



ART 101: Global Art History: Ancient to Modern

Term: Fall 2026

Credits: 3.0

Lecture Times & Location: Tuesday & Thursday 2:30–3:45 p.m., Lovell Hall 130

Modality: In-Person

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Instructor Information

- **Instructor:** Dr. Lucia Marchetti (Associate Professor of Art and Art History)
- **Email:** lmarchetti@university.alkimi.ai
- **Office:** Lovell Hall 170
- **Office Hours:**
 - Wednesday & Friday: 2:00–3:30 p.m. (In person, Lovell Hall 170)
 - Tuesday: 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. (Virtual via Zoom; link posted in Canvas)
 - Also available by appointment.

Course Description

Global survey of visual art and architecture from antiquity to the contemporary era, emphasizing cultural contexts, stylistic movements, visual analysis, and critical interpretation. ART 101 introduces students to the global history of visual art, sculpture, and monumental architecture from antiquity through the Renaissance to the contemporary era. We investigate how visual objects embody sacred beliefs, political power, cultural identity, and aesthetic values across historical civilizations in the Mediterranean, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Students develop disciplined formal visual analysis skills, learning to interrogate composition, scale, medium, line, color, light, and iconography. Through comparative case studies and primary source readings, students explore the cross-cultural exchange of artistic materials, styles, and ideas across centuries.

Prerequisites

None.

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of ART 101, students will be able to:

1. **Conduct Formal Visual Analysis:** Analyze works of art and architecture through close visual observation, identifying formal elements including composition, scale, line, medium, color, and spatial organization.
2. **Contextualize Historical Art Traditions:** Situate major monuments, sculptures, and paintings within their specific cultural, religious, political, and economic contexts from antiquity to the present.
3. **Interpret Iconography and Symbolism:** Identify and interpret iconographic programs, sacred symbols, and cultural narratives across diverse global artistic traditions.

4. **Trace Cross-Cultural Artistic Exchanges:** Evaluate the historical movement of materials, techniques, visual idioms, and aesthetic conventions across Africa, Asia, the Mediterranean, and the Americas.
5. **Formulate Thesis-Driven Art Criticism:** Construct well-reasoned, thesis-driven essays comparing artworks across distinct historical periods or cultural traditions, adhering to Chicago Manual of Style citation standards.

Required Course Materials & Approximate Costs

1. **Fred S. Kleiner. *Gardner's Art through the Ages: A Global History*. 16th ed., Cengage Learning, 2020.** Approx. \$55 digital rental via MindTap/Canvas, \$95 print purchase.
2. **Alkimi Art History Digital Image Archive and Primary Source Anthology.** Free digital access provided via Canvas.
3. **Total estimated cost:** Approx. \$55 to \$95.

Generative AI Policy (AI Level 1: AI Not Permitted for Graded Work)

In accordance with Alkimi University Academic Policies (Student Handbook §5.8), ART 101 operates under **AI Level 1**.

- **What is permitted:** You may use generative AI tools to review chronological timelines, look up definitions of architectural and artistic terms, or check spelling and grammar on preliminary drafts.
- **What is prohibited:** You may not use generative AI to write formal visual analyses, generate artwork comparisons, interpret iconographic symbolism, or answer examination essay prompts.
- **Disclosure:** All submitted papers and written visual analyses must conclude with an authenticity statement confirming that all visual observations, stylistic interpretations, and prose are entirely your own original work.

Grading Components and Weights

- **Formal Visual Analysis Paper: Sculpture or Monument:** 15% (Due Thursday, September 24 at 11:59 p.m.)
- **Midterm Slide Identification & Essay Examination:** 20% (In class, Thursday, October 15)
- **Comparative Artwork Analysis Essay:** 20% (Due Thursday, November 12 at 11:59 p.m.)
- **Weekly Image Analysis & Reading Responses:** 15% (Weekly short visual analysis responses and reading comprehension questions submitted in Canvas on Tuesdays at 11:59 p.m.; lowest dropped)
- **Seminar Discussion & Gallery Engagement:** 10% (Active participation in lecture dialogues, small-group image debates, and formal visual critique exercises)
- **Final Comprehensive Examination:** 20% (Thursday, December 17, 2026, 1:00–3:00 p.m.)

Grading Scale (Alkimi University Standard)

- **A:** 93–100% | **A-:** 90–92%
- **B+:** 87–89% | **B:** 83–86% | **B-:** 80–82%
- **C+:** 77–79% | **C:** 73–76% | **C-:** 70–72%
- **D+:** 67–69% | **D:** 60–66% | **F:** Below 60%
- **Extra credit:** No individual extra credit assignments are offered in ART 101. Your final course grade is computed strictly from the assessed deliverables, exams, and weekly participation outlined in this syllabus.

Course Schedule (Fall 2026)

Week	Dates	Topics & Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
Week 1	Aug 27	The Language of Art History and Prehistoric Expression: What is art history? Formal visual analysis, elements of art, medium,	<i>First day of classes: Wed Aug 26.</i>

Week	Dates	Topics & Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
		technique, style, and iconography; prehistoric cave painting and Neolithic architecture. <i>Reading: Kleiner Ch. 1</i>	
Week 2	Sep 1, 3	Ancient Near East and the Nile Valley: Ziggurats, stele, and palace reliefs of Sumer, Akkad, and Assyria; monumental Egyptian funerary complexes, Old and New Kingdom sculpture, and divine kingship. <i>Reading: Kleiner Ch. 2, 3</i>	<i>Wed Sep 2: Add/section change deadline.</i>
Week 3	Sep 8, 10	The Aegean World and Classical Greek Art: Cycladic figurines, Minoan palatial frescoes, Mycenaean citadels, Archaic kouroi, Classical temples, and the Parthenon sculptures. <i>Reading: Kleiner Ch. 4, 5</i>	<i>Mon Sep 7: Labor Day (no classes). Wed Sep 9: Census date (last day to drop without a W).</i>
Week 4	Sep 15, 17	Etruscan and Roman Art and Imperial Architecture: Etruscan tombs and terracotta statuary; Roman architectural innovation (concrete, arch, dome), imperial portraiture, the Colosseum, and the Pantheon. <i>Reading: Kleiner Ch. 6, 7</i>	—
Week 5	Sep 22, 24	Late Antiquity and Byzantine Splendor: Catacomb frescoes, early Christian basilicas, Justinianic mosaics at Ravenna, Hagia Sophia, and the iconoclastic controversy; Formal Visual Analysis due Thursday. <i>Reading: Kleiner Ch. 8, 9</i>	Formal Visual Analysis Paper: Sculpture or Monument due Thu Sep 24 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 6	Sep 29, Oct 1	Islamic Visual Culture and Architectural Innovation: The Great Mosque of Córdoba, the Dome of the Rock, calligraphy, arabesques, geometric tilework, and Islamic courtly arts. <i>Reading: Kleiner Ch. 10</i>	—
Week 7	Oct 6, 8	Arts of South and East Asia: India, China, and Japan: The Great Stupa at Sanchi, Hindu rock-cut temples at Ellora, Angkor Wat, Chinese bronze casting, terracotta warriors, and scroll painting. <i>Reading: Kleiner Ch. 15, 16, 17</i>	—
Week 8	Oct 15	Midterm Examination and Visual Synthesis (Fall Break Week): Synthesizing visual analysis and cultural contexts across ancient and medieval traditions; Midterm Examination administered in class on Thursday. <i>Reading: Kleiner review chapters 1–10; Midterm Examination in class</i>	<i>Oct 12–Oct 13: Fall break (no classes). Fri Oct 16: Midterm grades due. Midterm Slide Identification & Essay Examination (in class).</i>
Week 9	Oct 20, 22	Early Medieval and Romanesque Art in Western Europe: Insular manuscript illumination (Book of Kells), pilgrimage churches, Romanesque portal sculpture, and reliquaries. <i>Reading: Kleiner Ch. 11, 12</i>	—
Week 10	Oct 27, 29	The Gothic Cathedral: Engineering Light and Faith: Pointed arches, ribbed vaults, flying buttresses, stained glass, and sculptural programs at Saint-Denis, Chartres, and Notre-Dame de Paris. <i>Reading: Kleiner Ch. 13</i>	—
Week 11	Nov 3, 5	The Italian Renaissance: Florence, Rome, and Venice: Giotto and the pre-Renaissance; Florentine humanism, linear perspective (Brunelleschi, Alberti), Donatello, Botticelli, and high Renaissance masters. <i>Reading: Kleiner Ch. 14, 21, 22</i>	<i>Fri Nov 6: Last day to withdraw (W) or elect Pass/No Pass.</i>
Week 12	Nov 10, 12	Northern Renaissance Art and Global Trade Networks: Oil glazing techniques, van Eyck, Dürer's printmaking, Holbein, and maritime trade connections to West Africa; Comparative Essay due Thursday. <i>Reading: Kleiner Ch. 20, 23</i>	Comparative Artwork Analysis Essay due Thu Nov 12 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 13	Nov 17, 19	Indigenous Americas and Traditional African Arts: Mesoamerican pyramids (Teotihuacan, Maya, Aztec), Andean textiles and Inka stonework; Benin bronzes, Yoruba beadwork, and West African royal regalia. <i>Reading: Kleiner Ch. 18, 19</i>	—
Week 14	Nov 24	Baroque Theatricality and Absolutist Splendor (Thanksgiving Week): The Counter-Reformation, dynamic theatricality, chiaroscuro in Caravaggio and Gentileschi, Bernini's sculpture, and Dutch Golden Age portraiture (Thanksgiving Week). <i>Reading: Kleiner Ch. 24, 25</i>	<i>Nov 25–Nov 27: Thanksgiving break (no classes).</i>

Week	Dates	Topics & Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
Week 15	Dec 1, 3	Enlightenment, Neoclassicism, and Romanticism: Rococo opulence, Enlightenment rationalism, Neoclassical virtue (David), Romantic passion and sublime landscapes (Goya, Turner, Friedrich). <i>Reading: Kleiner Ch. 26, 27</i>	—
Week 16	Dec 8	The Advent of Modernity and Global Contemporary Practice: Realism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Modernist abstraction, and global contemporary artistic dialogues; comprehensive course review. <i>Reading: Kleiner Ch. 28, 29; Final exam preparation</i>	<i>Wed Dec 9: Last day of classes. Thu Dec 10: Reading Day.</i>
Finals	Dec 17	Final Comprehensive Examination: Thursday, December 17, 2026, 1:00–3:00 p.m., Lovell Hall 130.	Comprehensive.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Visual literacy is cultivated through real-time looking, collaborative visual analysis, and active dialogue in the lecture hall. Regular and punctual attendance is required for every scheduled class session. You are allowed two unexcused absences without grade penalty; each additional unexcused absence will reduce your final course grade by one third of a letter grade. Missing more than five class sessions will result in a failing grade. Students who miss the first two class meetings without notifying the instructor may be dropped. Students may miss class for religious observance without penalty if they notify the instructor in writing within the first two weeks of the semester (by Wednesday, September 9, 2026). Absences for university-sponsored activities (athletics, performances, conferences) are excused with a letter from the sponsoring office at least one week in advance.

Late Work Policy

Written visual analysis papers and comparative essays lose 10% per calendar day late and will not be accepted after three days past the stated deadline. Weekly image responses and in-class examinations cannot be made up without a documented university medical or dean's excuse.

Final Exam Policy

The final examination (Thursday, December 17, 2026, 1:00–3:00 p.m.) is scheduled by the University Registrar and can't be moved without the Dean's written approval (Faculty Handbook §5.5). A student with three or more final exams on the same calendar day may reschedule one of them. Requests go to the instructor of the middle exam by the last day of classes. For this term, send the request by Wednesday, December 9, 2026 (Student Handbook §6.4).

Academic Integrity

Alkimi University is an academic community devoted to rigorous scholarship, open intellectual inquiry, and uncompromising ethical conduct. All students are subject to the regulations of the Alkimi University Academic Integrity Policy. Academic dishonesty—including plagiarism, cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication of empirical data, and unauthorized submission of academic work generated by artificial intelligence—undermines the integrity of the university and carries severe disciplinary sanctions. Sanctions range from a failing grade on an assignment or exam to an administrative course failure recorded as an 'XF' on the official transcript, academic suspension, or expulsion. Suspected violations are formally investigated and resolved through the Office of Academic Integrity in accordance with Faculty Handbook §6. For detailed information, consult the Office of Academic Integrity, Lovell Hall 315, (555) 555-0163, integrity@university.alkimi.ai.

Accessibility Services

Alkimi University is committed to providing equitable educational access and reasonable accommodations for all students with documented disabilities, including physical, sensory, psychological, learning, and chronic health conditions. Students requesting academic accommodations must formally register with the Office of Accessibility Services, Harlan Hall 204, (555) 555-0155, access@university.alkimi.ai. Once approved, students will receive an official Faculty Accommodation Letter detailing approved accommodations. Students should present this letter to the instructor as early in the semester as possible, and at least one week prior to any exam or assignment requiring accommodation. Accommodations cannot be applied retroactively.

Student Wellness and Mental Health

Your physical health, psychological well-being, and mental health are essential to your academic success. If you experience heightened stress, anxiety, depressive symptoms, personal trauma, or academic burnout, free, confidential counseling and medical care are available through the Hollis Health & Counseling Center, located in the Hollis Center. Routine appointments are available Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. during the semester by calling (555) 555-0190 or emailing health@university.alkimi.ai. Urgent, 24/7 crisis psychological counseling is accessible immediately at (555) 555-0199.

Campus Student Support Services

- **Academic Advising Center:** Lovell Hall 101 | (555) 555-0158 | advising@university.alkimi.ai
- **Writing Center:** Whitcombe Library 3rd Floor | Free consultations on papers, reports, and research projects at any stage.
- **Whitcombe Library:** Whitcombe Library, Main Floor | (555) 555-0170 | askalibrarian@university.alkimi.ai
- **Hollis Health & Counseling Center:** Hollis Center | (555) 555-0190 | 24/7 Counseling Line: (555) 555-0199 | health@university.alkimi.ai
- **The Writing Center:** Whitcombe Library 3rd Floor | Consultations on visual analysis formatting, art historical thesis construction, and Chicago Manual of Style citation.