

**Name:** Dr. Frank Schmitz

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**Course title:** From Ancient Sculpture to Action Painting: Art of the Western World

**Track:** B-Track

**Language of instruction:** English

**Contact hours:** 48 (6 per day)

**ECTS-Credits:** 4

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### **Course description**

Historical survey of ancient to contemporary Western Art including painting, sculpture, graphics and, for the modern and contemporary portions, photography, performance, video and other relevant media. The course will consider the historical context of art movements as well as explore the methods used to create art. We will discuss related issues such as the art market, and visit museums in Berlin.

Students will gain understanding of the development of art in the Western world and learn about the main art movements and the relevant artists from Antiquity and Romanesque, Gothic and the Renaissance to Impressionism, Surrealism and the Postmodern. A thorough understanding of the historical context will be an integral component of the course. The students will also learn about different techniques used in art making by close examination of images through slideshows as well as visits to museums. The course will establish an appreciation of the role of art in society, and an understanding of its development and current state.

### **Student profile**

The course addresses students of any subject, especially Fine Arts, Design, History of Art, Architecture and related subjects, such as History. An elementary knowledge of art and art history is welcome but not necessary. More advanced students or those interested in a particular field can, on request, be given special assistance and further material for self-study.

### **Prerequisites**

None

### **Course Requirements**

Homework (reading material)  
Attendance and participation  
Midterm Exam  
Final Exam

**Grading**

Attendance and participation: 20%

Midterm Exam: 30%

Final Exam: 50%

**Literature**

A course reader will be provided.

Recommended preparatory reading:

Title: Art of the Western World – from ancient Greece to post-modernism

Authors: Michael Wood, Bruce Cole and Adelheid Gealt

Pub. Date: 1991

Publisher: Simon & Schuster

ISBN-10: 0671747282

ISBN-13: 978-0671747282

**Course schedule**

Date	Program
<p>Tuesday, July 20, 2010</p>	<p>Introduction            What is art? Why study art history? Why do artists do what they do? How can art help us understand history and current global tendencies?</p> <p>Overview of the content, aims and the logistic parameters of the course: grading, attendance, paper presentations, visits to museums, etc.</p> <p>Greek and Roman Art            Beliefs and motivations, philosophy. Roman Empire, comparison with Greek culture. Rise and fall of the Roman Empire. Sculpture, painting.</p> <p>1st Excursion:            Visit to the Pergamonmuseum Berlin.</p> <p>Greek and Roman Art in sculpture and architecture by the example of the Pergamon altar.</p> <p>Introduction to the basic rules of architectural proportion, to terms and styles.</p> <p>Introduction to sculpturing.</p> <p>The question of ownership of prehistoric art.            Introduction to current discussions of the topic. □</p>
<p>Friday, July 23, 2010</p>	<p>The Middle Ages – Medieval art            Religion, evaluation of the time period (technology, geography). Romanesque and gothic art and architecture.</p> <p>Introduction to religious iconography.</p> <p>2nd Excursion:            Visit to the Gemäldegalerie Berlin (painting gallery).</p>
<p>Tuesday, July 27, 2010</p>	<p>Renaissance            Philosophical movements such as humanism, historical movements of the time period.</p> <p>Botticelli, DaVinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Dürer.</p> <p>Introduction to the basic rules of perspective and composition.</p>

	<p>Introduction to printmaking.</p> <p>3rd Excursion: Visit to the Gemäldegalerie Berlin.</p>
Friday, July 30, 2010	<p>Midterm Exam</p> <p>Baroque and Rococo Bernini, Caravaggio, Rubens, Watteau, Palace at Versailles.</p> <p>Neoclassicism and Romanticism Goya, David, Delacroix, Ingres, Friedrich.</p> <p>4th Excursion: Visit to the Bodemuseum (Sculpture gallery).</p>
Tuesday, August 3, 2010	<p>Modernism The influence of technology and photography.</p> <p>Impressionism, Historicism, Art Nouveau, Arts &amp; Crafts Monet, Manet, van Gogh, Liebermann.</p> <p>Art of the early 20th century: Cubism, Futurism, Expressionism, Surrealism, Constructivism Kandinsky, Dali, Die Brücke, Der Blaue Reiter, Picasso.</p> <p>Art and the Third Reich, „Entartete Kunst“</p> <p>5th Excursion: Visit to the Alte Nationalgalerie (Old National Gallery).</p>
Friday, August 6, 2010	<p>Abstract art, Post Modernism – post WW II Art, Neoplasticism, Abstract Expression. The art of the late twentieth century – the development of popular culture, Minimal, Fluxus, Performance.</p> <p>6th Excursion: Visit to the Hamburger Bahnhof Museum.</p> <p>Contemporary art, Pop Art, Conceptual Art and Installation Art.</p> <p>Pollock, Warhol, Beuys, Flavin</p> <p>Modernism, comparison with previous art movements, consideration in context with contemporary global culture.</p>
Tuesday, August 10, 2010	<p>7th Excursion (all day):</p>

	Walking tour: Art in public places, sculptures and memorials from the 19th to 21st centuries; Visit to the Boros Collection (private art collection).
Friday, August 13, 2010	Final Exam