Course description:
This course surveys the history of Western art from antiquity to the present, with the unparalleled opportunity to experience and to study major monuments of western art and architecture in museums and historic sites in 8 of the 13 cities we will visit this summer. We will introduce important artists, art works, and monuments, as well as major themes associated with the art of particular periods and cultures. Studying the history of art in Europe’s major cities will help us understand many of those images better—where and how they originated; how they articulate the assumptions and values of their makers, their patrons, and their audience; and how certain works ended in particular cities and museums. We will pay particular attention to the power of looking at and creating works of art, especially in how that power manifests itself in different historical moments. No familiarity with art history is required.

A note to auditor: As you will know from my email, you are welcome to join us on our visits, although you will need to decide in advance about the “pre-booked” visits (Amsterdam, Florence, Venice, Paris I & II, Berlin I & II, and Copenhagen, London I). I ask that you treat your fellow students with respect: please stay with the group and enter into the discussion. If at any time I feel that you are distracting us, I will ask you to leave the group.

Goal for the Course:
• To use our travel to develop a basic understanding that art and culture change over time, depending on place and circumstances
• To be able to identify major periods, major monuments, and major artists
• To develop a critical framework to think about works of art
• To develop a familiarity with art terminology and key concepts

To prepare for the trip:
1. Purchase the textbook: Fred Kleiner and Christin J. Mamiya, Gardner’s Art Through the Ages: a Concise History. Available via Amazon.com Students should purchase this text as soon as possible. It should be consulted BEFORE and AFTER the trip, but do not take it on the trip.

2. Peruse the textbook and the list of possible discussion topics (below). SELECT ONE.

3. Email me your selection by Monday, May 11 along with a list of three works illustrated in the textbook that you hope to see on the tour (these don’t have to necessarily be relevant to your discussion topic). Peruse that textbook!
4. In order to prepare for this presentation (description below), you should read and take notes on the chapters in the textbook relevant to your chosen topic. Do this BEFORE the Tour begins.

5. Research the biography of the individual artist or artists listed with your selected topic in the Oxford Dictionary of Art; this is available online through WFU library. Search “Oxford Dictionary of Art” as the title and look for the “web” version.

6. An outline of your discussion notes is due to me via email by **Wednesday, May 20**.

7. Purchase a standard size, college-ruled notebook as your trip journal. I will review your journal entries three times during the tour.

**Course Requirements:**

- Promptness, attendance, and participation (discussing works in museums) are mandatory. **30% of final grade.**

- A journal comprised of your reflections on art experiences to be handed in, reviewed, and discussed three times during the tour. (Please use standard, college ruled notebook.) I expect about 2 pages from each official visit. **Total 15% of final grade.**

- Two “independent visit” records. At various moments in the trip, you will select a museum or collection for an “independent” visit. You will produce a journal entry of about 2-3 pages dedicated to your observations. What type of museum did you visit? How was the art displayed? How did they organize their collection? **Total 20% of final grade (10% each).**

- Leadership of class discussion about a topic and/or artist drawn from a list (below), selected in advance (see above). This will be about an 8-10 minute introduction to the artist (if creator is known), an explanation about the work of art in question – also considering any relevant social, political, or artistic contexts. I will also expect you to lead a brief discussion with the class after your presentation, asking questions. **15% of final grade.**

- Final paper comparing and contrasting three works of art, from at least 2 different collections, based on bibliographic research and your first-hand observations. That journal will come in handy! 8-10 double spaced, typed, with one-inch margins and 12 point font, to be submitted via email to curleyjj@wfu.edu by August 1, 2009. **20% of final grade.**

**Schedule of Topics and Visits:**

**Amsterdam 1: Dutch Golden Age**  
Saturday, May 23, visit to the Rijksmuseum

**Paris 1: Highlights, Neo-Classicism, and Romanticism**  
Tuesday, 26 May: visit to the Louvre Museum

**Paris 2: The Gothic Cathedral, Realism, and Impressionism**  
Wednesday, 27 May: visit to Notre Dame and the Musee D’Orsay
Rome: The Counter-Reformation and Baroque Rome (with some ruins!)
Monday, 1 June: visit to two Baroque churches and the Pantheon

Florence: The Italian Renaissance
Tuesday, 2 June: visit to the Uffizi Gallery

Venice: Venetian Painting (and Jackson Pollock)
Thursday, 4 June: a visit to the Academia (and optional Peggy Guggenheim Collection)

Berlin 1: Ancient Masterpieces
Monday, 15 June: a visit to the Pergamonmuseum

Berlin 2: Flemish Painting and Northern Renaissance
Tuesday, 16 June: a visit to the Gemäldegalerie

Copenhagen: Roman and Egyptian art
Thursday, 18 June: Ny Carlsberg Glyptothek
[FYI: museums in Copenhagen are free on Wednesdays!]

London 1: Ancient Greece
Sunday, 21 June, British Museum

London 2: Summing up and Post-Impressionism
Monday, 22 June, National Gallery

List of Possible Topics for Presentation:

Amsterdam 1:
Rembrandt’s The Night Watch
Johannes Vermeer’s The Kitchen Maid

Paris 1:
Jacques-Louis David’s The Oath of the Horatii
Theodore Gericault’s Raft of the Medusa

Paris 2:
Gustave Courbet’s A Burial at Ornans
Edouard Manet’s Olympia

Rome:
Caravaggio’s The Conversion of St. Peter
The Pantheon

Florence:
Sandro Botticelli’s The Birth of Venus
Simone Martinin’s The Annunciation
Parmigianino’s Madonna of the Long Neck
Venice:
Giorgione’s *The Tempest*
Titian’s *Pieta*

Berlin:
The Pergamon Altar

Berlin 2:
Pieter Bruegel’s *Netherlandish Proverbs*
Robert Campin’s *The Merode Altarpiece* (in a special exhibition, on loan from New York)

London 1:
The Parthenon Frieze

London 2:
Vincent van Gogh’s *Van Gogh’s Chair*
Georges Seurat’s *Bathers at Asnières*

**Suggested Opportunities for Independent Visits:**

This is a partial list. If you have a museum you would particularly like to visit, or a site or work of art you want to be sure not to miss, let me know and we can discuss whether or not it fulfills this requirement. Prague, Budapest and Krakow are ideal cities to complete your independent visit assignments and catch up on your journal entries.

Amsterdam:
Rembrandt’s House, [http://www.rembrandthuis.nl](http://www.rembrandthuis.nl)

Vincent van Gogh Museum, [www.vangoghuseum.nl](http://www.vangoghuseum.nl)

Paris
Musée Rodin, [www.musee-rodin.fr](http://www.musee-rodin.fr)

Musée de l’Orangerie des Tuileries, [www.musee-orangerie.fr](http://www.musee-orangerie.fr)

Les Arts Decoratifs, [www.lesartsdecoratifs.fr](http://www.lesartsdecoratifs.fr)

Musée de Cluny, [www.musee-moyenage.fr](http://www.musee-moyenage.fr)

Musée Picasso, [www.musee-picasso.fr](http://www.musee-picasso.fr)

Centre Pompidou, [www.centrepompidou.fr](http://www.centrepompidou.fr)

Rome
Vatican Museum, [mv.vatican.va/3_EN/pages/MV_Home.html](http://mv.vatican.va/3_EN/pages/MV_Home.html)
Florence
The Accademia, www.accademia.firenze.it/, or en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accademia_di_Belle_Arti_Firenze

San Marco’s Convent, www.firenzemusei.it/00_english/sanmarco

Santa Maria Novella, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Maria_Novella

Budapest
Museum of Fine Arts, www.szepmuveszeti.hu


Hungarian National Gallery, www.mng.hu/en


Krakow
Czartoryski Museum, www.muzeum.krakow.pl/?L=1

Stanisław Wyspiański Museum, www.muzeum.krakow.pl/?L=1

Berlin


Berlinerischer Galerie, www.berlinischegalerie.de/index.php?id=270&L=1

Copenhagen
Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, www.louisiana.dk/uk

London
Victoria and Albert Museum, www.vam.ac.uk

Wallace Collection, www.wallacecollection.org

Courtauld Institute of Art, www.courtauld.ac.uk

Tate Modern, www.tate.org.uk/modern