AP Art History 2026-2027 Instructional Plan

August 10, 2026

Contact Information

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WHAT IS AP (ADVANCED PLACEMENT)?

AP courses aim to teach students the skills and information needed to pass an end of year exam given by the College Board. Any student who receives a score of three (or above) on College Board's five-point grading system typically receives college credit by most public colleges.

Moreover, regardless of exam score, many colleges and universities view participation in the AP program as a sign of a motivated student. The course is advanced not only in reading and writing, but in the depth of the material. Students taking this course will learn at an accelerated pace and must exhibit responsibility, good work ethic, and a drive to learn to achieve college readiness skills and (potential) college credit.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

AP Art History is a college-level course that explores the history of art from prehistory to the present. Students will engage in visual, contextual, and comparative analysis of diverse works of art spanning various cultures, periods, and regions. The course will develop students' ability to critically analyze art using historical and thematic frameworks while preparing them for the AP Art History Exam.

COURSE ACTIVITIES (What we will be doing)

Below you will find descriptions of the most common activities that students will participate in during the course of each semester.

Throughout the year, students will:

- Analyze works of art using formal, contextual, and comparative analysis. ● Understand the role of art in reflecting and shaping cultural, religious, and social values. ● Identify key artistic movements, styles, and artists across different historical periods. ● Interpret and discuss art using proper vocabulary and critical thinking. ● Prepare for and successfully complete the AP Art History Exam.

GRADES - Click here for → YWLA Grading Policy

Major (Test, Projects, Writing)	60%
Minor (Notes, Daily Work)	40%

Classroom Resources (examples below)

- **AP Textbook**
- **Google Classroom**
- **Teacher created resources**

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AP Art History Exam Date: Thursday May 13, 2027

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND TOPICS (CED Breakdown and Description)

Fall Semester:

- **Unit 1: Global Prehistory (30,000–500 BCE)**
  - Paleolithic, Neolithic, and early Mesopotamian art
  - Key works: Lascaux Caves, Stonehenge, Bushel with Ibex Motifs
- **Unit 2: Ancient Mediterranean (3500 BCE–300 CE)**
  - Egyptian, Greek, and Roman art
  - Key works: Parthenon, Augustus of Prima Porta, Great Pyramids
- **Unit 3: Early Europe and Colonial Americas (200–1750 CE)**
  - Early Christian, Byzantine, Romanesque, and Gothic art
  - Key works: Hagia Sophia, Chartres Cathedral, Merode Altarpiece
- **Unit 4: Later Europe and Americas (1750–1980 CE)**
  - Rococo, Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Realism, Impressionism, Modernism ● Key works: Oath of the Horatii, Starry Night, Les Demoiselles d'Avignon
- **Unit 5: Indigenous Americas (1000 BCE–1980 CE)**
  - Art of the Americas before and after European contact
  - Key works: Templo Mayor, Great Serpent Mound, Mesa Verde Cliff Dwellings

Spring Semester:

- **Unit 6: Africa (1100–1980 CE)**
  - Masks, sculptures, textiles, and architecture
  - Key works: Great Zimbabwe, Nkisi Nkondi, Veranda Post
- **Unit 7: West and Central Asia (500 BCE–1980 CE)**
  - Islamic art, Persian manuscripts, architectural innovations
  - Key works: Dome of the Rock, Great Mosque of Isfahan, Bahram Gur Fights the Karg
- **Unit 8: South, East, and Southeast Asia (300 BCE–1980 CE)**
  - Buddhist, Hindu, Confucian, and Daoist influences
  - Key works: Angkor Wat, The Great Stupa at Sanchi, Night Attack on the Sanjō Palace
- **Unit 9: The Pacific (700–1980 CE)**
  - Indigenous art of Oceania and the Pacific Islands
  - Key works: Moai of Easter Island, Buk Mask, Nan Madol
- **Unit 10: Global Contemporary (1980–Present)**
  - Art in a globalized world, new media, identity, and politics
  - Key works: Kui Hua Zi (Sunflower Seeds), The Gates, Stadia I

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Optional Materials/Resources:

- Kliener, Fred S. Gardner's *Art Through the Ages*, 16th Edition
- AP Art History Image Set (250 works of art)
- Primary Sources (Sources that originate with or are contemporary with the works of art under discussion i.e., written documents, performances on video, interviews.) ● Secondary Sources (Sources written by scholars (i.e., journal articles, scholarly videos, museum interpretive materials.)

AP Exam Format:

- Section I: Multiple-Choice (50% of Score)

- 80 questions in 1 hour
- Covers works from the 250 required images, analyzing form, function, content, and context.

- Section II: Free Response (50% of Score)

- 6 questions in 2 hours
- Includes visual and contextual analysis, comparison of works, and long essays on artistic themes.
- Section II: Free Response (6 questions, 120 minutes total, 50% of the AP grade)
  - Question 1: Comparison is a long essay question that assesses students' ability to compare a work of their choice with a provided work from the image set and articulate a claim explaining the significance of the similarities and differences citing evidence.
  - Question 2: Visual/Contextual Analysis is a long essay question that assesses students' ability to analyze visual and contextual features of a work of art from the image set (image not provided) and respond to the prompt with an art historically defensible claim supported by evidence.
  - Question 3: Visual Analysis is a short essay question that assesses students' ability to analyze visual elements of a work of art beyond the image set (image provided) and connect it to an artistic tradition, style, or practice.
  - Question 4: Contextual Analysis is a short essay question that assesses students' ability to analyze contextual elements of a work of art from the image set and explain how context can influence artistic decisions.
  - Question 5: Attribution is a short essay question that assesses students'

ability to attribute a work of art beyond the image set (image provided) and justify their assertion by providing specific visual evidence.

- Question 6: Continuity and Change is a short essay question that assesses students' ability to analyze the relationships between a work of art from the image set and a related artistic tradition, style, and/or practice.
- Questions 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 will include images of works of art.

Sensitive Topics:

As a product of its context, art oftentimes addresses, confronts, emulates, or even romanticizes topics and subjects that might be uncomfortable or difficult for some students. These topics might include graphic violence, nudity/genitalia, body horror, racism/race-based violence, and death/suicide. While by no means exhaustive, this list should give you an idea of things that I will be flagging in readings and/or presentations to prepare students who might need the time or space to prepare themselves for encountering this content. This policy is not intended to 'shield' any of you but rather is intended to signal a time when you should be especially considerate of both your own and other students' needs. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this policy, please do not hesitate to speak with me.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!