

**Dr. Susan Maxwell**

Class Meets: Monday and Wednesday, 3:30-5:00 p.m., A&C, S149  
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2:00-3:00 p.m. and by appointment, A&C 510  
Contact: e-mail: maxwells@uwosh.edu tel: 424-7064

**Course Description:**

Why study art history? Consider what Leonardo da Vinci had to say:

*I know that many will say that this is a useless work, and these people will be those [who]...took no more account of the wind from their mouths, which caused their words, than of the wind which issued from their lower regions. These men possess a desire only for material wealth and are entirely devoid of the desire for wisdom, which is the sustenance and truly dependable wealth of the mind.*

The search to understand our shared history brings us wisdom rather than mere knowledge. Learning to differentiate between our personal preferences and true appreciation of the meaning that art held in its original context is crucial to a sound liberal arts education. In its many different contexts of making and meaning, art provides a key to understanding our fellow human beings across the globe.

This introductory lecture course surveys important developments in the art and architecture of Western Europe and the Americas from the late fourteenth through the twentieth centuries within a cultural and historical context. Analyzing the visual world of the past and learning to speak and write eloquently offers us a discipline that affects all other aspects of our life in the present. We study art history in order to appreciate cultures of different times and different places, but also to gain awareness of our own place within the world.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- acquire visual literacy through critical observation and visual analysis
- recognize and identify key works of art and architecture and major stylistic differences
- understand the role of art within the history of Europe and the Americas from the early Renaissance to the present
- learn how to read and use primary sources
- learn how to critically evaluate secondary sources
- apply the terms, vocabulary, and theory of art historical research
- describe various processes of art making from the early Renaissance to the present
- develop writing and revision skills through a variety of written assignments
- recognize connections and common threads between past and present
- recognize disparities and inequities of race, gender, and ethnicity that affect art

<sup>1</sup> UWO Bulletin Description: This course provides an overview of the history of Western art from the Renaissance through Contemporary art. In addition, students are introduced to the historiography and fundamental methodologies of the discipline through discussion and written assignments. Prerequisite: None.

<sup>2</sup> This course fulfills criteria for the Global Scholar certificate. Associated learning outcomes can be found in the document titled *GS Learning Outcomes*, posted on *Canvas*.

<sup>3</sup> Students are advised to see the following URL for disclosures about essential consumer protection items required by the Students Right to Know Act of 1990: <https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/consumer-information/>.

## **Required Textbooks:**

Barnet, Sylvan. *A Short Guide to Writing About Art*, 11th Ed., Cengage Learning, 2014.  
Kleiner, Fred S. *Gardner's Art through the Ages*. Vol. II. 16th Ed. Cengage Learning, 2020.\*  
\*This book is available in hardback or as an e-Book.

## **Requirements:**

**Attendance and Participation:** *The success of this course depends on students being active participants!* Attendance is expected and required. Arriving late or leaving early will be counted as an absence. Leaving and returning during classtime is disruptive and should be avoided.

### **Attendance Policy:**

More than three (3) recorded absences will result in the lowering of your final grade.  
Missing more than seven (7) classes will result in a grade of F for the course.

**Reading Assignments:** Reading assignments and lecture topics are listed in the schedule below by date due. Read the material before the date due so that you become familiar with terms and names and have an easier time taking notes in class. We won't have time to discuss everything you read about in class, but the readings are designed to give you a broad background knowledge of each period. Students are encouraged to voice their opinions and participate in discussions based on being informed through reading background material. The textbooks will also give you important historical and cultural context for understanding art of a given period.

In addition, you should read the following pages from Sylvan Barnet, *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*, as soon as possible, but before the mid-term at the latest. These readings are also available as excerpts on *Canvas*.

On formal analysis and style: 48-68  
On writing longer essays: 182-192

On writing comparisons: 132-145  
On writing an Exhibition Review: 154-169

**Notetaking:** *Taking notes by hand vastly improves your ability to retain and process information.*

Quizzes and exams will cover materials from lectures and readings. Powerpoints will be posted at the end of each week for the purpose of review. It is the responsibility of each student to take notes during lectures. You are free to share your notes with each other and to form study groups. If you must be absent, you should contact a classmate with requests for notes. ***I do not provide my lecture notes to students who have missed class.*** If you must be absent, you should contact a classmate with requests for notes.

**Canvas and e-mail:** All students are required to maintain a university e-mail account so that they can be contacted and can access *Canvas*. You should check your university e-mail and *Canvas* on a regular basis. Supplemental course information will be posted on *Canvas*. Grades will be available on *Canvas* after the assignment in question has been returned.

**Disability Accommodation and Notification:** Students seeking reasonable accommodations for disabilities must self-identify with the Dean of Students who will provide me with an accommodation letter. Students with an accommodation letter must contact me and arrange to meet with me ***in person*** within the ***first two weeks*** of classes.

### **Contact for Disability Services:**

Holly Ludwig Callaghan, Accessibility Coordinator, Dean of Students Office, 125 Dempsey Hall  
e-mail: ludwigcallah@uwosh.edu

Phone: 920-424-3100/TDD: 920-424-1319

Website: <https://www.uwosh.edu/deanofstudents/Accessibility-Center/student-resources>

**Academic Integrity at UW-Oshkosh:** By studying at this university you are entering into a community of scholars where honesty is vital to maintaining an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect.

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh is committed to a standard of academic integrity for all students. Students are subject to disciplinary action for academic misconduct, which is defined in UWS 14.03, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

It is the individual *student's responsibility* to familiarize themselves with the standards of academic honesty, available at <http://www.uwosh.edu/dean/studentdisciplinecode.html>.

Issues that are considered cheating are as follows, but are not limited to:

- giving or receiving assistance from another classmate on any quiz or exam
- using electronic devices during any quiz, test, exam, unless explicitly requested by me to do so
- using books or notes for quizzes or exams unless explicitly requested by me to do so
- misrepresenting attendance in class by signing the roll for another student, or having another student sign the roll for you
- turning in an assignment completed for another class
- turning in an assignment completed by another student unless part of a group project clearly marked with all participants' names
- plagiarism - passing off someone else work without as ones own; including improper citation of sources\*
- plagiarism includes turning in text written by a generation system as one's own work; entering a prompt into an artificial intelligence (AI) tool and using the output as a paper, using ChatGPT or similar programs for any assignment

\*It is YOUR responsibility to understand proper citation. You should consult with the Writing Center if you need help. Or, you can ask me for help *before* the due date of any assignment!

In this course, violations of academic integrity will result in a grade of zero (0) for the assignment in question. Additionally, academic misconduct may result in referral to the Dean of Student's office.

Whether in class or on-line, all students are expected to treat each other with dignity, to use respectful language, and to foster a community of inclusivity as we strive to understand viewpoints and experiences different from our own.

**Electronic Etiquette:** All electronic devices should be turned off and stored in a bag or backpack before class begins. Cell-phone conversations, texting, tweeting, etc., will not be tolerated during class time. Students who use laptops or tablets for anything other than notetaking or course related activities will lose the privilege of their use during classtime. Earbuds and headphones are not allowed.

### **Grading and Assignments:**

Your grade will be based on the following assignments and assessments:

Quizzes:	10%	Project: Make Art/Be Art!	5%
Discussion and Participation:	5%	Mid-Term:	25%
Exhibition Review: <i>Rodin</i> at the Paine	5%	Final Exam:	30%
Visual Analysis Paper:	20%		

Grades are based on the following scale:

A	92-100	B	82-87	C	72-77	D	62-67
A-	90-91	B-	80-81	C-	70-71	D-	60-61
B+	88-89	C+	78-79	D+	68-69	F	59 and below

All assignment due dates are in the schedule located on the last page of this syllabus.

**Late Policy:** Due dates are firm. Any assignment not turned in by the beginning of class on the due date listed in the schedule will receive a reduction of one letter grade per day late, including weekends.

**Quizzes:** There will be several short, in-class, objective quizzes. Quiz dates and content will be announced in class one or two days before the quiz. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.

**Exhibition Review:** On September 25, we will meet at the Paine Art Center and Gardens, 1410 Algoma Blvd. (about 2 blocks north on Algoma). We'll view the exhibition *Rodin: Contemplation and Dreams* together and discuss various aspects of the art we see. You will then have a week to write a 750-word (about 2 double-spaced pages) exhibition review. You will find guidelines on how to write an exhibition review in Sylvan Barnet's *A Short Guide on How to Write About Art*: "Exhibition Review" pp. 154-169. The due date is October 2 by the beginning of class.

**Visual Analysis Paper:** Students will prepare a 900-word (about 3 double-spaced pages) analysis of a work of art based on direct observation in the Art Institute of Chicago (NOT the museum web-site!). The Art Department will sponsor a bus trip to Chicago later in the semester (see the schedule below). Students are expected to participate in this trip or visit the museum on their own in order to prepare this paper. Any alternate venue *must* be discussed with me in advance. More detailed information on the paper will be made available on *Canvas* and in class. The due date is indicated in the schedule below. *Late papers will be graded down and no papers will be accepted more than one week after the due date.*

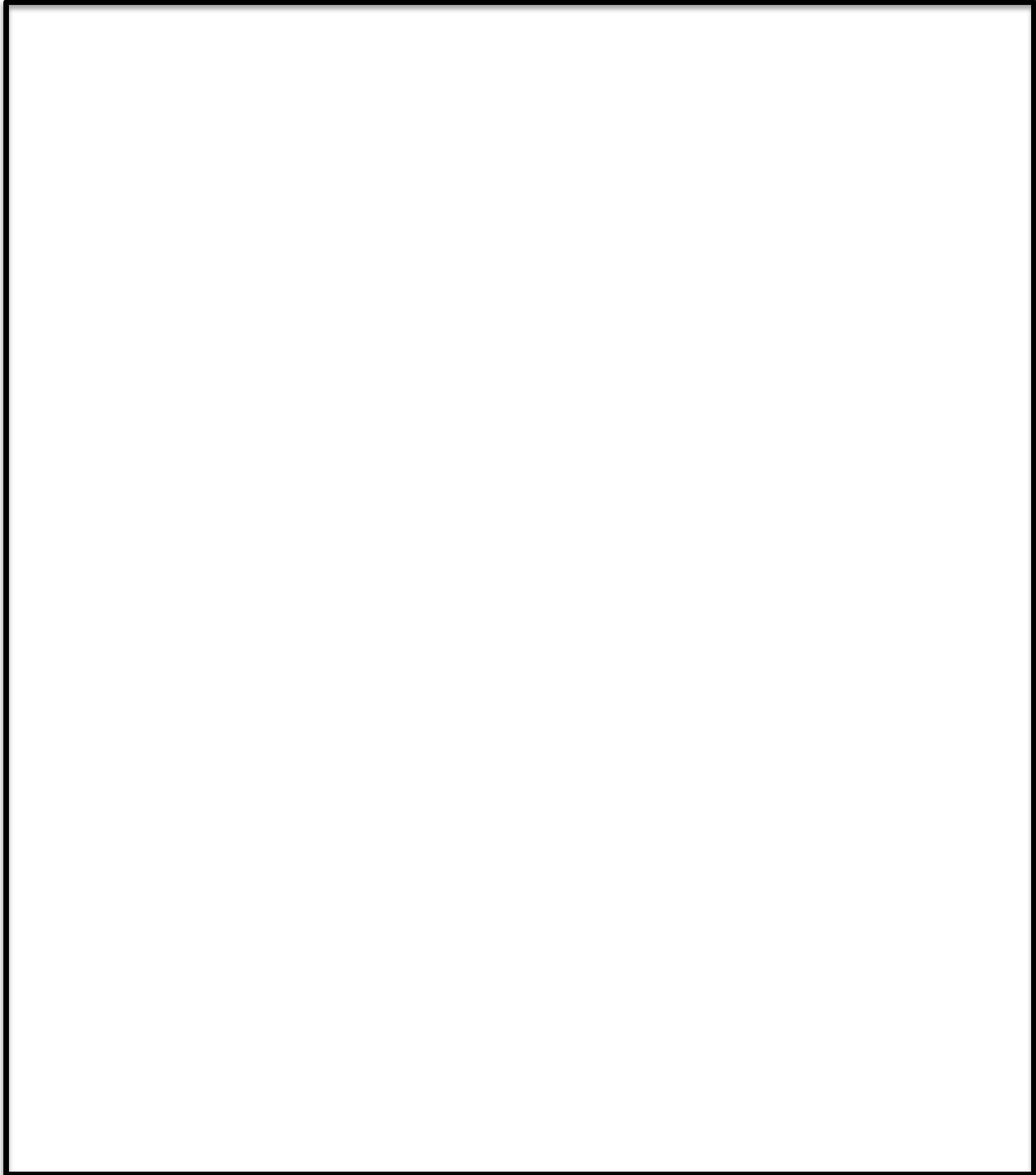
**Project: Make Art/Be Art!** For this project you may work alone or in small group. You can choose either to emulate an artist or style by creating your own work of painting, print, sculpture, architecture, or, you can recreate a known work of art by posing as the people/objects in the painting and taking a photo or video of it. You should choose a work of art covered by the periods studied in this course and it should be well-known enough to be recognizable. Each student will write a short reflective, paragraph describing their project and placing it in the context of the work they are referencing. *Late submissions will be graded down and no projects will be accepted more than one week after the due date.*

**Discussion and Participation:** Discussions will focus on topics listed in the weekly schedule. While we usually will have discussion in person, in class, discussion questions may occasionally be posted on *Canvas*. Grading for on-line discussion is pass/fail. It goes without saying that attendance affects participation: excessive absences will affect your participation grade.

**Mid-Term and Final Exams:** Two exams will be given on the dates indicated in the schedule below and will cover material from the lectures and readings. They will consist of slide i.d.'s, use of terminology and comparison essays. The final exam will also include a cumulative essay that draws from broad issues covering the entire semester. You will only be tested on images that we have discussed in class. Essays should reflect an understanding of the readings from *A Short Guide to Writing About Art*.

A study guide for the exams will be posted NOT MORE than one week before the mid-term and the final, respectively. This means that you need to rely on your own notes to keep up with the material on a weekly basis.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: All assignments are required and there are no extra credit assignments. Failure to take a test or exam on the scheduled date will result in a grade of “0” for that component. Students who miss a test or exam due to a documented medical or family emergency should contact the Dean of Students so that *all* of their instructors can be notified and appropriate accommodations made. If you have more than seven (7) absences, you will NOT be allowed to take the final exam.**



## Lecture Schedule and Readings

Assignment Due Dates are listed in RED

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### September 6: Renaissance Beginnings in Fourteenth Century Italy (14)

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- Gardner, 1-13 and 419-440

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### September 11-13: Fifteenth Century Painting and Printmaking North of the Alps (20)

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- Gardner, 567-590

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### September 18-20: The Early Renaissance in Fifteenth Century Italy (21)

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- Gardner, 593-632

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### September 25-27: The High Renaissance and Mannerism in Sixteenth Century Italy (22)

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- Gardner, 635-679      **Monday, September 27: class meets at The Paine to view Rodin Exhibition**

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### October 2-4: Sixteenth Century Northern Art: Renaissance and Reformation (23)

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- Gardner, 685-708

**DUE Monday, October 2: Exhibition Review**

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### October 9-11: Southern Baroque in Italy and Spain (24)

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- Gardner, 711-736

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### October 16-18: Southern Baroque Art: con't. (24)

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**No readings assigned for this week**

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### October 23-25: Northern Baroque: Art in Flanders and the Dutch Republic (25)

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- Gardner, 739-757

**Monday, October 23: Mid-Term Exam**

**Wednesday, October 25: No class: on-line assignment**

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### October 30 - November 1: Northern Baroque, con't: France and the Rococo (25)

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- Gardner, 757-768

**Thursday, November 2: Department of Art field trip to Chicago**

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### November 6-8: The Enlightenment and its Backlash: Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Realism (26, 27)

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- Gardner, 771-798, 801-835

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### November 13-15: Nineteenth Century Revolutions: Photography and European Modernism (27, 28)

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- Gardner, 842-846, 849-884

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### November 20-22: Early Avant-Garde, con't: Impressionism, Post-Impressionism and other "isms" (28)

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**No readings assigned for this week**

**NO CLASS November 22 - Thanksgiving Holiday**

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### November 27-29: Twentieth Century Modernism in Ey (29, 30)

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- Gardner, 887-930, 933-954

**DUE Monday, November 27: Visual Analysis Paper**

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### December 4-6: Post-Modernism and Global Art in a Contemporary World (31, 32)

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- Gardner, 957-1000, 1003-1040

**DUE: Monday, December 4: Project Make Art/Be Art**

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### December 11-13: Review and Final Exam

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Monday, December 12: Review

**Wednesday, December 13: Final Exam**