

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
UG Course Syllabus

Understanding Western Painting

HUMA 2670

3 Credits

Name of Instructor: Anna KWONG

Email: hmakwong@ust.hk

Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:00-5:00 pm, Room 3025 (lift #2)

Name of TA: tbc

Email:

Consultation: by appointment

Course Description

This course gives students fundamental knowledge of the masterpieces of Western painting through an outline of chronology, painting genres, painting techniques and styles from ancient Greece to the 20th century.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

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

- ILO1. Have a general understanding of the basic terminology of Western painting.
- ILO2. Know the chronology, painting genres, painting techniques, material components and the most representative works of Western painting from ancient Greece to the 20th century.
- ILO3. Identify the stylistic characteristics of different epochs and examine them in relation to aesthetic theories, historical circumstances and socio-economic and cultural conditions of their emergence.
- ILO4. Have personal contact with artworks through a visit to a local museum.

Museum Visits

Visits to local museums will be arranged. Participation is voluntary and highly recommended.

Class Schedule and References

LT-K, Mon, Wed, Fri, 14:00-16:50**Venue for Mid-term Quiz & Final Exam: to be announced**

Week	Date	Topic	References
1	Jun 15	Introduction Chronology and Terminology Greek Art Roman Art	Terminology.pdf Greek vase painting Woodford, pp. 39-56 Roman mural painting Woodford, pp. 101-108
	Jun 17	Byzantine Art Gothic Painting	Byzantine Art Benton, pp. 29-31, 35-36 Gothic painting Benton, pp. 262-278
	Jun 20 (Sat)	Visit Hong Kong Heritage Museum	Two exhibitions: Meet Mona Lisa & Portraying The Renaissance https://hk.heritage.museum/en/exhibitions/monalisa2026.html
2	Jun 22	Renaissance Painting	Renaissance painting Kemp, pp. 152-161 Kleiner, pp. 540-542, 547, 552-562, 568-577, 578-589, 593-597 Venetian Painting and Late Renaissance Kleiner, pp. 604-618, 623
	Jun 24	Baroque Painting	Baroque painting: Italy Kleiner, pp. 657-665, 671 Baroque painting: Spain Kleiner, pp. 665-671 Baroque painting: France Kleiner, pp. 691-697 Baroque painting: Flanders & Holland Kleiner, pp. 674-679, 679-691
	Jun 26	Mid-term Quiz	<u>No in-advance arrangement for quiz or exam</u>
3	Jun 29	18 th Century English Painting Neoclassicism	18th Century English Painting Kleiner, pp. 757-759, 762-765 Neoclassicism Kleiner, pp. 766-769, 777-779, 781-783
	Jul 1	Holiday	NO CLASS
	Jul 3	Romanticism French Realism	Romanticism Kleiner, pp. 784-796 French Realism Kleiner, pp. 798-802
	Jul 4 (Sat)	Visit Hong Kong Museum of Art	Exhibition: Blooming: The Art of Gardens in East and West https://hk.art.museum/en/web/ma/exhibitions-and-events/blooming-the-art-of-gardens-in-east-and-west.html
4	Jul 6	Impressionism Neo and Post-Impressionism	Impressionism Kleiner, pp. 803-804, 822-831 Neo and Post-Impressionism Kleiner, pp. 831-838
	Jul 8	Modern Art	Modern art Kleiner, pp. 908-916, 918-924, 926-931, 934-938, 940-950, 972-975, 981-985
	Jul 10	Final Exam	If the schedule is affected by adverse weather conditions, the makeup exam will be held on Jul 11 (Sat) afternoon .

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	Format	Contribution to Overall Course Grade (%)	Due Date
Mid-term Quiz	MCQ, True/False questions, Fill-in-the-blanks, short questions	40%	2026-06-26
Final Examination	MCQ, True/False questions, Fill-in-the-blanks, short questions	50%	2026-07-10
Attendance	-2% for each absence or insufficient 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 Quiz	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3	This task assesses students' ability to understand and use their knowledge of the terminology (ILO1), chronology, materials and techniques (ILO2) and characteristics of different styles of Western painting (ILO3).
Final Exam	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3	This task assesses students' ability to understand and use their knowledge of terminology (ILO1), chronology, materials and techniques (ILO2) and characteristics of different styles of Western painting (ILO3).
Attendance	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3	Attendance is checked to ensure students' active participation in class for efficient learning (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3).

Grading Rubrics**Descriptors of Range of Scores for the Mid-term Quiz:**

Scores	Short Description	Elaboration on the description
36-40	Excellent Performance	Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the development of Western painting.
28-35	Good Performance	Shows good knowledge of the development of Western painting.
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. 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. Demonstrates good critical thinking and displays high motivation to learn.
C	Satisfactory Performance	Possesses adequate knowledge of Western painting. Shows persistence and effort to achieve broadly defined learning goals.
D	Marginal Pass	Has basic knowledge of Western painting. Shows limited effectiveness in learning.
F	Fail	Demonstrates insufficient understanding of Western painting. Exhibits minimal effort towards achieving learning goals. Does not meet the threshold requirements for further development in the discipline.

Required Texts and Materials*

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

* Scanning of book chapters can be found on *Canvas* course website under "Assignments".

Internet Resources

Khan Academy, online arts and humanities course: Art History.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-history#approaches-to-art-history>

The Metropolitan Museum of Art Timeline of Art History <https://www.metmuseum.org/toah>

Uffizi Galleries. <https://www.uffizi.it/en>

Vatican Museums. <https://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en.html>

Louvre Museum, Paris. <https://www.louvre.fr/en>

Museum d'Orsay, Paris. <https://www.musee-orsay.fr/es>

The National Gallery, London. <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/>

Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. <https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en>

Course AI Policy

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

Communication and Feedback

Assessment marks for the mid-term quiz will be communicated via Canvas within two weeks of submission. A paper-checking session will be arranged after the release of the result.

Make-up Policy

No quiz or exam arrangement in advance. Make-up arrangements for the mid-term quiz and the final exam will only be offered to those who cannot attend owing to unpredictable reasons (e.g. medical) and with mark reduction.

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.

Edited 2026-05-18