

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
UG Course Syllabus

Western Painting: From Renaissance to Impressionism

HUMA 4650

3 Credits

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Office Hours: Mondays 4:30-5:30 PM, Room 3025 (lift #2)

Course Description

The course covers the history of Western painting from 1400 to 1900. Designed for more advanced students, the course introduces an in-depth study into the styles and characteristics of Western painting between Renaissance and Impressionism. Students will learn the methodology of the discipline and apply it to analyzing masterpieces from different Western countries and epochs.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- ILO1. Know the most important Western painters and their works from 1400 to 1900.
- ILO2. Understand the historical and socio-cultural background and values of the creation of artworks.
- ILO3. Analyze the stylistic characteristics of each epoch using the methodology of art history.

Medium of Instruction

The course is taught in English completely. No Chinese materials will be used as reference. All examination questions must be answered in English. Some technical terms and names of painters will appear in their original European languages.

Museum Visit

One or more museum visits will be arranged. Participation is highly recommended and voluntary.

Assessment and Grading

This course will be assessed using criterion-referencing and grades will not be assigned using a curve. Detailed rubrics for each assignment are provided below, outlining the criteria used for evaluation.

Assessments:

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Due date
Mid-term Examination	40%	Week 7*
Final Examination	50%	In the Exam Period
Attendance	10%	not applicable

* Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be released within two weeks of the due date.

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks:

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
Mid-term Examination	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3	This task assesses students' ability to critically analyze the relationship between historical and socio-cultural circumstances and artistic development in the Renaissance period (ILO1, ILO2). Their ability to apply the methodology of art history to analyzing the stylistic characteristics of Renaissance painting will also be tested (ILO3).
Final Examination	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3	This task assesses students' ability to critically analyze the relationship between historical and socio-cultural circumstances and artistic development from the Baroque period to Impressionism (ILO1, ILO2). Their ability to apply the methodology of art history to analyzing the characteristics of various art styles within that period will also be tested (ILO3).
Attendance	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3	Attendance is checked to ensure students' active participation in class for efficient learning.

Grading Rubrics

Descriptors of Range of Scores for Mid-term Examination:

Scores	Short Description	Elaboration on the description
36-40	Excellent Performance	Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the development of Western painting from Renaissance to Impressionism.
28-35	Good Performance	Shows good knowledge of the development of Western painting from Renaissance to Impressionism.
18-27	Satisfactory Performance	Demonstrates sufficient work and fair performance.
9-17	Poor Performance	Insufficient work, more effort is expected.
0-8	Extremely Poor Performance	Extremely poor work, needs much more effort to achieve a satisfactory result.

Final Grade Descriptors:

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the development of Western painting from Renaissance to Impressionism. Exhibits a high capacity for critical thinking and scholarship, going beyond core requirements to achieve learning goals.
B	Good Performance	Shows good knowledge and understanding of the development of Western painting from Renaissance to Impressionism. Demonstrates good critical thinking and displays high motivation to learn.
C	Satisfactory Performance	Possesses adequate knowledge of Western painting from Renaissance to Impressionism. Shows persistence and effort to achieve broadly defined learning goals.
D	Marginal Pass	Has basic knowledge of Western painting from Renaissance to Impressionism. Shows limited effectiveness in learning.
F	Fail	Demonstrates insufficient understanding of Western painting from Renaissance to Impressionism. Exhibits minimal effort towards achieving learning goals. Does not meet the threshold requirements for further development in the discipline.

Required Texts and Materials*

Eco, Umberto, editor. ***History of Beauty***. New York: Rizzoli, 2005.

Eisenman, F. Stephen, editor. ***Nineteenth Century Art: A Critical History***. London: Thames & Hudson, 1994.

Gombrich, E. H. ***The Story of Art***. 16th ed., London: Phaidon Press, 1995.

Hagen, Rose-Marie and Rainer Hagen. ***Masterpieces in Detail: What Great Paintings Say***. Köln, London: Taschen, 2000.

Hilton, Timothy. ***The Pre-Raphaelites***. Thames and Hudson, 1970.

Gardner, Helen, and Fred S. Kleiner. ***Gardner's Art Through the Ages: A Global History*** (Sixteen edition). Cengage Learning, 2020. (HKUST Library, online access)

Rosenblum, Robert and H.W. Janson. ***19th Century Art***. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1984.

Zuffi, Stefano, editor. ***Baroque Painting: Two centuries of Masterpieces from the Era Preceding the Dawn of Modern Art***. Hauppauge, NY: Barron's, c1999.

Zuffi, Stefano, editor. ***Renaissance Painting: The Golden Age of European Art***. Hauppauge, NY: Barron's, c2000.

Online Resources

Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, Metropolitan Museum of Art <http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/>

Khan Academy <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-history> (videos and articles for in-depth study)

Smart History <https://smarthistory.org/place/europe/> (videos and articles for in-depth study, overlaps with the contents of Khan Academy)

Louvre Museum, Paris. www.louvre.fr

Museum d'Orsay, Paris. www.musee-orsay.fr

National Gallery of Art, Washington DC. www.nga.gov

Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. www.rijksmuseum.nl

Tate Galleries. www.tate.org.uk

Communication and Feedback

Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be communicated via Canvas within two weeks of submission. Students who have questions about the marks should go to the paper-checking session to be held within five working days after the release of the marks.

Make-up Policy

Make-up exams will only be offered to those who cannot attend owing to unpredictable reasons and with mark reduction depending on the situation.

Course AI Policy

The use of AI tools in assessment tasks is prohibited since all of them are in closed-book format.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to [Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry](#) for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.

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