything together in a single packet with your name on the top page. No covers or binders, please.

Find TWO works of art (painting and/or sculpture) by separate artists in separate centuries which depict subjects from Greek and Roman mythology. For each, select an individual work by a known artist, print or photocopy it, and answer the following questions.

Write in complete sentences, except for #1 & #10.

1. Identify the artist and work. Provide date, medium (oil paint, water color, tempera, pastel, stone, wood, etc.), and museum (if known).
2. Write a one- or two-paragraph biography of the artist.
3. Summarize in some detail the story being depicted.
4. Identify the moment being shown and explain why you think the artist chose that particular moment.
5. What visual details contribute to the work and its meaning?
6. What seems to be the artist's view of the event or of the major figure? How can you tell?
7. What theme about life or history is the artist conveying? Explain. If there is no overriding view of life, what seems to be the artist's purpose in creating the work? Explain.
8. What does the artist want you to feel or think? How does he do this?
9. Why did you choose this painting/sculpture? What attracts you to it?
10. List all your sources; for internet sources, write the website address.

Some good examples of art depicting Greek & Roman mythology:

(on internet, type the artist and title in your search engine)

Venus and Adonis, Bacchus and Ariadne, Diana & Callisto, Danae Receiving the Shower of Gold or Diana & Actaeon, by Titian (really, almost anything by Titian will work)

Daphne and Apollo or The Rape of Prosperina, Bernini Galatea by Raphael

Birth of Venus, Primavera or Venus and Mars by Botticelli

Allegory of the Outbreak of War, Judgment of Paris, or Castor and Pollux Seizing the Daughters of Leucippus, by Rubens

Return from Cythera, Watteau Cupid a Captive, by Boucher

The Cyclops, by Redon

Jupiter and Semele and Oedipus and the Sphinx, by Moreau

Narcissus, by Poussin

Rape of the Sabines, by Poussin (or the sculpture by Bologna)

The Sabine Women or Venus and Psyche, David Io and Zeus, by Correggio

Thetis and Jupiter, by Ingres

Sacrifice of Iphigenia, by Tiepolo

Saturn Devouring His Sons, by Goya

The Judgment of Paris, by Renoir

Metamorphosis of Narcissus, by Dali

Hero & Leander, by Turner

Echo and Narcissus, Jason and Medea, or Hylas and the Nymphs, by Waterhouse

There are hundreds more

*Sincerely,
Mrs. DelVallez*