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Von Kleinsmid 368A  
Off. Hrs.: Mon. & Wed.  
3:30-4:30 & by appt.  
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# ARLT 100 - ART AND SOCIETY IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

## Syllabus & Assignments

### I. NATURE AND PURPOSE OF COURSE

This broad survey course, which covers approximately 8000 years of human prehistory and history, focuses on the cultural pillars of western civilization -- the ancient Near East, Egypt, Greece, and Rome -- and on the role of cultural diffusion in the ancient world. In addition to discussing the uses and relationship of history, archaeology, and art history in reconstructing the various civilizations and cultures of the ancient Mediterranean area, this course examines how the products of material culture (artifacts, works of art, architecture, and urban planning) relate to the written record.

### II. Course Texts and Other Materials

#### A. Course Material

1. **Required:** *Course Manual* (28 pages)

**NOTE:** This manual is not available at the Bookstore; it is downloadable in Blackboard under my course. You will need to bring this to each lecture, as it provides you with an outline of objects and monuments discussed in class.

2. **Required:** Marilyn Stokstad, *Art History*, Vol. I (Main text book to be bought: available in USC Bookstore)

3. **Recommended:** Brendan Nagle, *The Ancient World: A Social and Cultural History* (Prentice Hall, N.J) latest ed. (Don't have to buy; on reserve in Leavey)

B. **Videos (do not buy):** **These will be shown in class** (not on Reserve, but first two videos available in Leavey; the last is in the Fine Arts Library in basement of Watt Hall)

1. Michael Wood, *Legacy*: Program 1. "Iraq: The Cradle of Civilization."

2. \_\_\_\_\_, *Legacy*: Program 4. "Egypt: The Habit of Civilization."

3. \_\_\_\_\_, *Art of the Western World*. Vol. 1: "The Classical Ideal"

- C. **Reading Assignments (General):** These assignments should be read **before** the lectures in which the material is discussed

### III. LECTURES (twice a week)

- A. Lectures will often contain material not covered in your readings or will present views different from them
- B. There will sometimes be discrepancies in the spelling of proper names or places (as a result of transliteration from the original languages), as well as differences in dating (due to a mistake in printing or a different scholarly opinion)

### IV. Helpful Hints in Taking Lecture Notes on Monuments and Works of Art

- A. Always ask yourself what is important about the object or monument you are shown
- B. What is the nature and/or reliability of our primary evidence?
- C. How does it reflect the society which produced it (i.e., how is it distinctively representative of the society which created it)?
- D. Does it relate to any assigned primary literary sources?
- E. How does it fit into a cultural and historical context?
- F. How does it reflect the religious beliefs of the people who produced it?
- G. In what ways is it **like** or **unlike** other monuments produced by that society (i.e., What are its distinguishing characteristics)?
- H. Is there any apparent influence from earlier art forms of that or another society?

### V. THREE EXAMINATIONS (Exams II & III cover only material since previous exam)

- A. You are responsible for material covered in your readings and lectures, for which reason attending lectures is mandatory.
- B. In studying for the exams, concentrate on the most important artifacts and works of art (i.e., those which are most representative of a given society and which tell us most about the beliefs and values of that society).

**VII. GRADING:**

Take-Home Exam I	= 33⅓ %
Take-Home Exam II	= 33⅓ %
Take-Home Exam III	= 33⅓ %
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Total	= 100 %

**VIII. Information on the Take-Home Exams:**

- A. You will be given several essay questions for your Take-Home Exams. These questions will be based on class lectures and your assigned readings.**
- B. Since the purpose of this course is to improve your writing skills, you will be graded on both content and the mechanics of your paper (i.e., organization, grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.).**
- C. The Take-Home exams will be given out in class at the appropriate time (check Assignments Handout for dates) and will be turned in by the date indicated in the assignments.**
- D. Do NOT E-Mail me your Take-Home Exams!**

**NOTE: Cheating and Plagiarism will result in an automatic failure for the course! The Take-Home Exams must be done only by yourself. No collaboration or consulting others!**

## **Lectures and Assignments for the Semester:**

**Jan. 10: Introduction: General Information**

**Jan. 12: Lecture I: Art and Its Prehistoric Beginnings**

**Reading assignments to be completed before Lecture I:**

Stokstad, *Art History*: Introduction, Chapter 1: Prehistory and Prehistoric Art in Europe

**Jan. 17: MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY: NO CLASS**

**Jan. 19 & 24: Lectures II & III: The Neolithic Revolution and the Art of the Ancient Near East**

**Reading assignments to be completed before Lecture III:**

Stokstad, *Art History*: Chapter 2: Art of the Ancient Near East

Nagle, *The Ancient World: A Social and Cultural History*: Chapters 1, 2 (these also cover Egypt) & 3

**Jan. 26: Film on the Ancient Near East (Iraq)**

**Jan. 31 & Feb. 2: Lecture IV & V: The Art of Ancient Egypt**

**Reading assignments to be completed before Lecture V:**

Stokstad, *Art History*: Chapter 3: Art of Ancient Egypt

Nagle, *The Ancient World: A Social and Cultural History*: See preceding assignment under Nagle

**Feb. 7: Film on Ancient Egypt**

**\*\*\* HANDOUT OF TAKE-HOME EXAM I**

**Feb. 9: Lectures VI: The Art of the Aegean (Cycladic, Minoan, & Mycenaean)**

**Begin following reading assignment:**

Stokstad, *Art History*: Chapter 4: Aegean Art

Nagle, *The Ancient World: A Social and Cultural History*: Review Chapter 1 (on Egypt)

NOTE: Reading assignment same as for Lecture VII (below)

**Feb. 14: Lecture VII: The Art of the Aegean (Cycladic, Minoan, & Mycenaean -- CONT.)**

**Complete remainder of reading assignments on Aegean art:**

Stokstad, *Art History*: Chapter 4: Aegean Art

Nagle, *The Ancient World: A Social and Cultural History*: Review Chapter 1 (on Egypt)

**Feb. 16: Lecture VIII: Greek Art of the Geometric and Archaic Periods**

**Begin following reading assignment:**

Stokstad, *Art History*: Chapter 5: Art of Ancient Greece (up to the section “The Transitional or Early Classical Period”)

Nagle, *The Ancient World: A Social and Cultural History*: Chapters 4 & 5

NOTE: Reading assignments same as for Lecture IX (below)

**\*\*\* EXAM I -- DUE TODAY**

**Feb. 21: PRESIDENTS’ DAY: NO CLASS**

**Feb. 23: Lecture IX: Greek Art of the Geometric and Archaic Periods --CONT.**

**Reading assignments to be completed before Lecture IX:**

Stokstad, *Art History*: Chapter 5: Art of Ancient Greece (up to the section “The Transitional or Early Classical Period”)

Nagle, *The Ancient World: A Social and Cultural History*: Chapters 4 & 5

**Feb. 28 & March 2: Lecture X & XI: Greek Art of the Fifth Century (Early and High Classical)**

**Reading assignments to be completed before Lecture XI:**

Stokstad, *Art History*: Chapter 5 [cont.] (from the section “The Transitional or Early Classical Period” to the section “Classical Art of the Fourth Century”)

Nagle, *The Ancient World: A Social and Cultural History*: Chapter 6

**March 7: Lectures XII: Greek Art of the Late Classical Period**

**Complete reading assignments on Late Classical sections:**

Stokstad, *Art History*: Chapter 5 [cont.] (from the section “Classical Art of the Fourth Century” to end of the chapter)

Nagle, *The Ancient World: A Social and Cultural History*: Chapter 7

NOTE: Reading assignments same as for Lecture XIII (below)

**March 9: Lectures XIII: Greek Art of the Hellenistic Period**

**Complete reading assignment on Hellenistic sections before Lecture XIII:**

Stokstad, *Art History*: Chapter 5 [cont.] (from the section “Classical Art of the Fourth Century” to end of the chapter)

Nagle, *The Ancient World: A Social and Cultural History*: Chapter 7

**\*\*\* HANDOUT OF TAKE-HOME EXAM II (only material since Exam I)**

**March 14 & 16: SPRING BREAK: NO CLASSES**

**March 21: Film on Ancient Greece**

**March 23: Meet at 2:15 at Ahmanson Center for Biology (ACB) West Tower, Room 335 (across from Harris & Watt Halls) for tour of USC's Archaeological Research Collection with Dr. Lynn Swartz Dodd (Do not be late!)**

**March 28, & 30: NO CLASSES (I will be away at conference) -- WORK ON TAKE-HOME EXAM II**

**April 4: Lectures XIV: Etruscan Art and the Art of the Roman Republic**

**Begin reading assignments:**

Stokstad, *Art History*: Chapter 6: Etruscan Art and Roman Art (up to the section "Augustan Sculpture" )

Nagle, *The Ancient World: A Social and Cultural History*: Chapters 8, 9 & 10

NOTE: Reading assignments same as for Lecture XIII (below)

**\*\*\* EXAM II -- DUE TODAY**

**April 6: Lectures XV: Etruscan Art and the Art of the Roman Republic**

**Complete reading assignments (begun for Lecture XIV):**

Stokstad, *Art History*: Chapter 6: Etruscan Art and Roman Art (up to the section "Augustan Sculpture")

Nagle, *The Ancient World: A Social and Cultural History*: Chapters 8, 9 & 10

**April 11 & 13: Lectures XVI & XVII: Roman Art of the Earlier Empire**

**Complete reading assignments before Lecture XVII:**

Stokstad, *Art History*: Chapter 6 [cont.] (from the section "Augustan Sculpture" to the section "The Late Empire: From the Severan Dynasty to the Tetrarchs")

Nagle, *The Ancient World: A Social and Cultural History*: Chapters 11 & 12

**April 18 & 20: Lectures XVIII & XIX: Roman Art of the Later Empire**

**Complete reading assignments before Lecture XIX:**

Stokstad, *Art History*: Chapter 6 [cont.] (from the section "The Late Empire: From the Severan Dynasty to the Tetrarchs" to the end of the chapter)

Nagle, *The Ancient World: A Social and Cultural History*: Chapter 13

**\*\*\* HANDOUT OF TAKE-HOME EXAM III ON APRIL 20**

**April 25: Film on Ancient Rome**

**April 27: Discussion**

**\*\*\*EXAM III -- DUE NO LATER THAN MAY 9 IN ART HISTORY OFFICE (VKC 351)**  
***DO NOT E-MAIL YOUR EXAM TO ME !!!***