Unit 01: Introduction

Content Area: **Fine Arts**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**
Length: **2-3 sessions**
Status: **Published**

Brief Summary of Unit

Art History Part 1 will provide students with an introduction to college coursework in art history. In this course, students will examine major forms of artistic expression from Ancient to Medieval times as well as those of Non-European cultures. Their explorations will enable them to develop an understanding and knowledge of architecture, sculpture, painting, and other art forms within diverse historical and cultural contexts. It will also provide an opportunity for Cranford High School students to explore an area that is only cursorily explored through other curricula in more depth. They will learn to look at works of art critically, with intelligence and sensitivity, and to analyze what they see. Students may continue with the coursework by electing to take Art History Part 2.

No prior experience in art history or fine art is required. Students who are successful and enjoy other courses in the humanities, such as history and literature, or in any of the arts, are strongly encouraged to enroll. While the course does not assume prior training or seek primarily to identify students who will major in art history in college, it does require a high degree of commitment to academic work and to the purposes of a program designed to meet college standards.

In this unit, students will be introduced to the study of Art History. They will learn the basics of communicating about art; description, analysis, and interpretation. In addition the 3 S's (subject, style, and significance) strategy for looking at art will be introduced.

Revision Date: July 2024 - Samantha Berk.

Essential Questions/Enduring Understandings

What is art history?

How do we look at and communicate about art?

How can artworks be interpreted?

How can I succeed in this course?

Being organized, following the syllabus and challenging themselves to achieve will help them in this course.

Looking at art is not only a skill, but a way of understanding.

Any interpretation of a work of art is affected by the viewer's understanding of the context in which the work was created as well as the context in which the work is viewed.

The purpose of art can be discovered through the exploration of major recurring themes in art.

Knowing and understanding the vocabulary of art and how to use it correctly is essential to communicating about art.

Artists and other presenters consider various techniques, methods, venues, and criteria when analyzing, selecting and curating objects, artifacts and artworks for preservation and presentation.

How are artworks cared for and by whom? What criteria, methods and processes are used to select work for preservation or presentation? Why do people value objects, artifacts and artworks, and select them for presentation?

Objects, artifacts and artworks collected, preserved, or presented either by artists, museums, or other venues communicate meaning and a record of social, cultural and political experiences resulting in the cultivating of appreciation and understanding.

What is an art museum? How does the presenting and sharing of objects, artifacts and artworks influence and shape ideas, beliefs and experiences? How do objects, artifacts and artworks collected, preserved, or presented, cultivate appreciation and understanding?

Individual aesthetic and empathetic awareness developed through engagement with art can lead to understanding and appreciation of self, others, the natural world, and constructed environments. Visual arts influences understanding of and responses to the world.

How do life experiences influence the way you relate to art? How does learning about art impact how we perceive the world? What can we learn from our responses to art? What is visual art? Where and how do we encounter visual arts in our world? How do visual arts influence our views of the world?

People gain insights into meanings of artworks by engaging in the process of art criticism.

What is the value of engaging in the process of art criticism? How can the viewer "read" a work of art as text? How does knowing and using visual art vocabulary help us understand and interpret works of art?

People evaluate art based on various criteria.

How does one determine criteria to evaluate a work of art? How and why might criteria vary? How is a personal preference different from an evaluation?

Students Will Know

- The basics of communicating about art: description, analysis, and interpretation.
- The course expectations.
- The differences between formalism and contextualism.
- The elements and principles of design.
- To look for the 3 S’s: subject, style, and significance, in an artwork.

Evidence/Performance Tasks

- • answer the essential questions.
- • Completion of homework and in classroom assignments derived from classroom activities (such as but not limited to: readings on viewing and interpreting art. Worksheets on the 3 S's and communicating about art.)
- • Ongoing notes, sketches, handouts, and reflections compiled in notebooks.
- • Participation in classroom activities such as: class discussion, Q and A sessions, cooperative group projects, role-playing, critique sessions, etc.
- • Quiz: Looking at Art
- • Self and teacher assessment using teacher generated rubric.

Learning Plan

- • Homework debriefing and presentation "Looking at Art - the 3 S's; subject, style, and significance." o Handouts on topic o Class activity: such as "Art Dominos" o Homework reading and CD study guide assignment (material for next day)
- • Introductions and presentation of course expectations o Discussion "What is Art History? Formalism vs. Contextualism." o Homework reading and worksheet assignment:
- • Preview the essential questions and connect to learning throughout the unit.
- • Quiz "Looking at Art"

Materials

Google slide deck, Handouts, Google classroom, edpuzzles, quizlet, Kahoot,

Suggested Strategies for Modifications

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1whirPHhSur-WY5EGTzfLHayWczAu0O9Svu-0ggxyXFY/edit#gid=1426178898