

**Raritan Valley Community College
Course Outline**

ARTH-205, American Art

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: ARTH-205, American Art

B. Date of Proposal: Spring 2003

C. Sponsoring Department: Visual & Performing Arts

D. Semester Credit Hours: 3 Credits

E. Weekly Contact Hours:	Lecture: 3
	Laboratory: 0

F. Prerequisites: None

G. Laboratory Fees: None

II. Catalog Description

This course is a survey of American painting, sculpture and architecture from colonial times to the present. Major artists and styles will be studied in the context of American culture and will be examined against the background of European sources and parallels. Students will learn about the major artistic and historical developments of this time period through lectures, readings, class discussions and museum and gallery visits.

III. Statement of Course Need

American Art serves as a special topic course in the art history curriculum and covers an important art historical period in depth. This course meets the needs of students of humanities, art history, and studio arts.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Check the item(s) applicable to this course:
- Free elective - Yes
 - The course serves as a General Education Elective in one of the following areas:
 1. Communication - No
 2. Humanities - Yes
 3. Social Sciences – No
Science Lab: No Non-lab: No
 4. Mathematics - No
 - The course meets a program requirement for either:
 1. a Studio Art course - No
 2. or an Arts Appreciation course - Yes
 - The course meets a requirement in the following programs: No
 - Other: No
- B. Course transferability: This course will transfer as a free elective or as a fine art or humanities elective in other colleges and universities.
- C. Honors course - No

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. 17th Century Art of the colonial New England and Atlantic coast – the portrait painters (liminism) and tombstone carvers.
- B. 18th Century Art of the Federal and Revolutionary War Periods
1. American painters abroad such as John Singleton Copely, John Trumbull, Charles Willson Peale, Ralph Earl.
 2. European trained American painters – such as Benjamin West.
 3. Sculpture by Jean A. Houdon.
 4. Architecture of Thomas Jefferson
- C. 19th Century Art of Self Discovery - The Romantic Spirit
1. The Hudson River School – such as Thomas Cole, Asher Durand.
 2. Genre and narrative painting – such as William S. Mount, George Catlin.
 3. Sculpture by Horatio Greenough, Hiram Powers.
 4. The Peale Family – Raphael, Rembrandt, James.
- D. 19th Century Art at Home and Abroad
1. The Civil War Period – such as Winslow Homer and Thomas Eakins.
 2. In Europe – such as Mary Cassat and John Singer Sargent.
 3. Sculpture by Saint Gaudens.
 4. American landscape by Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Moran.
 5. The Vanishing West – such as Frederick Remington, Charles Russell.
 6. American Impressionism – such as William Merrit Chase, Childe Hassam.

7. Art Nouveau glassmaker – Louis Comfort Tiffany
 8. The architects of the skyscraper – such as William Le Barron Jenny, Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright.
- E. 20th Century: Early Modernism:
1. The Ash Can School and Robert Henri.
 2. Photographer Alfred Stieglitz and 291 Gallery – Alfred Maurer, John Marin, Arthur Dove, Georgia O'Keefe.
 3. The Armory Show of 1913 in New York.
 4. Sculpture - such as Lachaise, Calder, Weber.
 5. Precisionists of the 1920's – such as Charles Demuth, Charles Sheeler, Stuart Davis.
- F. Regionalism of the 1930's – such as Edward Hopper, Ben Shahn and others
- G. The Mexican Painters – Rivera, Orozco
- H. After W.W. II
1. Abstract Expressionism – such as Gorky, Hofmann, DeKooning, Pollock, Motherwell.
 2. Color Field – such as Mark Rothko, Frank Stella's hard edged paintings.
 3. Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van der Rohe.
- I. New Directions in the 1960's and 70's – (Pop Art) Rivers, Rauschenberg, Lichtenstein, Warhol, Wasselman
1. Sculpture – such as L. Nevelson, C. Oldenberg, Kimbalz, D. Smith, Mel Edwards.
 2. Architecture (Post-Modern) – such as Phillip Johnson, Michael Graves.
- J. New Realism, Photorealism and Superrealism
1. Painting – such as C. Close, P. Pearlstein, R. Estes.
 2. Sculpture – such as G. Segal, D. Hanson and others.
 3. Feminism – such as J. Chicago and others.
- K. Minimalism
- L. Under-represented Artists – African America, Asian American, Latin American, Native American such as Juan Sanchez, Maya Lin, Jacob Lawrence, Navajo sand painters.
- M. Recent Diversity
1. Photography – Lorna Simpson
 2. New Materials – Faith Ringgold, Adrian Piper
 3. Neo-Expressionism and Neo-Conceptualism
- N. The '90's – Art for the Millennium
1. Photography
 2. Painting
 3. Architecture
 4. Sculpture

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

Goals: The student will develop:

- An understanding and knowledge of art historical events and accomplishments in America from the colonial period to the present.
- An appreciation of art and its relationship to American culture.

This course satisfies the General Education Goal #8, “To value and appreciate literature and the arts.”

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

1. Identify the basic historical categories stated in the outline of course content.
2. Identify the aesthetic categories used in the formal visual analysis of art work.
3. Identify specialized categories of architecture, sculpture, and the pictorial arts.
4. Describe the categories and artists covered in the course through written papers and classroom discussion.
5. Evaluate art works using objective and subjective criteria presented in the course outline.
6. Analyze the creative process in producing an art form.

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

- lecture/discussion
- small-group work
- computer-assisted instruction
- guest speakers
- student oral presentations
- student collaboration
- independent study
- other – Museum and gallery visits

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

- research papers
- essays
- journals
- other – written exams

IX. Grade Determinants

- A. Students will write one or more papers in which they will demonstrate a knowledge and application of the major aesthetic and historical categories covered in the course.
- B. A two-hour final examination or a midterm and final exam. The essay(s) on the exam will assess the following course outcomes:
1. The student will be able to identify major artworks from each of the stylistic periods covered in the course.
 2. The student will be able to select and describe major artworks covering painting, sculpture and architecture of the time periods covered in the course.
 3. The student will be able to analyze and synthesize information (G.E 1d).
 4. The student will be able to write clearly, accurately, and fluently with focus and continuity in standard American English (G. E. 2b).
 5. The student will be able to organize information to develop and support a main idea (G.E. 2c).

X. Texts and Materials

- Textbook – such as: Baigell, A Concise History of American Painting and Sculpture, revised ed., Westview Press, 1996.
- Primary source – Museum and gallery visits.
- Reviews – from journals/magazines/newspapers.
- Film and video
- Audio sources
- Web sources
- Other computer-based sources – CD-ROMs
- Other – slides of art work.

XI. Resources

This course requires adequate physical space to accommodate students and visual projection and room darkening capabilities. Flexible space is preferable.

Required equipment for this course is slide projectors and projection screen.

Other resources that are useful:

- Video/DVD players with monitors
- Video projector
- CD player
- Overhead projector
- College Library (Media Library)
- College Art Gallery