EXPRESSIVE CULTURES: IMAGES

Professor Louise Rice
303 Silver Center
(212) 992-9538; lr62@nyu.edu
Office hour: Wednesdays 9:30-10:30, or by appt.

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:15 in 300 Silver Center

Preceptors: Mr. Emanuele Lugli (pronounced lool-yee)
emanuele.lugli@nyu.edu
Office hour: Tuesdays 12:45-1:45, or by appt.
Sections: Tuesdays 9:30-10:45; 11:00-12:15 in 302 Silver Center

Ms. Michele Wijegoonaratna (pronounced wee-jee-goo-nah-raht-nah)
michelewije@mindspring.com
Office hour: Mondays 11:15-12:15, or by appt.
Sections: Mondays 12:30-1:45; 2:00-3:15 in 302 Silver Center

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:
Focusing on the Western tradition, the course provides an introduction to the language, meaning, and function of visual art. Students will gain familiarity with a variety of visual forms and will develop the vocabulary and skills to analyze and explore works of art from antiquity to the present.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

READING ASSIGNMENTS:
See the attached "Course Outline" for the schedule of weekly reading assignments. It is important that you complete each week's reading assignment in time for your section meeting.

STUDY MATERIAL:
The required books are available at the bookstore and will be on reserve at Bobst Library. Additional weekly reading assignments will be available online at the course website and photocopies will be on reserve at Bobst. The works of art for which you will be responsible on the exams will be listed weekly on the course website. In addition, a selection of these works will be reproduced there; the remainder are available for your study either in Gombrich or in local museums and galleries. The class website will be regularly updated over the course of the semester. The web address is www.nyu.edu/classes/finearts/rice/bararch; the user ID is truth and the password is beauty.)
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
There will be three exams (February 17, March 31, May 10) and three short (4 pp.) papers (due February 14/15, March 21/22, April 25/26) as well as occasional writing exercises in section. Attendance and participation in section is required (as is attendance at lectures, naturally). The course grade will be calculated on the basis of the three exams (15% each), the three papers (15% each), and the quality of your work and participation in section (10%).

POLICY WITH REGARD TO MAKE-UP EXAMS:
Make-up exams will be given only in cases of documented emergency. To qualify for a make-up exam, students must present either a written authorization from the dean's office or an official medical excuse. Please note the date of the final exam and be sure to make no travel plans that conflict with it: make-up exams will not be given to students who skip town before the scheduled date of the final exam.
COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1
1/18  Introduction to formal analysis
1/20  Perspectives on perspective
Section: No section meetings this week
READING: Gombrich, Introduction and chpt. 1
Sylvan Barnet, A Short Guide to Writing about Art, Boston, 1985, chpt. 2: "Analysis"

Week 2
1/25  The materials of art: sculpture
1/27  The materials of art: painting
Section: The creative process
READING: Gombrich, chpts. 2-3

Week 3
2/1   Categories of art: portraiture
2/3   Categories of art: landscape
Section: Categories of art: visual narratives
READING: Gombrich, chpts. 4-5

Week 4
2/8   The classical tradition
2/10  The afterlives of antique statues
Section: Imitation and originality
READING: Gombrich, chpts. 6-7
Virgil, Aeneid, extract from book 2
Pliny, Natural History, extract from book 36

Week 5
2/15  The nude
2/17  1st EXAM
Section: Eroticism in art (1st paper due in section, 2/14 or 2/15)
READING: Gombrich, chpts. 8-9
Kenneth Clark, "The naked and the nude," in The Nude. A Study in Ideal Form, New York, 1959, chpt. 1
Robert Graves, "The Naked and the Nude" (poem)

Week 6
2/22  Mirroring nature
2/24  The surface of things
Section: "The Gates"
PLEASE NOTE: Sections will meet in Central Park (dates, times, and details to be announced).
READING: Gombrich, chpts. 10-11
Week 7
3/1 Light and its shadow
3/3 The artifice of realism
Section: The idea of beauty
READING: Gombrich, chpts. 12-13
Additional readings to be announced

Week 8
3/8 Varieties of abstraction
3/10 Concepts of the conceptual
Section: The meaning of modern
READING: Gombrich, chpts. 14-15

SPRING BREAK

Week 9
3/22 Allegory and the language of symbols
3/24 Matters of life and death
Section: Iconography (2nd paper due in section, 3/21 or 3/22)
READING: Gombrich, chpts. 16-17

Week 10
3/29 Politics and propaganda
3/31 2nd EXAM
Section: War and Peace
READING: Gombrich, chpts. 18-19
Additional readings to be announced

Week 11
4/5 Idolatry and iconoclasm
4/7 Beyond the West
Section: Censorship
READING: Gombrich, chpts. 20-21

Week 12
4/12 Art and science
4/14 Expressing the inexpressible
Section: Anatomy and the body
READING: Gombrich, chpts. 22-23
Additional readings to be announced

Week 13
4/19    Prints and print culture
4/21    Text and image
Section: Visual literacy today: what it means
READING: Gombrich, chpts. 24-25
Additional readings to be announced

Week 14
4/26    Museums and society
4/28    A brief history of art history
Section: Art in the age of photography: or, where do we go from here? (3rd paper due in section, 4/25 or 4/26)
READING: Gombrich, chpts. 26-28
Additional readings to be announced

Week 15
5/2     No section meetings this week

3rd (AND FINAL) EXAM: Tuesday, May 10, 2:00-3:50